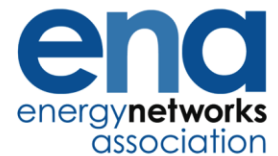




The Voice of Local Energy  
Distributors across Europe



## Dinner-debate

"Electricity and gas distribution networks delivering the smart agenda across Europe"

European Parliament - Brussels - 23 January 2013

### **GEODE and ENA tell MEPs to let distribution networks fulfil their innovation potential !**

On 23 January GEODE – the voice of local energy distributors across Europe - together with its UK member ENA – the Energy Networks Association - addressed in Brussels to more than 15 MEPs at a joint dinner hosted by the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr Alejo Vidal-Quadras. The event ran under the title "Distribution Networks delivering the Smart Agenda across Europe".

Last year saw a number of positive developments in EU energy policy impacting European networks, including the Infrastructure Package to improve the planning and infrastructure investments; the Energy Efficiency Directive to incentivise efficiencies across the energy sector and the Internal Energy Market Communication highlighting the importance and value of innovation and investments in the grid, and the crucial future role of the DSOs.

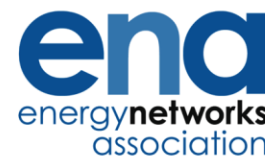
**Reinhard Brehmer, President of GEODE, said:**

"There is a critical role for the distribution networks across Europe. There will be significant growth in small-scale renewable generation most of them connected to distribution networks. The urgent needed investment and innovation in smart grid technology will be of direct benefit to consumers."

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“The Commission has rightly identified smart grids as a crucial component of a fully functioning energy market and we are keen to see the Energy Technologies Communication later this year supporting continued innovation to achieve them.”

Mr Brehmer added that “distribution grids will play a key role on the energy agenda in the coming years. Smart Grids concern distribution grids and are to be locally and regionally developed”.

Tony Glover, ENA Director of Policy, said:

“Energy networks companies face major challenges in the coming years and are working hard to meet them We are connecting more renewable energy and local/micro generation than ever before and helping to ensure Europe meets the 2020 targets.”

“There have been very positive developments in EU energy policy but it is critical not to restrict the innovation of the networks and ensure rigorous cost/benefit analysis is carried out for any new energy efficiency requirements. A sensible fuel mix is important too and Europe mustn’t dismiss the role of gas. It has an important role to play in affordable low carbon energy, and is the fuel of choice for UK domestic customers.”

GEODE and ENA welcome the positive outcome of the animated debate offering an exchange of views on energy issues related not only to distribution but also to general issues regarding the energy market functioning seen from both the political but also the operational side.

GEODE believes the event has contributed to highlight the important role DSOs will play in the completion of the internal energy market, in particular in terms of implementing the smart agenda across Europe. We would like to thank Mr Vidal-Quadrás for his support and great hospitality.

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