CURRENT
Enabling Network Technology throughout Europe

Rapid implementation of the Digitalisation in Energy Action Plan will be needed to deliver on Fit for 55 and REPowerEU

Brussels, 9 November 2022 – currENT welcomes the new Digitalisation of the Energy System Action Plan presented by the European Commission a few weeks ago. While the proposed measures are a big step in the right direction, a speedy and effective implementation will be absolutely key to deliver on the EU's climate policy objectives. Below are several recommendations going forward:

1. **Digitalisation of the energy sector needs to help speed up the energy transition**

currENT would recommend policy makers to always keep in mind that digitalization is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. We would therefore like to further emphasize that the digitalization of the energy sector needs to first and foremost help Europe speed up its decarbonization efforts. While objectives such as the Smart Grid Indicator and the Digital Twin may be helpful investment signals in the medium-term, Europe must take action to increase the security of supply within the next two winters. Many grid enhancing technologies, such as dynamic line rating, modular SSSCs, and new types of sensors, can easily be implemented in the next 1-2 years.

2. **Solution oriented approaches are needed going forward**

There need to be better incentives for investing in innovation and efficient infrastructure. Innovative grid technologies can bring great benefits to society as a whole, but this does not necessarily lead to (financial) benefits for grid operators. One example of a successful solution-oriented approach is the NOA Pathfinder project in the UK.

3. **Successful implementation of the Digitalisation of the Energy System Action Plan depends on clear timelines and full transparency**

Without a clear timeline, projects like a Digital Twin risk to become lengthy procedures. We should not attempt to reinvent the wheel, but rather make existing models, such as the TYNDP more transparent, in order to save time and effort.

4. **Europe needs to invest in the resilience of the grid in the broadest sense**

currENT very much agrees that Europe needs to invest in cybersecurity, and in the resilience of the grid in the broadest sense. Resilience is more than avoiding threats. For example, we also need to invest in grid monitoring, control of frequency and voltage to maintain reliability, power quality management, congestion management, real-time fault detection and localization. Digitalization can also help prioritize precisely where networks should be expanded for an efficient grid.

5. **Technology providers need to be included in the Smart Energy Expert Group**

It is important to include technology providers in the new Smart Energy Expert Group, who can give insight into what is achievable on the ground, and come up with new approaches and techniques.