

## EUROPEAN GRID CONFERENCE

European Parliament | Brussels | 10 November 2011 | 13:00 – 18:30

## BEYOND PUBLIC OPPOSITION

### Three Building Blocks for Public Acceptance: Transparency, Participation, Benefit Sharing

Keynote by Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for Energy

Conference hosted by MEPs Rebecca Harms, Sirpa Pietikäinen and Angelika Werthmann

Transformation of the energy system is changing the geographic and time horizons for planning and implementing new infrastructure. To fully integrate renewable electricity from centralised and decentralised sources, the grid's architecture needs to be adapted and expanded to allow transmission over long distances, across national borders, from generation to consumption and storage sites.

Thousands of kilometres of new lines need to be built today and in coming decades. However, public opposition is growing. To secure public support, new alliances across society are needed. It is necessary to bring more transparency to the grid business, to further develop participatory consultations and a toolbox for benefit sharing and compensation. Timely expansion of the grid will only be possible by including concerned citizens in the decision making process, and by addressing their legitimate concerns. How will the new legislation on permitting address these issues and stimulate understanding and support for grid expansion? What action beyond the new legislation is needed?

Hosted by Renewables-Grid-Initiative (RGI) and Smart Energy for Europe Platform (SEFEP) the European Grid Conference "Beyond Public Opposition" raises public acceptance-related issues in discussions with decision makers, corporate stakeholders and representatives of the NGO community.

Venue: European Parliament, Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A5G-3, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels

Conference Chair: Antonella Battaglini, RGI

13:00 *Walking Lunch Reception (in front of conference room)*

#### A) Transformation of the Power System: My Future, Your Future, Our Future

14:00 **Welcome Note** by MEPs Rebecca Harms, Sirpa Pietikäinen and Angelika Werthmann

14:10 **The Challenge Ahead:** Going beyond Public Opposition  
(Kristina Steenbock, SEFEP)

14:25 **Understanding the Future:** Where do we come from, where are we going?  
(Prof. Dr. Carlo Jaeger, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research)

14:40 **The Story Behind:** Declaration on Electricity Network Development and Nature Conservation  
(Harry Huyton, RSPB and Ben Voorhorst, TenneT)

15:00 **Keynote and Q&A**  
(Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for Energy)

15:45 **100% Renewable Future for Europe** - Vision, Dream or Nightmare?  
(Stephan Singer, WWF)

## B) Obstacles and Bottlenecks: The Electricity Grid

- 16:00 **Grid Infrastructure:** Super, Smart or SuperSmart?  
(Konstantin Staschus, ENTSO-E)
- 16:15 **Political Leadership:** Accelerating Permit Granting Procedures and Increasing Public Acceptance  
(Catharina Sikow-Magny, European Commission)
- 16:30 **Operators' Reality:** Facing Public Opposition  
(Boris Schucht, 50Hertz Transmission)
- 16:45 **Three Building Blocks for Public Acceptance:** Transparency, Participation, Benefit-Sharing  
(Christoph Bals, Germanwatch)

## C) Debate: Going Beyond Public Opposition

- 17:15 Motion: "Full public acceptance must take priority over rapid roll out."**  
(Chair: Richard Walker, Deutsche Welle)

The grid debate will be held in the traditional British university style, with two speakers on each side - known as the "proposition" and the "opposition". The rules allow participants to interrupt each other during their speeches and challenge their arguments. Members of the audience also get the opportunity to challenge the speakers or make their own statements, and the chairman can interject to ensure that the arguments keep flowing. The event ends with a summing-up from each side and a vote by the audience.

The debate tackles the dilemmas we face rolling out the grid for the renewables age:

- Can we afford the delays that intensive public participation will inevitably bring?
- Does an accelerated approach undermine democratic principles?
- Can we afford the costs of benefit-sharing?
- Should there be a default in favour of granting permits to grid projects?
- Is transparency the panacea it is so often held up to be?
- Whose responsibility is it to rally public opinion?

- 18:00 **Wrap-up and Outlook** by Antonella Battaglini, RGI

- 19:30 Dinner (by invitation)

**Fax Reply Form**

**Send to +49 30 779 0 779 99**

**By 31 October 2011**

**Registration to the EUROPEAN GRID CONFERENCE**

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- Yes, I am coming.
- Unfortunately, I will unable to come.
- Please send an invitation to:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

In case you don't have a permanent access to the European Parliament, please provide following information:

**Nationality:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday (dd.mm.yy):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal document:**  passport  ID card **Nr:** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: By attending a RGI event, you consent to being filmed or recorded for documentation and promotion purposes. You release Renewables-Grid-Initiative / THEMA1 GmbH any liabilities connected with these recordings and waive all rights to claim for payment or royalties with regards to the resulting material.

**Many thanks for your response!**