

# Press Release

## GEODE Statement on the Commission's European Green Deal

GEODE **welcomes the European Green Deal** presented today by Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen and fully supports her ambition to put Europe on a pathway towards a sustainable future and to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050. **For our members – local energy distribution companies – cleaner energy, sustainable transport and climate protection are already key drivers in the daily operation of our networks. It's 'Business as Usual'. But this ambitious new policy initiative will help us redouble our efforts.**

We are glad to see that the European Green Deal keeps **consumers** at the heart of its commitments.

DSOs (Distribution System Operators) are long-standing partners in Europe's energy transition and climate change mitigation – we facilitate the ever-increasing integration of renewables while ensuring the stability of the grid, enhancing the intelligence of our grids and engaging with consumers like no other player.

But decarbonisation cannot be achieved by the energy sector alone. So we welcome the proposal that other important sectors of the economy, e.g. transport, buildings, agriculture and the wider industry, should also play their part. GEODE looks forward to the Commission's **Strategy for Smart Sector Integration**. This should do 'what it says on the tin'; sector integration should be smart: it should reap the benefits of different technologies and energy carriers and make smart use of existing energy infrastructure.

*"Our DSO members are uniquely placed to deliver the smart integration of electricity, gas and heating & cooling sectors, as in many cases they operate these networks simultaneously, taking advantage of the most efficient carriers,"* says GEODE Chairman Hans Kreisel.

Specifically on gas, the gas industry has a clear vision to decarbonise, utilising low carbon and renewable gases. Gas DSOs stand committed to enabling the energy transition by:

- ✓ facilitating the injection into gas distribution grids of increasing levels of low carbon and renewable gases – such as hydrogen or biogas; and
- ✓ supporting an ambitious target for low carbon and renewable gases to trigger decision-makers and investors to finance the investments required.

The ambitious European goals set under the Green Deal should find their way into concrete policies in every Member State. We therefore support the European Commission's stated intention to rigorously assess the **National Energy and Climate Plans**, so that the European targets and commitments can be smoothly translated into actionable solutions at national, regional and local levels.

As an association representing DSOs from across Europe, GEODE is aware that the measures announced represent different challenges for the different communities, regions and Member States and we support the establishment of the **Just Transition Mechanism** to assist those who need to take a bigger step towards climate neutrality.

GEODE and its members now look forward to engaging with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, as well as key stakeholders, in particular consumer representatives, to make sure the European Green Deal works for everyone.

*Brussels, 11 December 2019*

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*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 members operate their grids providing a customer-focused service, with a high quality of supply and energy efficiency to homes, businesses and local communities*