

INF RSE-EUROPE

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PRESS RELEASE:

EU Energy Infrastructure Plan Should Not Rubberstamp Gas and Power Lines Strategy of the Past - Lacking Evaluation

Sustainable and Secure Energy is also Local

Today, the EU Commission has released its energy infrastructure proposal with subsidised investments in priority infrastructure corridors. The concern over energy supplies for EU is real. But *the solution of constructing ever-longer pipelines to bring in ever-scarcer fossil fuels is a strategy of the past*. Also the construction of power lines with EU support can be questioned.

The interest in a pipeline to bring gas from Central Asia and eventually the Middle East into Europe must not lead to subsidies for this solution, as far as they distort the development of other, more sustainable solutions. *Any subsidy in energy infrastructure must be judged against the alternatives that could provide the same services in the form of energy security etc.* Alternatives could for instance be local renewable energy supply and energy efficiency, they also increase security of supply.

Similarly, investments in power lines and interconnections of power systems must be based on a careful evaluation of their value to increase security of supply and feed-in of renewable energy. Often investments in local smart grid solutions and local flexibility are better to increase security of supply and ability to use renewable energy than expansion of the power transmission network. *The local flexibility and smart grid solutions must also be eligible* for the proposed EU infrastructure funding.

It is crucial that EU-funding and national subsidies *are not spent on international energy infrastructure at the expense of local solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy*. *A careful evaluation* of the benefits and drawbacks of investments relative to other solutions *must be the basis for any EU-funding* and any national subsidy in gas and power transmission lines. Until now, these infrastructures have been made by commercial investments. *The infrastructure plan lacks this evaluation* in its proposal, risking the waste of resources in infrastructure, where other solution could have addressed the same problems cheaper and with less environmental costs. It even risks a lock-in to use large amounts of fossil fuel for several decades to come.

It is crucial for the future of the EU countries that energy strategies, and the coming EU-budget are based on well-informed choices, rather than a political desire for large infrastructure projects.

Read more about INFORSE-Europe and its 75 members throughout Europe. More info: att. Gunnar Boye Olesen, T: +45-86227000, E: ove@inforse.org . <http://www.inforse.org/europe> .