



GEODE Board Meeting
20 March 2024(11:00-12:00)
Online

Participants

- Hans Kreisel, Chairman (Nordion Energi, SE)
- Christian Held, Deputy Chairman (BBH, DE)
- Ignacio Cuerva Valdivia, Director (Cuerva, ES)
- Unni Farestveit, Director (Å Energi, NO)
- Julia Lindholm (Sweden Energy, SE)
- Per Everhill, Director (Tekniska Verken, SE)
- Lawrence Slade (ENA, UK)
- Ramón Gallart, Director (Anell, ES)
- Ina Lehto, Director (Finnish Energy, FI)
- Thomas Maderbacher (Wiener Netze, AT)
- Sebastian Kirchmann, Director (Stadtwerke Schwerte, DE)
- Roland Tropper, Director (VÖEW, AT)
- Carmen Gimeno, GEODE Secretary General

Observers

- Toivo Hurme, (Local Power, FI)
- Matteo Monschen and Andreas Thaler representing Rudi Rienzner, Deputy Chairman (SEV, IT)
- Alberto Perego representing Cinzia Triunfo, Director (Gas Plus, IT)
- Federica Bruni (GEODE)
- Anna Smicková (GEODE)
- Giulia Aluffi (GEODE)

Apologies

- Irene Bartol, Director (ASEME, ES)
- Götz Brühl, Director (Stadtwerke Rosenheim, DE)
- Kaspar Thue Andresen, Director (Evida, DK)

Meeting Minutes & Board Decisions

<p>I. Introduction</p>	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Kreisel welcomes the participants and introduces the agenda items and confirms that the quorum has been reached. • The meeting agenda is approved. <p>Board decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approves the GEODE Budget for 2024, which was briefly presented during the meeting. The Budget had been preliminary discussed and agreed in Granada, during the last board meeting of the 8th of February however the quorum had not been reached, and the decision was postponed.
<p>II. GEODE Strategic Discussion (I)</p>	<p><u>Expansion of GEODE's scope to district heating and cooling.</u></p> <p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Held provided the Board with an overview on how the legislative packages (EMD Reform, Gas and Hydrogen Package, etc.) and EC Communications EU 2040 Targets) have entailed in important paradigm shift in the energy system, specifically linked to the call for phase out of natural gas and repurposing of existing gas grids. He proceeded to explain that this call at EU level for enhanced integration of the energy systems (electricity, hydrogen, gas and district heating and cooling), provides GEODE with an opportunity to position itself. More specifically, it also allows GEODE to tackle the question of distribution of heating and cooling, in view of completing our portfolio from a system integration point of view, as DSOs would need to be active within energy planning at local level. He underlined as well, that from a statutory point of view, no restrictions are present to extend GEODE's scope. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion among Board members centered around what the inclusion of district heating implies for GEODE. More specifically, several Board members welcomed the sector integration approach proposed by Christian Held, however, concerns were raised on how GEODE could position itself in Brussels given the variety of associations already active within the sphere of district heating (Euroheat and power, EHI, etc.), and what this extension would concretely entail in terms of membership expansion, secretariat's capacity, and GEODE's outputs. The Board members also questioned whether concrete issues at distribution level are present for district heating and cooling as a

	<p>non-regulated activity, as from their knowledge they are more at generation level, distribution issues might be limited.</p> <p>Board agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the above, the Board agreed to undergo a more in-depth assessment of the topic before a decision is taken on extending GEODE’s scope of work. It was therefore agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the Secretariat to frame the topic: Specifically, to identify the purpose of the expansion of the scope, to clearly identify as DSOs we should be addressing and why are we doing it. As well as define GEODE’s role in comparison to activities from other associations already active in Brussels in the field, to avoid competition and overlapping. ○ For the Secretariat to assess and identify what resources and competences are needed to include district heating and cooling within GEODE’s scope as well as budget implications. ○ For the Secretariat to inquire members if there is a common interest in the field, and if so what concrete needs in heating and cooling distribution are present, to identify synergies and priorities, to understand how the association can position itself. ○ • The Board agrees to revisit the discussion during its next meeting taking place on the 22nd of April online.
<p>III. Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Board Meeting will take place on the 22nd of April at 14h00 (online). • Carmen Gimeno informed the Board of the date changes regarding the Spring Seminar, which will take place on the 3rd of June in Brussels. Given this shift the Board of the 4th of June, originally scheduled for the afternoon, has been shifted to the morning starting at 9h30 and will be a hybrid one, with the possibility to participate physically in Brussels.