The 11th and 12th of February, the BRIDGE General Assembly 2020 took place in Brussels, organised by the European Commission in cooperation with DOWEL Management, Zabala and RSE. The objectives of this meeting were to create a better understanding of the BRIDGE projects, learn more about projects results and help to establish closer cooperation for European best practice standards. BRIDGE also aims to stimulate further structure dialogues between regulators, authorities and innovation projects on smart grids and energy storage, as well as facilitate the results uptake of the technologies in the framework of the energy aspects of the green deal.

The BRIDGE General Assembly was very well attended (around 150 participants) with a diverse audience composed of energy system stakeholders involved in BRIDGE projects, such as consumers, grid operators, regulators, local energy communities representatives, power technology providers, energy suppliers, research and innovation, energy system integration experts from the ETIP SNET Platform, etc. In response to the great interest, a web stream was set up.

During the General Assembly, the four reports produced by the BRIDGE Working Groups and Task Forces during the last period of work were presented. The new BRIDGE projects joining the initiative were introduced and ended projects could bring their feedbacks and highlight on lessons learned during project lifetime.

Eight parallel sessions were organized to strengthen the collaboration between projects and discuss about future BRIDGE topics in 2020.

In the first day, Parallel Session 1 entitled “TSO-DSO Cooperation#1 Market Organisation” was focusing on market organisation aspect of TSO-DSO cooperation. Parallel Session 2 “Consumer and Citizen Engagement” was addressing the dialogue between smart grid projects and consumer science projects (SSH) to facilitate the establishment of best practices and methodology on consumer and citizen engagement. Parallel Session 3 “Scalability & Replicability” was focusing on the finalisation of scalability & replicability methodology in order to maximise replication potential and/or the establishment of a repository of past experiences. Parallel Session 4 “Interoperability of Flexibility Assets” was discussing how to connect household appliances, electric vehicles, storage facilities with building management systems, aggregators or flexibility platforms (distribution/household level).

On the second day, Parallel Session 5 “TSO-DSO Cooperation#2 – Data Management” was concentrating on data aspect of TSO-DSO cooperation. Parallel Session 6 “Future R&I Priorities and BRIDGE Topics” was a Brainstorming session in cooperation with ETIP SNET on future R&I priorities in the fields of grids and storage (possible future Horizon Europe calls). Parallel Session 7 “Sector Integration” was presenting use cases and discussing the benefits and challenges of integration of energy vectors and mobility, buildings, industry sectors; their business models and regulatory barriers. Parallel Session 8 “CEER Meets BRIDGE Projects” was fostering discussion between CEER and BRIDGE projects on the link between BRIDGE projects and regulatory issues.

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2 The INTENSYS4EU Project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. It is supporting both the BRIDGE Initiative and the ETIP SNET.

3 If specific information is required, for which this summary and the slides that may be published are not sufficient, please visit the web stream of the BRIDGE GA for the plenary sessions (Password: Brimakt1113):
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General

- In total, 51 projects were represented within which: 20 were new BRIDGE projects and 12 were ended BRIDGE projects. This year, representatives from CEER and ICT4Water cluster were also involved in the discussion of some parallel sessions;
- Aim of BRIDGE is to increase the impact of projects, by closer feedback loop with policy issues and by sharing experiences, best practices as the basis for quality standards;
- The General Assembly appreciated the presentations in plenary and parallel sessions, and thanked the WG chairs and TF leaders for the presentations of their works;
- Dowel will continue to follow-up all the works of WGs/TFs, in order to be the most effective and ensure a high level of coordination inside BRIDGE;
- All works and tasks to be done by WGs/TFs are based on discussions and validated by the BRIDGE General Assembly;
- If there is a need for new types of work or new tasks throughout the year that can’t wait for validation at the General Assembly, Commission will organise a validation with the projects participating in BRIDGE;
- Other H2020 and nationally funded projects that are not members of BRIDGE may be invited on an ad-hoc basis to contribute and participate to BRIDGE works and meetings, if project(s) in question are considered to provide relevant contribution to the discussion;
- All participants have been asked for their feedback on the BRIDGE General Assembly through an evaluation survey, with a call for topics ideas for future work and next BRIDGE meetings;
- The Commission will set up an Advisory Board for BRIDGE, to prepare the agenda of the GA and the topics that must be discussed. All the chairs and rapporteurs can join, and other interested persons are requested to inform Dowel.

