New report into Demand-side Flexibility quantifies huge scale potential in 2030 for both consumers and EU clean energy transition

Brussels, 29 September 2022: Yesterday smartEn – Smart Energy Europe publicly presented the outcomes of a major study carried out with the independent consultants from DNV to quantify the benefits of demand-side flexibility (DSF) in the EU in 2030.

This study aims to fill an important gap as no comprehensive assessment of DSF potential in the EU has ever been carried out up until now.

Among others, the following results were found in a scenario that unleashes the full activation of flexibility from buildings, electric vehicles, and industry in 2030:

- 37.5 million tonnes can be saved annually in GHG emissions
- €11.1 €29.1 bn can be saved annually in distribution grid investments
- €71 bn would be saved annually by consumers directly
- 15.5 TWh (61%) would be the avoided renewable curtailment
- €2.7 bn would be saved annually in avoided peak generation capacity

In his opening remarks during the launch event, **Michael Villa** smartEn Executive Director stated: "We are very satisfied that, among the Emergency Market Design Interventions, a peak electricity demand reduction target was introduced to stimulate time-dependent, flexible consumption. As pointed out in the DNV study, the active role of consumers makes enormous sense both now, for this emergency situation, and in 2030, to help integrate renewable electricity and achieve our 55GHG reduction in a cost-effective way."

Among the speakers, **Sonya Twohig**, Secretary General, ENTSO-E, said: "A fully carbon neutral energy system will require a significant amount of flexibility, including from the demand side. The event organised by smartEn today brought very good insights on the potential of demand side flexibility. We look forward to continuing working with smartEn and all stakeholders on the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient power system for all customers."

Vincenzo Ranieri, President, EU DSO Entity, added: "*European DSOs are ready to embark this transition toward a flexible and resilient energy system together with our main shareholder: people. Citizens are no longer at the end of the energy value chain and have become active and central participants in their own right. They self-produce distributed energy, individually or within energy communities and provide flexibility services to promote the stability of the grids. Our role, as DSOs, is to enable this new paradigm in an efficient and sustainable way.*"

The DNV study was sponsored by Eaton, Enel X, EDF and Voltalis.

Daniele Andreoli, Head of Demand Response, Enel X Global Retail, stressed: "*The study* represents a pivotal milestone for further development of demand-side flexibility solutions, as it clearly reveals and quantifies the crucial role of flexible consumption to reach the energy

transition in a sustainable and cost-effective way."

Carmen Munoz, Head of downstream activities, EDF R&D, said: "Demand-side flexibility represents enormous opportunities for reduction of emission and crisis management. We shall be ambitious, cautious in promoting and unlocking the necessary investments only for those resources that can effectively achieve climate neutrality."

Seydou Kane, Vice President, Public Affairs, Corporate, EMEA, Eaton, reiterated: "*This study shows how households and businesses on the demand side – those who have traditionally simply paid for energy - can save money, make money, and reduce pressure on the grid if they are encouraged to invest in technologies that allow them to access the benefits of flexibility."*

The launch event gathered 100 selected senior professionals at Microsoft's office in Brussels and a broad online audience.

Christoph Mazur, EMEA Lead for Grid Interactive Solutions, Microsoft: "We believe that Demand-Side Flexibility solutions play an important role for more energy security, lower energy bills, and the zero carbon energy transition. This is why Microsoft is implementing grid-interactive solutions to its Data Centres – as recently seen in Ireland."

The DNV study aims to be a valuable source of information to support the forthcoming Fit for 55 negotiations to boost the deployment of more digital and decentralised energy resources and stimulate the full activation of demand-side flexibility to the benefit of consumers and the whole energy system.

You can access the full report here.

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