



GEODE Board Meeting
12 December 2023 (09:30-12:00)
Online

Participants

- Hans Kreisel, Chairman (Nordion Energi, SE)
- Rudi Rienzner, Deputy Chairman (SEV, IT)
- Ignacio Cuerva Valdivia, Director (Cuerva, ES)
- Unni Farestveit, Director (Å Energi, NO)
- Per Everhill, Director (Tekniska Verken, SE)
- Lawrence Slade (ENA, UK)
- Roland Tropper, Director (VÖEW, AT)
- Götz Brühl, Director (Stadtwerke Rosenheim, DE)
- Sebastian Kirchmann, Director (Stadtwerke Schwerte, DE)
- Ina Lehto, Director (Finnish Energy, FI)
- Thomas Maderbacher (Wiener Netze, AT)
- Carmen Gimeno, GEODE Secretary General

Observers

- Toivo Hurme, (Local Power, FI)
- Kaspar Thue Andresen, Director (Evida, DK)
- Federica Bruni (GEODE)
- Giulia Aluffi (GEODE)
- Silvia Torres (GEODE)

Apologies

- Julia Lindholm (Sweden Energy, SE)
- Ramón Gallart, Director (Anell, ES)
- Christian Held, Deputy Chairman (BBH, DE)



Meeting Minutes & Board Decisions

I. Introduction	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Kreisel welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda items. • The meeting agenda was approved. • The minutes from previous Board Meeting on 14 September 2023 are approved.
II. Administration	<p><u>Questions on the GEODE Report of Activities since last Board Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno updated the Board on the activities the Secretariat has been working on highlighting the close monitoring and preparation of key messages during the closing of the legislative files in particular Electricity Market Reform and gas package and EU Action Plan on grids, as well as the organization of GEODE Autumn Seminar and Energy Data Summit Europe). Also it participated in a DSOs debate at the FSR, and in members events at national level (Sweden, Spain) and ENLIT exhibition, as well as participation in Commission fora (Dublin Citizen Fora) and within other associations annual events including EU DSO Entity and CEER . • The Chairman completed the information with a debrief on the CEER Annual Event. The event’s discussions confirmed the impression build during the first high level event on grids in September. Regulators have not understood fully the importance of investing and reinforcing European grids but are maintaining the usual logic of low tariffs and control over network owners. NRAs are not looking in how to attract investments. <p><i>Discussions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno proposed to work to shift NRAs mindset by fostering exchanges with regulators within GEODE members, by organizing s informal roundtable discussions. Approaching ACER is also recommended. <p><i>Board decisions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss how to engage with regulators during the physical Board meeting in Granada in February. <p><u>Report on Financial Situation as of 30.10.23</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno presented the update on the financial situation until 30 October 2023. With regards to incomes (membership fees), only one membership fee (Stadtwerke Giessen, DE) is still outstanding. Current

	<p>expenses are in line with the projected budget 2023, also with a positive outlook since reserves were not tapped into.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno will circulate an updated financial report (until 30.11.23) and a forecast of 2023 by the end of the year.
<p>III. GEODE Budget 2024</p>	<p><u>GEODE Budget 2024 proposal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carmen Gimeno presented the forecasted budget for 2024. Incomes in 2024 amount 637.716’-€ and will be lower than in 2023 by -22.394’-€ (5 members leaving 1 new member). Expenses are forecast to be pretty similar to 2023 707.078’-€</i> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hans Kreisel proposes to cover the existing gap between the membership fees and the forecast budget of approx. 60.000’-€ with an increase of membership fees by 4% plus GEODE’s internal reserves.</i> <p>Board decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Board agrees to increase membership fees by 4% for 2024 to cover the initially proposed and discussed Budget 2024. Reserves will be allocated to cover the remaining part of the Budget not covered by membership fees.</i> • <i>The formal decision on the Budget 2024 will be taken at the Board Meeting on 8 February.</i>
<p>IV. Update on EU energy policy developments</p>	<p><u>Presentation by Secretariat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federica Bruni updated the Board on the latest policy developments, presenting the adoption and negotiation status of different directives and regulations part of the EC Green Deal. Specifically, she pointed out the adoption of various political agreements between the Parliament and Council on key legislative files such as the Gas and Hydrogen Market package, Methane regulation, EPBD, as well as the almost finalized negotiation on the Electricity Market Design (whose final trialogue negotiation took place on the 13th of December). • In particular it is highlighted the very positive outcome for gas DSOs of the Gas & H2 markets Directive and regulation I comparison with the initial proposal from the Commission which was practically preventing gas DSOs to have a role on hydrogen distribution due to very strict unbundling rules proposed by Commission. • Carmen Gimeno also presented the status of the various network codes (NC) that are currently being drafted by ENSTO – E and EU DSO

