

Smart meters in the Net-Zero Industry Act

ESMIG statement

[ESMIG](#), the European association of smart energy solution providers, welcomes the European Commission's renewed ambition, as outlined in the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan, to support the European technology and manufacturing ecosystem which will help the EU in reaching its energy and climate goals and strengthen its resilience and independence. The upcoming Net Zero Industry Act is a much welcome initiative which will play a key role in better aligning European industry policy with the EU Green Deal targets and in achieving the EU's objectives to become climate neutral by mid-century.

At ESMIG we understand that grid technologies will likely be covered in the draft Net Zero Industry Act proposal.

Smart meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructures (AMI) are an integral part of smart grids that bring tangible benefits and empower consumers:

- The deployment of smart meters, a technology at the very heart of the twin digital and green transition, is a prerequisite for the development of smart electricity grids enabling demand side flexibility and the uptake of renewables.
- Smart metering brings tangible energy savings, empowers consumers to better manage their energy, and enables the integration of a growing share of renewables, supporting the green energy transition and reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and energy imports.
- The lack of smart meters, and therefore lack of consumer visibility on their consumption (currently only an average of 54% of household consumers are equipped with intelligent/smart meters) has been recognised by the Commission¹ as the first barrier in delivering flexibility, which is essential to save energy (reduce peak demand) and lower consumer bills.

Energy management systems are an integral part of the critical infrastructure for every Member State and for the European Union as a whole. This smart energy infrastructure manages energy data which includes extremely sensitive information.

Europe is a global leader and standard setter in this innovative industry. However, this role is being challenged by the EU's main competitors, benefitting from strong public support schemes and subsidies; European companies are increasingly facing unfair competition from third country producers in the EU market. The risks of losing global leadership in energy infrastructure and smart energy solutions and of compromising Europe's strategic autonomy and becoming increasingly dependent on non-European technology vendors cannot be ignored.

Since smart metering systems are an integrated part of the critical infrastructure and considering their crucial importance for reaching the decarbonisation cost-effectively, empowering consumers and maintaining Europe's leadership, we call for including smart meters in the scope of the grid technologies by explicitly mentioning this technology in the Net Zero Industry Act.

¹ Smart Grid Task Force Expert Group 3 report on Consumers' Empowerment, December 2022 (page 7)