

PRESS RELEASE: GEODE Unveils Key Messages on Distribution Network Development Plans

Brussels, 13 November 2025 – **GEODE, the voice of local energy distributors across Europe, unveils its key messages on Distribution Network Development Plans (DNDPs) standing for better alignment of DNDPs with national, regional and local energy & climate plans, ensuring of national and local specificities are respected. By empowering DSOs and aligning DNDPs, distribution grids can be equipped to deliver the energy transition.**

The European Commission has been increasing efforts to reinforce its framework for electricity network planning to ensure grids can support rapid renewables integration and growing electrification. Given this and the central role of DSOs in delivering Europe's decarbonisation objectives, GEODE has set out key messages on DNDPs.

DNDPs should remain strategic, high-level tools rather than prescriptive investments plans. Because medium- and low-voltage grids demands are in continuous evolution, DNDPs must stay flexible, be regularly updated, and focus on where and why grids reinforcement and digitalisation are needed, including anticipatory investments and flexibility solutions.

Additionally, **GEODE considers existing DNDPs frameworks fit for purpose**, so no additional EU harmonisation is needed; the priority should instead be effective implementation of existing legislation within national frameworks. The paper also calls for **DSOs to be recognised as strategic actors in European grid planning**, with early, structured cooperation with TSOs in drafting the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP), so that flexibility, resilience and local decarbonisation needs are properly reflected.

Finally, **GEODE calls for targeted funding and regulatory incentives for digitalisation, anticipatory investments and skills development**, to shift distribution grids from reactive to predictive planning and better meet growing demand. Locally driven planning should be recognised as a strategic EU priority, supported through the upcoming European Grids Package and Electrification Action Plan.

The paper also puts forward **five key recommendations** on DNDPs:

1. **Recognise DNDPs as strategic high-level planning over medium to long-term horizon tools with in-built flexibility for anticipatory investments.** Encourage holistic, anticipatory planning aligned with national and local objectives.
2. **Integrate distribution planning without harmonisation at EU level.** Promote consistency of assumptions and data, preserving national and local flexibility.
3. **Support DSO digitalisation and skills.** Incentivising funding and regulatory framework that promote proactive investments both in digitalisation of infrastructure as well as know-how to enable proactive and data-driven planning.
4. **Strengthen DSO involvement in the TYNDP.** Ensure systematic participation and structured collaboration with TSOs.
5. **Align with EU policy initiatives.** Ensure coherence between DNDPs, TYNDP, the EU forthcoming **Grids Package**, and the **Electrification Action Plan**.

To access the full paper, click [here](#).

**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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