

European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy
Directorate B - Internal Energy Market
B.1 - Internal Market I: Networks & Regional Initiatives
To the attn. of Mrs. Catharina Sikow-Magny - Head of Unit

Brussels, 24 June 2015

Re: Stakeholders Workshop on public consultation results of 2nd PCI proposed lists

Dear Mrs. Sikow-Magny,

We, as civil society representatives, want to thank you and your colleagues for organizing last week's stakeholder workshops on the public consultation results of the 2nd Projects of Common Interest proposed list for electricity and gas to cover also project specific comments and to share some ideas on how to further improve process.

We found this format very useful. For many candidate PCIs, these meetings come before any public consultation or environmental assessment at the Member State level. In view of this, and the limited scope for stakeholders' environmental concerns to be taken into account through public consultation on the lists of candidate PCIs, these meetings provide a unique and essential opportunity for external stakeholders' concerns to be conveyed to those responsible for decision making on PCI designation at a very early stage. We also appreciated the opportunity to obtain information and ask questions on the rationale of different projects. We hope that these meetings will be repeated and can be established as a way of facilitating an open discussion between the project promoters, the member state representatives, the Commission and the civil society representatives.

We acknowledge the effort the Commission is putting into having civil society representatives participate in the discussion of the proposed lists of the 2nd Project of Common Interest and will continue to promote this opportunity to engage on the European level with our members.

To further improve the participation and quality of discussion would consider it useful to seeing the annual reports of the project promoters according to Art. 5 of the TEN-E regulation available for the public to enable a well-informed debate. Concerning the accessibility of information on the projects we want to stress the importance of the availability of the documents in the national and local languages of the concerned regions as well as clarifying which institution will be responsible for receiving civil society

feedback for projects extending geographically beyond EU-28 and thus not familiar with the details of EU acquis. Being aware of the number of projects proposed for the PCI status, we welcome the transparency platform that has been created by the Commission and will promote it as an easy to use tool for citizens and civil society organizations and will call on our members to use it for information and monitoring of the projects and the up-to-dateness of the documents. For it to be fully effective, information on the projects together with documents related to the projects should be updated at least every quarter.

The stakeholder comments and discussions in the workshops have clearly shown, that the concerns raised and relevant for the assessment of the projects address different provisions of the regulation including but not limited to Article 4, Article 8 and Article 9. We therefore hope you will include all aspects of the regulation in the assessments of the projects. In organising these meetings for future rounds of PCI designation, it would help in selecting projects to discuss if the public consultation on the candidate PCI lists were to ask a more open question about stakeholders' concerns, in addition to asking whether the project meets energy policy objectives.

We look forward to continuing this discussion, especially the public consultations of the oil PCI candidates and the gas PCI candidates from Southern-Eastern Europe, selected in the special call after the public consultation has been finalized.

Yours sincerely,

Roland Jöbstl
European Environmental Bureau

Ivan Scrase
BirdLife International

Kuba Gogolewski
CEE bankwatch network