	<p>Entity, in particular NC cybersecurity and NC demand response and GEODE’s reply to the public consultations.</p> <p>Board decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up and active participation in the development of critical legislative files, such as the Electricity Market Design and Gas and Hydrogen Market package as well as the implementation of the European Commission Action Plan on Grids.
<p>V. Presentation: IEA Report “Electricity Grids and Secure Energy Transitions”</p>	<p><u>Presentation: IEA Report “Electricity Grids and Secure Energy Transitions”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rena Kuwahata, Energy Analyst Power System Transformation Renewables Integration and Secure Electricity at the International Energy Agency presented the Report released last October on “Electricity Grids and Secure Energy Transitions”. After having presented the methodology, she proceeded in highlighting key findings of the report. Mainly the important gap worldwide and at European level in terms of grid reinforcement and developments to reach the 2030 targets, especially given the change within the energy landscape and in activities for Network Operators (flexibility services). She highlighted the importance of grid investments (worldwide and EU), which, based on the report’s findings, would need to drastically increase to solve symptoms of inadequacy such as grid congestion. • Grids need to be fit for purpose and need to be in place. There si a clear statement to accelerate renewables however Interest in grids by governments are weak and not supportive. While investments in renewables have almost doubled, this is not the case for grids that remain stable. Grids development needs to accelerate to keep up with the energy transition. • She also underlined that investments needs would also be accompanied by unprecedented competition in terms of raw materials, showcasing the importance of reinforcing the supply chains. • Finally, she presented the recommendations towards policy makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic and integrated planning across sectors; ○ Unlock investments; ○ Regulatory overhaul towards proactive grid development; ○ Anticipatory investments are key. It’s critical how regulation adapt to enable them at member States level ○ Secure supply chain; ○ Leverage digitalization to support efficiency and automation; ○ Build a skilled workforce.

	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Kreisel thanked Rena Kuwahata for presenting the outcomes of the report and inquired whether the calculation model on energy cost also included the role of Hydrogen as a means of transportation for energy. • Rena affirmed that the calculation model did not only include electricity, but also other forms of energy based on technological maturity and viability. Nevertheless, she was unsure on how sensitive the model was and how a shift towards an increased use of hydrogen compared to electricity would affect the calculations. For an updated view on the different energy forms, she invited the Board to refer to the world energy outlook yearly publication, which would ultimately also include the repercussion of the COP 28 discussions and agreements. • Carmen Gimeno highlighted that these investments' needs seemed to have been recognized at European level, nevertheless regulators seemed to lag behind, she inquired on how Rena foresees a national regulatory change. • Rena acknowledged that effectively the changes in terms of EU legislation do not always have a direct impact within national regulation. However, she pointed out the example of the UK where regulators were recognizing the benefits of anticipatory investments, and a specific framework has been set up.
<p>VI. GEODE Strategy round table Discussion: Distribution Grids fitting for purpose:</p>	<p><u>Action plan on Grids - GEODE's key messages on Grids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno proceeded to present the EU Action Plan on Grids, which had been launched during the PCI days on the 28th of November. She highlighted how the adoption marked an important recognition of the central role of grids in the implementation of the various legislative files. • She welcomed the content of the Action plan, which included several recommendations put forward by GEODE in a statement jointly prepared with CEDEC and E.DSO ahead of its release. She concluded by pointing out a hope for a swift implementation of the actions put forward by the plan. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussions turned around the question of financing and funding of grid reinforcement. Ina Lehto stressed that EU funding opportunity are welcomed but not a concrete answer, as a regulatory change would

	<p>need to happen at national level. She presented the example of the Finnish regulator, which did not allow access to EU funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno proposed for an organization of a meeting with the Commission where financing constraints would be pointed out and underlining the importance of their support to push for a change at NRA level. <p>Board decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed that the implementation of the Action Plan would feed into GEODE’s priorities and activities for the upcoming year. • It is proposed for a proper strategy to be developed on how to best approach the EU Commission and NRA.
<p>VIII. GEODE Spring Seminar 2024</p>	<p><u>Preliminary discussion on the topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen informed the Board that the Spring Seminar will take place on 28 of May in Brussels and invited them to submit input on topics for discussion. The secretariat proposed to build on the grid momentum and the importance of adequate investments, anticipatory investments, faster permitting and ensure grid resilience. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussions turned around focusing on grids and the importance of fostering exchanges with other associations, policy makers and potentially investors, to understand how to promote a positive investment climate. • Lawrence Slade, proposed to contact Global Infrastructure Investor Association to have them as a speaker during the event. He also volunteers himself to present on the work done in UK to prepare their infrastructure recently released in a report. <p>Board decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Spring Seminar to focus on the topic of grid investments, specifically on how to foster a positive investment climate and underlying concrete needs. • To include within the panel discussions institutional and political speakers, as well as investors.
<p>IX. Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Gimeno informed the Board that a webinar on Energy Sharing would be organized on the 1st of March.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She also presented the calendar of Board meetings and GEODE’s events for 2024. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sebastian Kirchmann pointed out that the Autumn Seminar 2024 would no longer take place in Heidelberg but in Rosenheim, as the facility in Heidelberg was incurring some construction delays, and Goetz Bruel would retire in 2025. so it’s a good opportunity to meet in Rosenheim (DE).
<p>X. Next meeting, GRANADA 8 February 2024 (physical)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Kreisel thanked Cuerva for hosting the upcoming physical Board meeting in Granada and their organization efforts. • The secretariat will circulate the meeting agenda at the beginning of next year.
<p>XI. Board Only discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat left the discussions at 11.50 am to allow the Board to discuss privately. As an outcome of the discussion the Board decided on a bonus for Carmen Gimeno, Secretary General of 10.000’-€ for her very good work during 2023. Hans Kreisel will inform Carmen right after. • Hans Kreisel closed the meeting at 12.00 pm.