



Athens, 12th of December 2013: "Athens 2013" Session of the Greek National Committee of CIGRE

Dear Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the invitation today and to congratulate the Greek National Committee of CIGRE for continuing with consistency its difficult and extremely important task.

Nowadays, the energy market is facing a period that is full of challenges. Within an extremely changing environment, all the countries worldwide are invited to plan their energy strategy incorporating with the best possible way their environmental goals.

Within the framework of this planning, the role of Electricity Grids is of significant importance. Networks constitute the infrastructure, the "core" of the electricity market and their successful development is decisive for achieving all the energy goals.

Leading the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator - HEDNO - I encounter these challenges on a daily basis.

Today, HEDNO is planning and developing the Smart Grids of the future. Those Grids that will bring significant benefits to all users, producers, suppliers, consumers and to society as a whole, rendering more efficient the distribution of energy.

The successful transition to Smart Grids is impossible without your contribution. It is impossible without the contribution of the scientific organizations which host, lead and develop skepticism as well as adopt the appropriate proposals for upgrading equipment and technology.

The exchange of knowledge, the research in depth and analysis of all emerging complex technical issues constitute the basic coefficients for the successful outcome of this attempt.

The continuous research and quest for appropriate but also innovative solutions constitute the main pillar of HEDNO's strategy. Within this framework, the Company participates in many activities through European and national cooperations giving emphasis to sectors such as the operation and management of Distribution Network, RES integration and management into the Network, the estimations for generation and load, Network expansion and the use of new technologies in Networks and Electricity powered vehicles.

The main axes of HEDNO's strategy are the following three:

- A) Smart Grids and the wider Network modernization
- B) The replacement and expansion of systems that support the management, financial issues, IT and telecommunications.
- C) The adjustment of its organizational structure to the new conditions that inevitably should be followed.

In order to implement successfully this strategy, we consider that the tight cooperation with the scientific community is a prerequisite. Your valuable task constitutes a guarantee for its effective implementation.

Concluding, I would like to thank once more the members and the Board of Directors of the Greek National Committee of CIGRE, to wish every success to the proceedings of the Session and to invite you to focus more on smaller Distribution networks that are evolving to small local "systems" with significant scientific and technical interest.

I thank you very much.