





**Director General Philip Lowe DG Energy, European Commission** 

"Five Years Energy Law in Groningen - Academics meet Practice" 28 September 2011



## Agenda

- New EU energy infrastructure priorities up to 2020 and beyond
- The obstacles to investment
- A new EU approach to support energy infrastructure investment



# Directorate-General for Energy

# Future TEN-E – New energy infrastructure challenges

## Electricity transmission & storage:

- Increasing demand
- Growing share of RES
- Smart grid applications
- Large-scale storage
- Electricity Highways

#### **CO2** transmission:

Co-ordinated planning for future optimised deployment

## Gas transmission & storage, LNG/CNG:

- Stable share, growing import dependency
- Role as back-up fuel need for more flexibility
- Single-source dependency in Eastern Europe – need for diversification

#### Oil transportation:

Security of supply of landlocked countries in Central-Eastern Europe

In addition, the modernisation of **district heating and cooling** networks can enhance energy efficiency.





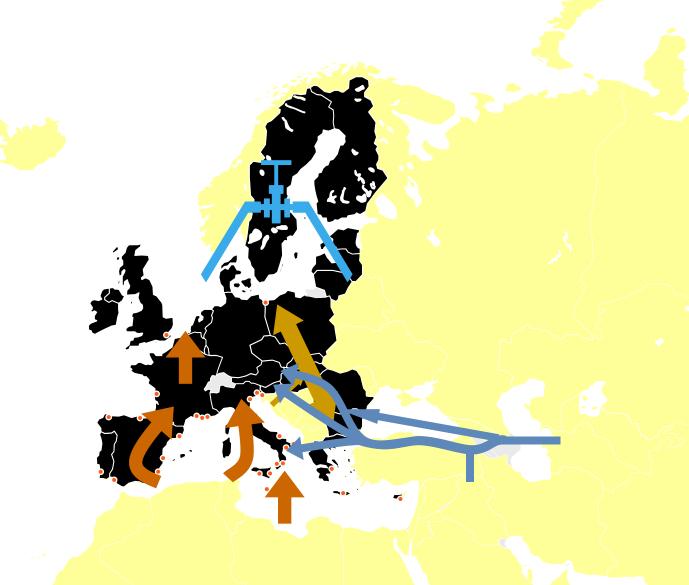
European infrastructures priorities – gas and oil by 2020

Southern gas corridor

Baltic energy market interconnection plan

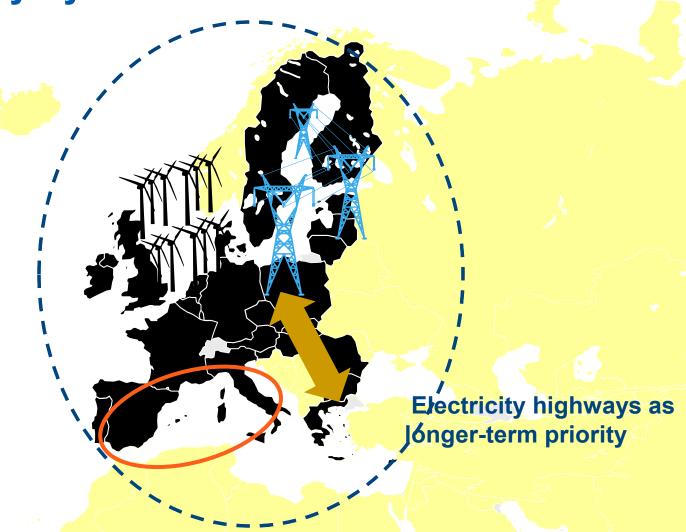
South-North gas interconnections in Western Europe

North south
gas & oil
interconnections
in Central &
South East Europe





- Baltic energy market interconnection plan
- Interconnections
  in South West
  Europe
- Interconnections in Central-South East Europe
- Offshore grid in the Northern Seas and connection to Northern and Central Europe
  - Smart grids in the EU



## Obstacles to investment in infrastructure

- (1) Permit granting and public involvement
- (2) Regulatory framework for investment
- (3) Financing





# (1) Permit granting procedures Challenges

- Delays: more than ten years from first planning until final commissioning
- Opposition of affected population

