



29 November 2018

## GEODE STATEMENT

### **GEODE Statement to European Commission Strategy for a Climate Neutral Europe by 2050**

**GEODE, the association representing local energy distributors across Europe**, welcomes the European Commission long-term strategy for a climate neutral Europe by 2050, in accordance with the Paris Agreement. Representing over **1400 companies in 15 countries**, GEODE is fully committed to supporting the European Union in fulfilling its objective to decarbonise its energy systems and welcomes the EU to develop a forward-looking strategy that acknowledges the economic, technical and social opportunities and challenges that long-term decarbonisation implies.

**“We support the strategy and would like to take the opportunity to underline the key role local energy distributors are playing in the energy transition, distributing clean and reliable energy to people’s homes and businesses, making our grids smart and flexible for future needs, providing innovative solutions for facilitating new energy services”**, GEODE Chairman Hans Kreisel said.

**GEODE is pleased to find that the strategy reflects our own vision for decarbonised, decentralised, digitalised energy systems – which are enabled by Distribution System Operators becoming active neutral market facilitators:**

- DSOs are integrating renewable energies into the electricity and gas distribution grids, helping to increase the consumption of renewables.
- Robust and reliable networks will cope with advanced electrification of energy, heating & transport sectors.
- Flexible and smart power systems are facilitating demand response and energy efficiency and allow to manage variable renewable and decentralised generation.

**GEODE’s Members are significantly contributing to bring forward sector integration as they operate a range of infrastructures, such as gas, electricity and heating - which is a centre piece of EU’s long term energy strategy:**

- Local energy distributors can use their experience and know-how to efficiently combine the virtues of different infrastructures to achieve long-term climate ambitions on time.
- A hybrid energy infrastructure, building on the strengths of gas, electricity and heating networks, will form the solid backbone of a decarbonised EU energy system.

- Distribution System Operators should be recognised as a key vehicle for delivering policy ambitions on decarbonisation.

**Europe’s ambition to decarbonise relies on decarbonising its gas networks because:**

- Gas networks contribute to the decarbonisation of our wider energy system, complementing variable renewable electricity and supporting the move to a sustainable transport sector.
- Gas networks already are at the heart of Europe’s energy system, provide low carbon natural gas to European consumers and can accommodate different types of renewable and decarbonised gases.

**We look forward to working with the European Commission on developing the long-term strategy into a good policy frameworks for effectively decarbonising Europe’s societies.**

*GEODE - The Voice of Local Energy Distributors across Europe*

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## **About GEODE**



*GEODE is the voice of local energy distributors across Europe, representing the interests of 1400 private and public energy companies for both electricity and gas from 15 European countries, serving more than 100 million customers. These small and medium-sized companies are bringing intelligence to the grids and making thereby a major contribution to achieve Europe’s climate and energy policy goals. GEODE promotes fair and competitive conditions for network operators giving them a strong voice to secure core values - namely providing a customer-focused service, with a high quality of supply and energy efficiency to homes, businesses and local communities. With 25 years’ experience GEODE is recognised as a trusted partner by the European institutions.*