

To the kind attention of **Ditte Juul-Jørgensen**
Director General, DG ENER, European Commission

An acceleration of the implementation timeline for the Cyber-Security Network Code to strengthen the resilience of the EU energy system

Brussels, 5 December 2023

Dear Director-General,

Since the beginning of the Cybersecurity Network Code drafting process, smartEn, the European business organisation integrating consumer-oriented solutions of the clean energy transition, has actively participated in the drafting work to ensure ambitious cybersecurity rules.

As stated in [our response](#) to the public consultation in November 2023, the current Network Code still faces shortcomings and complexities that will significantly hold back its implementation and feasibility.

We would like to draw your attention to the foreseen timeline for the full implementation of the Network Code. If all goes according to plan, the Network Code will not be fully implemented at least until 2031. It is unthinkable to have implementation processes spanning over more than 7 years. This runs the risk of implementing an unfit and outdated Network Code in light of continuous cyberthreats on the electricity sector and other legislative developments such as an update of NIS Directive.

We understand that the complexity of the code and the procedures to be developed require time. Nevertheless, the most ambitious players should be able to implement the provisions as soon as possible. Yet this is not possible since actors will have to wait up to 48 months after entry into force to be notified of their classification as high-impact or critical-impact entity.

We call on the Commission to develop implementation guidelines specific to each category of stakeholders to ensure swift and adequate implementation while providing the necessary visibility and certainty. These guidelines should be developed without delay through a transparent and inclusive process with the relevant stakeholders.

Our industry stands ready to contribute and support the Commission in this effort

Yours sincerely,



Michael Villa
Executive Director, smartEn

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:



The positions expressed in this document represent the views of smartEn as an association, but not necessarily the opinion of each specific smartEn member.

For further information about smartEn, please visit www.smarten.eu