

PRESS RELEASE: GEODE Spring Seminar 2025: A Successful Gathering in Brussels

Brussels, 2 June 2025 – **GEODE, the voice of local energy distributors across Europe, successfully hosted the 2025 edition of its [Spring Seminar](#) on 27 May at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels.**

Titled “**Keeping the Grids Momentum: Fostering EU Competitiveness**”, the event focused on the **critical role of distribution grids** in strengthening industrial competitiveness and advancing the energy transition. With recent EU initiatives such as the Clean Industrial Deal and Affordable Energy Action Plan, the Seminar offered a timely forum to discuss how grids can act as enablers of these ambitions through investment, infrastructure expansion, digitalisation, and regulatory innovation.

The event brought together representatives from EU institutions, regulators, DSOs, and industry stakeholders for a dynamic exchange of ideas. It **opened** with remarks by **Hans Kreisel, CEO of Nordion Energi & GEODE Chairman**, who highlighted the strategic role of distribution grids in the energy transition. This was followed by a **keynote speech** from **Lukasz Kolinski, Director for Green Transition and Energy System Integration at DG ENER**, who presented the Commission’s current and upcoming initiatives, including the forthcoming European Grids Package. **Philipp Offenberg, Head of Government and Executive Affairs at the Brussels Office of Siemens Energy**, then outlined the **geopolitical landscape** shaping global energy policy, with particular attention to US policy and Russian energy.

Two engaging roundtable discussions followed. The **first panel, moderated by Ina Lehto, GEODE Deputy Chairwoman & Senior Advisor at Finnish Energy**, focused on regulatory innovations to incentivise grid investments. **Anca-Iulia Cîmpeanu, Deputy Head of Unit for Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation at DG ENER**, shared insights on forthcoming EU guidance related to anticipatory investments and network tariff design. **Nico Keyaerts, Team Leader of Retail/Network Tariffs at ACER**, stressed that Europe’s current grid infrastructure is no longer fit for purpose and outlined strategies to address it. **Oriol Xalabarder, CEO of Electra Caldense & ASEME Chairman**, emphasized the role of local DSOs in building an energy system that is competitive, sustainable, and inclusive. **Per Everhill, Public Affairs Manager at Tekniska Verken**, addressed key financial challenges faced by grid operators, particularly those related to cash flow, CAPEX vs OPEX, and investment planning.

The **second panel, moderated by GEODE Secretary General Carmen Gimeno**, explored how to better align clean energy supply with rising demand. **Nicolai Romanowski, Senior Energy Manager at CEFIC**, highlighted how grid limitations hinder industrial electrification and competitiveness, while **Steffen Syversten, CEO of Å Energy**, discussed the contribution of local grids to regional economic development and the investments needed to enhance flexibility. **Hans Kreisel** emphasized the importance of integrating hydrogen and biomethane to ensure a secure and decarbonized energy system. Finally, **Peter Lantry, Managing Director for Ireland at Equinix**, reflected on how grid planning and investment strategies can support the rapidly growing energy needs of data centres.

The Seminar concluded with a networking reception and **official dinner**, providing an opportunity for informal exchanges and continued dialogue among participants.

**About GEODE:**

GEODE is the premium European association representing local electricity and gas distribution networks across the continent committed to sustainable, efficient and reliable management of the backbone of the energy system - the grids. Thanks to the technical expertise of its members, GEODE's mission is to pilot the energy transition towards decentralised, decarbonised and digitalised energy systems.

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