



PRESS RELEASE

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The CRE contributes to the new trans-European guidelines on energy infrastructures

The European Commission has just published its roadmap to revise its guidelines on trans-European energy infrastructures. The CRE publishes its contribution to the public consultation. At a time when the European Green Deal aims at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent, the CRE intends to participate actively to the debate on future legislative developments to carry out this transition in the best conditions.

The European Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructures plays a crucial role in the planning of the European energy system. It provides a framework for the selection and the promotion of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), which will play a strategic role in the deployment of the Green Deal.

In the context of the elaboration of the Green Deal, and in agreement with the European Parliament, the European Commission has launched a public consultation in the perspective of a future revision of this Regulation.

In its response to this consultation, the CRE insists on the need for a more transparent and objective selection process for PCIs. In particular, the CRE calls for a rebalancing of the roles and a greater involvement of regulators, guaranteeing the needed methodological rigour to implement the Green Deal under the most effective conditions for the European community. The CRE therefore calls for making a clear distinction between the selection of PCIs at the European level- which serves to establish a presumption of usefulness-, and the validation of investment requests, a process based on a thorough analysis of the benefits of projects for the community and for which only the regulators are competent.

The CRE also considers that further efforts are needed to strengthen the quality of project assessment. This assessment should notably be based on a greater diversity of long-term scenarios covering adequately all energy sectors. The assessment of the environmental benefits and impacts of projects also needs to be strengthened.

Finally, the CRE calls for the eligibility of projects to PCI status and to funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to be primarily based on the analysis of their socio-economic benefits, while taking into account the distribution of benefits and costs between Member States. This way, the objectives of the Green Deal could be met in the most effective and balanced way possible at European level.

"In its response, the CRE is thus making its contribution to the construction of the European legislation, which takes into account the history of the energy systems of each of the Member States," said Jean-François Carencio, President of the CRE.

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The CRE, the French Energy Regulatory Commission, was created on 24 March 2000. Its role is to ensure that the electricity and gas markets in France function smoothly, for the benefit of end consumers and in line with energy policy objectives.