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T&D EUROPE contribution to public consultation on ERGEG position paper on "the treatment of losses by Network Operators"

T&D EUROPE (the European Association of the Electricity Transmission and Distribution Equipment and Services) is representing all relevant European national associations in the field of transmission and distribution of electricity. It was created in March 2008 by the merger of two European sector committees, CAPIEL HV and COTREL. The companies represented by T&D EUROPE account for a production worth over €25 billion and employ over 200,000 people in Europe.

By this contribution, T&D EUROPE would like to support the effort of the EU and network operators to address the question of the energy efficiency in transmission and distribution electrical network by focusing on the reduction of the losses. In addition, T&D EUROPE would also like to point out that losses, when related to Renewable and Distributed Power Generation, are not only a matter of the "Grid efficiency".

In particular, ERGEG position paper points out (in page 7, the second paragraph) that: "Any attempt devoted to promoting a level-playing field for the treatment of losses at European level must consider the legal, economic and technical aspects of losses. For this reason, a close cooperation among all interested/affected parties (including the EC, national governments, national regulatory authorities and transmission and distribution network operators) is necessary in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome".

In this paragraph, the role of the T&D equipment manufacturers may also be considered, as our industry can provide up-to-date technologies and products to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Additionally, ERGEG position paper also states (in page 9, first paragraph) that: "Technical losses are the result of the inherent resistance of electrical conductors, which causes electrical energy to be transformed to heat and noise whenever current flows through them. The loss of energy stemming from the dissipation of heat in electrical networks (lines, cables, transformers and other elements of the grid) is usually referred to as physical (or ohmic) losses".

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and Distribution Equipment and Services Industry

Concerning this paragraph, T&D EUROPE industry believes that the losses are also due to corona and to capacitive and inductive coupling.

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Our industry has also the capacity of providing consultancy and engineering to study these phenomena and to propose to TSOs and DSOs, solutions to reduce these losses.

Specific solutions have to be considered time by time, studying the inherent/ actual grid conditions.

Losses can be reduced by increasing voltages and by reducing and optimizing the reactive power transmitted over the grid.

Changes in the power line designs can improve the loss situation substantially.

T&D EUROPE would be happy to present its views within an ERGEG meeting for further discussion.

For any further information, please contact Nadi Assaf, Secretary General of T&D EUROPE.