

PRESS RELEASE: GEODE Welcomes the Publication of the European Grids Package

Brussels, 11 December 2025 – **The European Commission Grids Package addresses infrastructure planning, permitting procedures and critical bottlenecks in grid connections. While GEODE welcomes this Commission’s initiative, it also identifies areas of further improvement.**

GEODE welcomes the Grids Package, in particular its positioning of grids as enablers and solution of the energy trilemma security, competitiveness and affordability. It also commends that EU infrastructure planning should take a cost-efficient approach being aligned with EU and national energy and climate targets. However, GEODE would like to underline that the role of electricity, gas and hydrogen DSOs, alongside ENTSOs and ENNOHs, must be fully acknowledged in identifying system needs for the development of EU infrastructure planning scenarios. GEODE also supports the objective of making the best use of existing infrastructure, together with investments in new capacity to strengthen the resilience of Europe’s energy system. To achieve this, a forward-looking and stable national regulatory framework is needed, where a balanced approach to CAPEX and OPEX is pivotal.

GEODE also recognises the establishment of an EU Distribution Network Planning Platform as a positive step and stand ready to contribute to its work. However, GEODE advises Distribution Network Development Plans (DNDPs) should not be harmonised at EU level and must continue to reflect national and local specificities, remaining strategic and holistic, rather than overly prescriptive, to allow DSOs to adapt to evolving system needs. In this context, GEODE regrets the missed opportunity for the Grids Package to address the effective deployment of grids investments, via national remuneration schemes that ensure adequate conditions for DSOs and private investors. When it comes to funding mechanisms, national regulatory frameworks should also provide the right incentives and allow for DSOs to effectively make profitable the use of available EU funding opportunities and upcoming financial instruments. **Stable regulatory frameworks ensuring sufficient cash flow remain essential to unlock the necessary grid investments, an issue insufficiently addressed in the package.**

On the proposed Permitting Directive, GEODE acknowledges improvements in the rules on grids permitting connection, but we note that feasibility of timelines requires further assessment. Successful implementation of the proposed amendments relies on digitalisation, making it essential that regulatory frameworks use a balanced approach to OPEX and CAPEX solutions to support DSOs’ digitalisation.

Concerning the revision of the TEN-E Regulation, GEODE calls for a stronger role for distribution grids in network development planning and improved access procedures to PCI and PMI status for all DSOs regardless of their sizes. **Regarding the Grid Connection Guidance**, DSOs already apply a technology-neutral approach to connection requests. While GEODE recognises the importance of transparency on grid hosting capacity, some recommendations for capacity maps at lower voltage levels may present limitations with regards to technical feasibility. Given the current level of digitalisation in distribution grids, implementing these measures would require significant investments. Additionally, publishing highly detailed information on grid locations and bottlenecks may pose security risks.

To conclude, GEODE Secretary General, Carmen Gimeno, states: *“Being distribution grids widely recognised as the backbone of the energy transition, the Grids Package should be seized as the opportunity to establish the needed framework for future-proof European grids”.*

**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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