

## EURELECTRIC Applauds Commission's Revised Approach To Energy Technology Development

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The European Commission (EC) has taken a positive step forward in adopting a more holistic view of energy technology development, EURELECTRIC said today, welcoming the new approach of the EC's Communication on Energy Technologies in a future European Energy Policy.

*'The EU's approach to innovation needs updating if it is to support energy policy objectives, in particular the low carbon energy transition. Today's Communication leaves behind the traditional approach of funding research and development (R&D) in isolated technology 'silos'. Instead it takes a comprehensive look at the full innovation value chain - from inception to demonstration and market uptake. EURELECTRIC fully shares the view that such system-oriented thinking is needed to foster energy innovation and propel the European power sector towards a cleaner, greener and smarter future,'*said EURELECTRIC Secretary General Hans ten Berge.

Stepping up research, development and demonstration for immature technologies will help pave the way for a cost-effective transition to a low carbon energy system. EURELECTRIC therefore sees innovation as a key item for debate as Europe embarks on the 2030 policy discussion.

An upcoming EURELECTRIC study on innovation will reveal that a number of European utilities nearly doubled their expenditures on energy R&D in the past decade.

*'Policymakers must follow suit. They should ensure adequate innovation funding under the new Horizon 2020 instrument - the currently proposed €69bn must not be reduced. Moreover, existing budgets must be spent more wisely,'*Mr ten Berge continued.

*'In this context, the actions proposed today are promising: used correctly, they can help to foster innovation by reducing the plethora of innovation initiatives and ensuring better coordination. The EU must strive for a more focused approach. Proposals for additional bureaucratic layers should therefore go hand in hand with a streamlining of existing instruments,'*he concluded.

EURELECTRIC has been looking into how best to foster innovation in the European power sector up to 2030. The work also takes into account developments in Japan and the US. The results of this extensive eight-month study, carried out in collaboration with consultants McKinsey&Company, will be disclosed on 14 May at a **EURELECTRIC conference** in Brussels.

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### Note to Editors:

EURELECTRIC is the sector association representing the interests of the European electricity industry across the full value chain – from generation to transmission, distribution and end-use.

place in a different European country each year in June, drawing between 400 and 500 delegates from across Europe. This year’s conference in Bologna on 3-4 June will discuss “innovative investments - re-energising Europe”. To find out more, please visit our website at [www.eurelectric.org](http://www.eurelectric.org).

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