EU Legislation and Community Power
by Josh Roberts; August 23, 2017
REScoop

See the Program and the Proceedings at: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar_17_DK.htm
The ‘Clean Energy for All Europeans’ package: what’s in it for REScoops?

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INFORSE
23 August 2017

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The Winter Package: what is it?

Main vehicle for implementing the EU’s commitments under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, and for transforming its economy

3 Main Goals:
1) Putting energy efficiency first
2) Achieving global leadership in renewable energy
3) A fair deal for consumers
The Winter Package: what is it?

- Governance Regulation
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Renewables Directive
- ACER Regulation
- Electricity Directive
- Electricity Regulation
- Risk preparedness Regulation
Giving community energy a name

Definitions for new actors:

‘Active customer’

‘Local energy communities’

Criteria for ‘renewable energy communities’

‘Renewables Self-consumer’ (includes collective)
Giving REScoops a name in EU legislation

Local Energy Community

Focus: elements that distinguish REScoops from traditional commercial energy companies:

- **The members**: non-professional citizen investors
- **Governance**: equal decision-making
- **The aims**: local social, economic, environmental benefit

Renewable Energy Community

Focus: criteria on local participation, control/ownership and size

- RES production & supply

‘local energy communities’

‘renewable energy communities’
Renewable energy communities

New opportunities:

1. A right to produce, consume, store, and supply renewables
2. Reduced/simplified administrative barriers + information/guidance + one-stop shop
3. Requirement to ‘consider’ community participation in support schemes
4. Supply license exemption so multi-apartment buildings can self-consume

Potential new burdens:

• Balancing responsibility
• No more priority access to the grid
• Requirement to purchase guarantees of origin through auction if benefit from a support scheme
Local energy communities in Europe’s new market design

New opportunities:

1. A right for communities to have non-discriminatory access to ‘all organised markets’ (e.g. balancing) through a supplier or aggregator

2. Fair, proportionate and transparent procedures, cost-reflective charges

3. Entitlement to an enabling regulatory framework

4. New rules to guarantee participation/market access for demand response

Potential pitfalls:

- Charges from the local grid operator
Opportunities at the distribution level

New opportunities:

1. Entitled to own, establish, lease, autonomously manage ‘community networks’ (i.e. micro-grids)

2. Ability to sell ‘flexibility services’ to the local grid operator

3. Long-term distribution grid planning

Risks:

• Creation of a new EU-level DSO body
• Network charges to cover costs to the grid
Governance

**Opportunities:**

1. National plans – an opportunity for energy citizens to engage their national governments in development of national energy policy
2. Oversight by the European Commission
3. Attempt to limit sudden changes to supportive policies

**Risks:**

- Weak EU ambition on renewables: ‘at least 27 % by 2030’
- No more national binding targets – no way to make sure countries stay on track
Some outstanding issues:

• Clarifying definitions and/or criteria for RECs/LECs

• Provisions on support schemes don’t go far enough

• Clarification in the structure of Article 16

• How to engage/enter into arrangements with DSOs

• Definition of ‘community network’ and conditions for establishment and operation

• Role of national energy regulators?

• **COSTS** - acknowledgment for benefits/value distributed energy resources provide (both to the grid and to local and regional communities, i.e. society)
If you want to know more, please contact us!

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