

# Feedback on the Roadmap on the Action Plan on the digitalisation of the energy sector

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A Eurelectric response paper

September 2021

Eurelectric represents the interests of the electricity industry in Europe. Our work covers all major issues affecting our sector. Our members represent the electricity industry in over 30 European countries.

We cover the entire industry from electricity generation and markets to distribution networks and customer issues. We also have affiliates active on several other continents and business associates from a wide variety of sectors with a direct interest in the electricity industry.

## We stand for

The vision of the European power sector is to enable and sustain:

- A vibrant competitive European economy, reliably powered by clean, carbon-neutral energy
- A smart, energy efficient and truly sustainable society for all citizens of Europe

We are committed to lead a cost-effective energy transition by:

**investing** in clean power generation and transition-enabling solutions, to reduce emissions and actively pursue efforts to become carbon-neutral well before mid-century, taking into account different starting points and commercial availability of key transition technologies;

**transforming** the energy system to make it more responsive, resilient and efficient. This includes increased use of renewable energy, digitalisation, demand side response and reinforcement of grids so they can function as platforms and enablers for customers, cities and communities;

**accelerating** the energy transition in other economic sectors by offering competitive electricity as a transformation tool for transport, heating and industry;

**embedding** sustainability in all parts of our value chain and take measures to support the transformation of existing assets towards a zero carbon society;

**innovating** to discover the cutting-edge business models and develop the breakthrough technologies that are indispensable to allow our industry to lead this transition.

Dépôt légal:

WG Innovation and Digital  
WG Technology  
WG Regulation & Network Customer  
WG Retail Market Design  
WG Customers & New Services

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# Feedback on the Roadmap on the Action Plan on the digitalisation of the energy sector

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The electricity industry, represented by Eurelectric, welcomes the publication of the Roadmap for the Action Plan on the digitalisation of the energy sector. The digitalisation of the energy sector contributes to economic growth and job creation, to boosting competitiveness and innovation, and to drive the development of innovative solutions leading to new sustainable energy products and services for European citizens.

Eurelectric urges the Commission to focus its Action Plan on electricity, given the growing importance of electrification needed to reach the 2030 and 2050 climate and energy objectives. Prioritising direct electrification is crucial to enable the decarbonisation of emerging and established industries, as well as the development of smarter, cleaner, and more integrated energy systems. In addition, digitalisation - by redrawing boundaries and redefining relationships between consumers and utilities - enables the technological development and commercialisation of crucial flexibility, demand-side, storage solutions and services.

To foster the digitalisation and the sector integration of energy carriers, the Action Plan must foster active participation of end-users across energy systems. However, following actions are essential to support the electricity industry on its path towards digitalisation:

- Developing a European data-sharing infrastructure (aligned with the interoperability requirements and procedures of Art.23/24 of the Electricity Directive) empowering network operators to ensure consistent and neutral data management practices. Furthermore, timely data availability is essential to harness the full potential of digitalisation.
- Avoiding compulsory data sharing schemes that may lead to unfair competition: as recommended in the EU Strategy for data, to develop competitive markets for digital energy services, the sharing of privately held data should be done on a voluntary basis.
- Promoting the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure providing accurate consumption and generation data.
- Removing barriers to the development of digital tools enabling flexibility and local grid-balancing services, including requirements for the collection of non-personal data as defined in the ePrivacy Regulation.
- Ensuring a coherent and homogeneous implementation of the AI Regulation in the energy sector.
- Ensuring the cybersecurity and resilience of digital supply chains, aligned with the requirements and procedures of Art.51 of the Cybersecurity Act.
- Enhancing and ensuring a coherent and harmonised Cybersecurity legal framework for all stakeholders of the energy system - along with the development of the proposed NIS-2 Directive and the planned Network Code on cybersecurity of cross border electricity flows – to address the risk of cascading effects induced by growing interconnections of energy systems, supporting cyber assets, and related data.

- Facilitating the development and deployment of interoperability measures and European cloud offerings enhancing the scaling up and uptake of digital climate-neutral piloted solutions. To this regard, the SWIPO codes of conduct must be sustained to increase trust in European cloud offerings.
- Encouraging research ventures between the scientific community and the power industry harnessing the full potential of open data platforms and licenses.
- Promoting best practices and experiences from R&I projects developing new digital tools and services to facilitate active participation of actors across energy networks.
- Addressing social challenges highlighted by the Digital Economy and Society Index, in particular: citizens' trust in data-driven energy services, acceptance of new technologies, data protection and privacy concerns, digital divides, and lack of adequate skills.

Eurelectric pursues in all its activities the application of the following sustainable development values:

Economic Development

- Growth, added-value, efficiency

Environmental Leadership

- Commitment, innovation, pro-activeness

Social Responsibility

- Transparency, ethics, accountability



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