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## advance by mail

ACER Consultation "European Energy Regulation: A Bridge to 2025": Opinion of Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Stadtwerke Dusseldorf AG welcomes the opportunity to participate to ACER's public consultation "Europe - an energy regulation: a bridge to 2025" on April 29, 2014. Stadtwerke Dusseldorf AG very much appreciates that stakeholders are invited to participate in the debate on the adequate European regulatory framework in the medium and long term.

Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG is a public utility and supplies more than 500,000 private and industrial customers in Düsseldorf and the surrounding area. Our company has a strong groth strategy.

In 2007, the network operation of the Stadtwerke Dusseldorf AG has been spun off due to the Unbundling-legislation and "Stadtwerke Dusseldorf Netz GmbH" was founded. Since April this year, the company operates under "Netzgesellschaft Dusseldorf mbH" (NGD).

The distribution system operator NGD ensures that each customer in Düsseldorf can chose between suppliers without any discrimination. There haven 't been any complaints from customers in the last few years. Current regulations guarantee non-discriminatory network operation at any time and allows each customer to be free to choose their supplier. A compliance officer proofs the processe at Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG and ensures equal treatment of all suppliers.

In the light of the fundamental changes witnessed by the energy sector in Europe, a well-balanced set of policy instruments is and will be needed in order to achieve a continued secure, sustainable and affordable supply with electricity and gas for Europe's customers and industries. However, in the short term the top priority must remain the timely and full implementation of existing legislation, in particular the Third Energy Package.

Aufsichtsratsvorsitzender: Dr. Bernhard Beck Vorstand: Dr. Udo Brockmeier (Vorsitzender) Hans-Günther Meier Rainer Pennekamp

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In Germany, the legislation has been adjusted according to the requirements of the second and third internal energy market package in the years 2005 and 2011. Finally, the requirements were tightened to the accounting and operational unbundling in particular. Thus, since 2011 the network operator have to ensure that a likelihood of confusion between the network operator and sales activities of the vertically integrated company shall be excluded. For this reason, this year a restructuring of the network company took place to differ itself from the sales activities of Stadtwerke Dusseldorf AG.

As far as we are informed, there are comments regarding "Europe-an energy regulation: a bridge to 2015" from BDEW and VKU. We do support these comments and we are convinced, that there is no need to establish an ownership unbundling for DSO`s.

Beside the comments, there is one point, we like to stress:

NGD opparates not only as an electricity- and gas network provider but even as a heat - and water network provider. So NGD is the network operator for all utility grids regardless if legal unbundling applies or not. The company has organized a work flow which enables all departments at NGD to work integrated in all these grids. This means that planing, operating and managing is hold in one hand for all these networks. This integrated work creates many benefits for all customer in Düsseldorf without disciminating any other supplier.

We are strongly concerned that all these benefits could get lost in future.

If you need further information regarding this point, please do not hasitate to contact us.

regards

Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG

ppa. Hermanns

i.A. Kahle



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