

PRESS RELEASE

Access to energy data – barriers, solutions and recommendations

With smart meters being rolled out in Europe, valuable data is generated that can benefit all energy market participants: consumers, network operators, DSOs, TSOs, suppliers and new energy service providers. For this to happen, the data needs to be accessed in an efficient, non-discriminatory way and free of charge for all authorized energy market participants.

EER and ESMIG organized a [workshop](#) on access to energy data to discuss where we are in terms of regulation, what are the current market barriers that new energy service providers are facing, what are some best practices from European countries and what are some potential solutions to overcome these barriers.

Anna Colucci, Head of Unit Retail Markets, DG ENER, European Commission, highlighted the Clean Energy Package measures that address this issue: clear provision on ensuring easy and non-discriminatory access to data and interoperability of the data and the processes that go with this data. Cristina Martinez, Deputy Head of Unit Smart Living and Mobility, DG Connect, spoke about the Free Flow of Data Package entering into force in May that aims to enable new services based on data. What is missing is cross-border standards and aligned data formats to ensure interoperability.

On current barriers faced by different countries ([see links to individual presentations](#)), we heard about missing legal frameworks resulting in retailers receiving the data with delays up to a week; data collection lagging behind the full meter potential; technical barriers in the form of over-engineered infrastructures causing delays and high costs to the implementation process; information barriers resulting in consumers not understanding the reason behind the installation of the smart meters and the need for a third party to use the data generated by them.

“We are building smart meters that can generate granular data for consumers to modulate their energy behavior, for network operators, DSOs and TSOs to plan and manage the grid, for suppliers to issue accurate bills and for new service providers to innovate and provide services based on real-time data. If they are only used for the billing, their costs are not worth it!”; says John Harris, ESMIG President.

There are also countries where the situation is looking brighter and the best practices mentioned include: the roll-out being retail-led, putting the consumers at the center and designing the roll-out with their benefits in mind, having a central and neutral energy data hub to distribute the data from the meter, having a neutral body in charge of communication and information campaigns to consumers, making it mandatory for suppliers to offer In-Home Displays with the smart meter, so consumers can better monitor their consumption.



Based on the presentations and discussions during the workshop, several recommendations for secondary legislation were put forward:

1. Cooperation between market parties is key in achieving an efficient, non-discriminatory and free of charge access to data.
2. Smart meters are not smart if they are not allowed to generate data, therefore information campaigns to consumers are essential for them to understand the benefits and implications of allowing the meter to generate data and sharing that data with new energy service providers.
3. The data characteristics (granularity, type of data, response times, etc.) and recommended data format for accessing historic consumption data should be defined on a European level.
4. A standard data format for the real-time data should be provided by the local interface on the meter and the implementation of this interface by the member states should be monitored.

“Retailers need access to high-quality, timely and granular data to offer consumers targeted services that would help them better understand, manage and optimize their energy consumption. There are still legal, technical and information barriers to achieving this and we hope the Clean Energy Package and subsequent Implementing Acts will help eliminate them”, concludes Michele Governatori, EER President.

About the organisers

European Energy Retailers is the voice of Independent Energy & Solution Providers in EU-wide policy discussions. For achieving well-functioning retail energy markets, new suppliers and service providers must be able to enter and compete in the market on equal terms. EER actively engages with the EU Institutions and EU member state governments, regulators as well as other European stakeholders in order to promote effective competition, energy sector compliance with decarbonisation goals, the integration of energy markets, and empowerment of customers. The Association was founded in 2017 by national associations from France (AFIEG), Germany (bne), Italy (AIGET), Spain (ACIE) and Sweden (Oberoende Elhandlare).

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ESMIG is the European voice of smart energy solution providers. Our members are European companies that provide products, information technology and services for multi-commodity metering, display and management of energy consumption and production at consumer premises. We work closely with EU policy makers and other EU associations to make Europe’s energy and water systems cleaner, reliable, more efficient and the European consumer informed, empowered, engaged.

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