### **Underlying causes**

- Unclarity about the necessity and benefits of the project
- Negative perception about impacts on environment and landscape, health and safety (NIMBY or BANANA!)
- Late and lack of involvement of the public and stakeholders
- Inefficient administrative procedures
  - Complex and fragmented process
  - Lack of upfront planning and coordination
  - » Lack of time limits





## (1) Permit granting and public consultation Solutions

- Priority status for projects of common interest
- One-stop shop at national level for all projects of common interest
- Cross-border cooperation and coordination between authorities
- Permit granting schedule detailing each step in the process → joint schedule for cross-border projects
- Time limit for planning and permit granting procedure (excluding legal recourse) while ensuring highest standards of environment protection and consultation
- Early and effective involvement of stakeholders





# (2) Regulatory framework for investment Challenges

#### Asymmetry of costs and benefits

- Increasing interdependencies of the grids bring asymmetric benefits
- » Narrow cost-benefit analysis (CBA) does not sufficiently take into account externalities and wider regional/EU impacts
- » Lack of common CBA tools at regional/EU level

## Lack of coordination of cross-border investments approval process

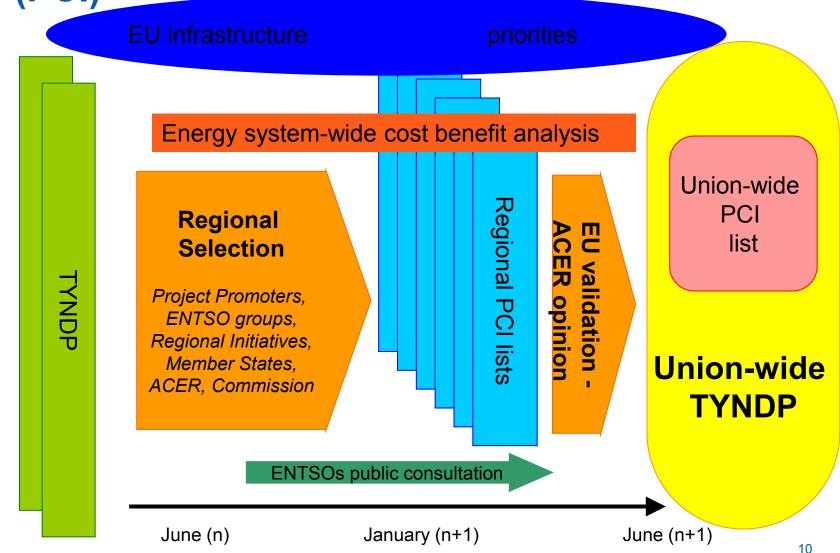
- Cross-border investment decisions are complex and require to match two (or more) regulatory systems on a case-by-case basis
- Delays and lengthy negotiations or failures in case NRAs do not agree
- » Lack of cross-border cost allocation

#### Lack of incentives to meet EU climate & energy priorities

- » NRA have role to give incentives for both the short and the long term
- Assessment of best practices among NRAs



Identification of projects of common interest (PCI)



# Directorate-General

## (2) Regulatory framework for investment

## → Ensuring complementarity between regulatory and public funding instruments

#### **Enabling investments with cross-border impact:**

- EU energy system wide cost-benefit analysis
- Agreement between NRAs upon joint proposal by TSOs
- ACER as mediator

#### Long-term incentives for investment:

- Risks related incentives through tariffs on the basis of the CBA
- Rules for anticipatory investments, additional return or early recognition of incurred costs before commissioning and others

#### EU financial support by leveraging private investments:

- Reduction of risks through innovative financial instruments (loan guarantees, equity participations, project bonds) developed with IFIs
- Grants





## (3) Future EU financial support

### Financing challenges

- Financial crisis: difficult access to capital and lower credit ratings, higher country risks
- Lack of credit ratings
- Corporate / project financing

#### Proposal for Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020

- Incentivising networks for the implementation of internal energy market and achieving Europe's energy and climate targets by 2020 and attract new investors
- > € 50 bn for transport, energy (€9.12 bn) and ICT
- Financial Instruments (equity/debt incl. project bonds in cooperation with IFIs) and grants for studies and works
- Reducing the risks through market-based approach complementing regulation and permitting as appropriate





- This autumn coming up:
  - Legislative proposal for a Regulation on guidelines for the implementation of energy infrastructure priorities 2020
  - Legislative proposal for a Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility



## Thank you for your attention!

