

ICT Task Force study

Minutes of the 1st stakeholder meeting (Webex, 23/11/2021, 10:30 – 12:30)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

• EC DG ENER	• EC DG JRC	• Belgian federal public service [BE]
• Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy [DE]	• Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector [DE]	• Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing [DE]
• German Environment Agency [DE]	• Finnish Environment Institute [FI]	• Finnish Energy Authority [FI]
• Danish Energy Agency [DK]	• Swedish Energy Agency [SE]	• TU Berlin
• Fraunhofer IZM	• Öko-Institut eV	• Gimelec
• Cisco	• Panasonic	• Dell
• Ericsson	• Nokia	• Vodafone
• Apple	• Epson	• HPE
• ECOS	• TCO Development	• Circular Technologies
• Cefic	• BSEF	

AGENDA

1. Welcome and intro to the meeting (DG ENER)
2. Presentation of progress in project Tasks (DG JRC)
 - Progress in Task 2 – Presentation and Q&A
 - Progress in Task 3 – Presentation and Q&A
3. Next Steps (DG ENER)

1 Welcome and introduction to the meeting

DG ENER and DG JRC presented the general aspects of the study and the aim of the meeting, before proceeding with a presentation of Tasks 2 and 3 of the study.

2 Presentation of progress in project Tasks (DG JRC)

Task 2 Scope

- CISCO asked why positive effects are not considered specifically in the study.
- ECOS suggested to look at relevant Member State initiatives
- TU Berlin suggested that there are rebound effects at the application level that could be covered by the study.

- The Commission services responded that positive effects are considered in sections of Task 3. With regards to other initiatives and issues of scope, written comments will be welcome.

Task 3 ICT System Energy Use

- Ericsson emphasised the importance of the data quality when performing studies, and mentioned that such data are now widely available by companies. Ericsson suggested that the importance attributed to streaming regarding energy consumption is overstated. They also mentioned that data suggest that energy use and data traffic are not coupled, since data from the pandemic show that energy use had not risen even though traffic did. They suggested that the representation of ICT infrastructure was not accurate since mobile networks were missing from the picture
 - ECOS were critical on the way optimisation was presented, noting that not everything which is possible will be realised. They were also sceptical about claims that there is no problem regarding the energy consumption of ICT systems. They questioned the fact that no action should be taken if the energy consumption of ICT remains constant; there still could be improvement potential.
 - Fraunhofer IZM suggested that upstream impacts in the value chain are expected to be important and wondered what kind of policies would address them, especially since those are taking place outside the EU
 - GIMELEC asked why more recent data on data centre energy consumption than the Andrae & Edler (2015) referenced in the Task 3 report was not used, and offered to provide it
 - Oeko Institute, who performed a study for DG CNECT, emphasised the importance of data transparency for Data Centres, suggested that it could be part of the policy mix itself, and asked if there would be other policy options to tackle it.
 - The Finnish environmental institute emphasised the importance of software in energy consumed by devices and data centres
 - CISCO pointed out that apparently for smaller devices embodied energy is more important while, for larger ones, energy consumption during use plays a greater role. Therefore, both should be investigated as appropriate. They also posed the question on whether action is necessary or not, even if current data do not demonstrate an increase in energy consumption, but rather a stabilisation
- The Commission services reiterated that written contributions from stakeholders will be welcome, with regards to the scope of the study, the impacts considered, and additional or updated data on energy use of ICT systems. Concrete policy recommendations have not yet been presented, as those are foreseen to be part of future Tasks in the study, and notably Task 12.