

Press release

District self-balancing: a foolproof way to prevent the next energy crisis

Brussels, 20 April 2023: Yesterday, smartEn – Smart Energy Europe held its biennial European business conference gathering more than 200 senior professionals to discuss the strategic importance of maximising the local optimisation of distributed energy resources.

With the increase in electrification of end-use sectors and uptake of prosumer business models, congestions and stress to local grids might be the next challenge the EU energy system will face. However, thanks to a multitude of smart energy business models, congestions would be mitigated and the need for costly grid reinforcements would be reduced. This development would benefit both consumers and the whole energy system, increasing its resilience and security.

In her [Opening Keynote Speech](#), **Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for Energy, highlighted how flexible consumers are at the heart of the revision of the Electricity Market Design and stated: *“Daily flexibility needs are expected to increase on average by 133% across Member States between 2021 and 2030. Comparing 2050 to 2030, a further increase on average by 250% is needed in the EU. The required system flexibility will have to come from non-fossil flexibility solutions such as demand response and storage.”*

During the Summit, the concept of District Self-balancing was introduced.

In his remarks, **Michael Villa**, smartEn Executive Director, said: *“Innovation in local optimisation schemes is of strategic importance. We need to maximise energy communities, peer-to-peer trading, collective self-consumption, and energy sharing schemes by ensuring they offer benefits to both local neighbourhoods and the whole energy system, otherwise we would not reap them in full.”*

The Summit featured 35 speakers, offering valuable insight into financing, innovation in local optimisation and flexibility markets monetisation.

The CEOs of three progressive Transmission System Operators, **Chris Peeters**, CEO of Elia, **Jukka Ruusunen**, CEO of Fingrid and **Taavi Veskimägi**, CEO of Elering, elaborated on how TSOs would also benefit from local optimisations and activation of flexibility from consumers.

In his Closing Keynote Speech **Peter Vermaat**, EU DSO Entity Secretary General, stated: *“Flexibility is not an objective but a means to an end. DSOs are neutral market facilitators that should prevent congestion, use market mechanisms for flexibility and raise consumer awareness.”*

The event was sponsored by Enel X, LCP Delta, Hive Power, Eaton, Cleanwatts, AFRY, Epexspot, Jedlix, Viessmann, CyberGRID and Piclo.

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About smartEn - Smart Energy Europe

smartEn is the European business association integrating the consumer-driven solutions of the clean energy transition. We create opportunities for every company, building and car to support an increasingly renewable energy system. Our membership consists of the following companies:

