

EURELECTRIC CHARTER

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ENERGY BY 2030 - THE POWER INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT

Energy, and even more so electricity, is fundamental to modern life and the precondition for development. Yet 1.3 billion people across the globe still have no access to electricity. That is why the United Nations launched, in 2012, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. The initiative has been taken up by the European Union in its Energising Development Initiative.

EURELECTRIC firmly believes that the European electricity industry can be central to the advancement of societies in the developing world. With this document, it is therefore launching its own 'Access to Energy' initiative. The rationale for our engagement is threefold:

- 1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY TO SOCIETY:** Energy supply and development are inextricably linked. Electricity companies are increasingly and acutely aware of the need for and benefit of responsible corporate behaviour and sustainable development practices within the communities they serve. The 'Access to Energy' initiative is in line with EURELECTRIC's mission to promote the role of electricity in the advancement of society and in providing answers to the challenges of sustainable development.
- 2. DEMONSTRATING BEST PRACTICE:** Many of EURELECTRIC's member companies are already developing energy access projects in developing countries. By signing up to the 'Access to Energy' initiative, EURELECTRIC can increase the visibility of such existing projects and provide a tangible demonstration of the industry's commitment to energy access and of its role as a reliable and dedicated promoter of sustainable development.
- 3. A EUROPEAN INTERFACE FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:** Over the next years the Commission will make available several hundred millions of euros in funding to support innovative financial mechanisms and attract private investment in developing countries. EURELECTRIC can facilitate information exchange on such funding opportunities by acting as a transparent interface between its members and the European Commission.

In signing up to this initiative EURELECTRIC member associations and utilities pledge to contribute, together with the United Nations and the European Commission, to universal energy access by 2030, and to integrate this objective into their organisational strategy and projects.

Based on this pledge they will strive:

- 1. TO ENCOURAGE, STIMULATE AND DEVELOP ENERGY ACCESS PROJECTS**
 - To develop, carry out or support relevant energy access activities via appropriate means and at an appropriate pace.
 - To report, on a yearly basis and via their annual report, on their energy access activities.

2. TO IDENTIFY AND BRING FORWARD MEASURABLE ENERGY ACCESS PROJECTS TO AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- To create a shared understanding of the role of the electricity sector in achieving energy access for all and the business opportunities arising from this commitment. EURELECTRIC members see considerable potential returns from investment in energy infrastructure in developing countries, but are currently deterred by perceived political, financial and technical risks.
- To share best practices in a regular energy access conference, and to use EURELECTRIC as a platform to share experiences and discuss cooperation for specific projects.
- To showcase best practices, at a minimum by making project summaries available for the EURELECTRIC website.

3. TO COOPERATE WITH THE UN, EU, GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN FOSTERING ENERGY ACCESS

- To use EURELECTRIC as a platform for information exchange with the European Institutions.
- To help shape enabling environments by supporting national and international policy and regulatory frameworks that remove barriers to energy access investments and that raise the attractiveness of such investments for European utilities, by means of fiscal incentives, clear standards and accessible funding schemes.
- To strengthen cooperation with the UN, EU, governments and civil society, whose support ensures regulatory predictability that sustains the necessary energy investments.
- To further build on successful cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA), as evidenced by the development, in 2012, of an Energy Development Indicator.

4. TO CONTRIBUTE WITH THE ABOVE ACTIONS TO LEVERAGING THE HUGE FINANCIAL VOLUMES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL BY 2030

- To increase the role of the private sector in energy access and to play a dynamic and constructive role in bridging the gap between the estimated €36bn a year needed to provide energy access for all, as against total government assistance of €6.7bn.
- To increase the pace and efficiency of public-private fundraising efforts.
- To support the EU in its stated aim of providing 500 million citizens of the world with energy access by 2030.