Global organisation of the follow-up work

- **WG Regulation is expected to deliver a new report** (title to be defined), based on a selection of topics (ongoing and new) raised during session 1 (see session 1 for further details);
- **WG Customer Engagement is expected to deliver a template/guidance document** on ‘Engagement of consumers and citizens’ (see session 2 for further details);
- A **Sub-Group of WG Data Management dedicated to the definition of a methodology for a continuous work on Interoperability of flexibility assets** will be created and named Sub-Group Interoperability;
- A **Sub-Group dedicated to the update of the Harmonized Electricity Market Role Model** will be created and composed of members of WGs Regulation and Data Management, and named Sub-Group HEMRM;
- A **Sub-Group of WG Data Management dedicated to investigate the creation of the repository of use-cases** will be created and named Sub-Group Use Case Repository;
- A **Sub-Group of WG Data Management dedicated to the development of a European wide conceptual data exchange architecture** will be created and named Sub-Group Data Exchange Architecture;
- A **Sub-Group of WG Data Management dedicated to the Common Information Model (CIM)** will be created, to share experience and draft proposals, and named Sub-Group CIM;
- Due to the large number of tasks (5) associated to WG Data Management, a prioritization process will be conducted. Its results will be discussed in April-May before starting the tasks;
• The three Task Forces created after the last GA will continue in 2020;
• TF Joint Communication will continue to foster the collaboration between projects in terms of communication & dissemination. Smarter-E exhibition and EUSEW are two important conferences to materialize this collaboration;
• TF Scalability/Replicability Analysis (SRA) is expected to deliver specifications of a common repository with information for helping projects in implementing the SRA guidelines;
• TF Energy Communities will enter into a dialogue with CEER before April to agree on the need or not to update the last report;
• A new TF on Future R&I Priorities will be created to study the R&I priorities\(^4\) to provide input on R&I priorities for Horizon Europe and evidence and results from projects for the Clean Energy Research and Innovation Outlook. The TF will deliver its results by end of June;
• The leader of TF Future R&I Priorities needs to be selected: Volunteers for the new TF on R&I priorities are asked to register with Dowel by 27 March;
• Relevant Bridge projects are requested to provide concrete use cases treating synergies/interfaces between energy vectors and with buildings and mobility by end of April;
• The following WG/TF have a new chair/leader:
  o WG Customer Engagement: Stanislas D’HERBEMONT (RESCoop.eu, COMPILE project) succeeds Alvaro Nofuentes;  
  o TF SRA: Venizelos Efthymiou (GOFLEX) succeeds to Rafael Cossent as co-chair (also in order to foster interactions between BRIDGE and ETIP-SNET WG5 on SRA topic). Lola Alacreu continues as a co-chair (backed-up by Manuel Serrano);
  o WG Regulation: Manuel Serrano (CROSSBOW), succeeds to Gregory Jarry as co-chair;
• Task Forces and Working Groups are open to all projects involved in BRIDGE, and project coordinators of all BRIDGE projects are asked to communicate and look for relevant participants inside their projects for the 2020 BRIDGE works;
• Other projects and external stakeholders can be invited to participate in Task Forces and Working Groups.
• Meetings of WGs and TFs can and should happen as much as needed to deliver on the tasks agreed in these conclusions. The European Commission can help in organising/hosting if necessary;
• BRIDGE WGs and TFs will meet in half a year to discuss progress. Commission will, in cooperation with chairs/leaders and Dowel, invite for these meetings;
• Not all WGs/TFs have necessarily the same type or amount of work in preparation of the BRIDGE GA meetings. All WGs can contribute to tasks of other WGs and/or TFs, based on the WGs own assessment of the relevance of these tasks.
• With respect to Cybersecurity, a network code is under preparation. The report of the Data Management WG is a very useful input for this work. Further input from the Data Management WG if needed, and further work on cybersecurity (proposals from the WG include: 1) sharing information on threats and attacks; 2) certification; 3) dedicated cooperation between the Cybersecurity and Energy projects\(^5\) and other Bridge projects) will be defined later.

\(^4\) 15 identified during session 6
Parallel Session 1: TSO-DSO Cooperation#1 – Market Organisation

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- WG Regulation presented its work on the 7 recommendations of the TSO/DSO report produced in the last period, discussions led to the following statements on the work:
  - For Recommendation 1 (“DSOs should be actively incentivized to use flexibility”): explore more in depth how to actively incentivize DSOs to provide flexibility;
  - For Recommendations 2 & 3 (“Standardization of products is ongoing, but should take into account some degree of flexibility” & “Detailed products for congestion management should be developed”): it would be valuable to share the different outputs from projects at the level of specifications;
  - For Recommendation 4 (“The link between market-based mechanisms for flexibility and other mechanisms (regulatory, technical...) should be further analysed and should avoid conflicting set-ups”): investigate the links between different flexibility mechanism;
  - For Recommendation 6 (“Decentralized and distributed market design options should be further explored in the field of existing and new system services”): closer look into interoperability and consumer engagement (peer2peer);

- New potential topics have been raised for the continuity of the WG Regulation:
  - General: synergies between demos (set up, products services/results);
  - Cross-border aspects: market (congestion), data aspects (potential link with WG Data Management);
  - Links between existing market and new flexibility market, to make it more real;
  - How to avoid strategic gaming: assess market power;
  - Coordination between DSOs;
  - Open question: sector coupling, power to X, e-mobility;

- Potential synergies between WG Regulation and other BRIDGE groups/ETIP SNET have been identified:
  - WG Data Management: “Interoperability “, “cybersecurity”, maturity of ICT system to accommodate flexibility;
  - TF Replicability/Scalability: extension of the scope of the SRA methodology => methodology to compare options related to market design “coordination models”, “product options”, “value of flexibility”;
  - WG Business Models: results from demo projects;
  - ETIP SNET: synergies on sector coupling, power to X and e-mobility.

Draw up a plan with possible topics of interest for the WG Regulation

- WG Regulation will continue the ongoing work based on the following short-term steps:
  - Make a list of all the topics to be tackled (ongoing e.g. recommendations of the TSO-DSO report and new listed in the above-section);
  - Provide the overview of all the members of the WG and validate who could provide inputs and by when;
  - Prioritize the topics to address;

- The work of the WG Regulation on that topic could be materialized by a report (to be confirmed).
Mapping of existing products inside BRIDGE projects

- WG Regulation will provide a mapping of existing products within the BRIDGE projects (this will also feed the new projects).

Synergies with other BRIDGE groups

- WG Regulation will organize the joint approach with WG Data Management and TF Replicability/Scalability based on the statements established during the session;
- WG Regulation will organize a “knowledge sharing” session for the projects demos to share their results, taking as a basis the list of WG Business Models projects.

Parallel Session 2 – Consumer and Citizen Engagement

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- WG Customer Engagement and other participants to the session produced key statements concerning the Consumer and Citizen Engagement topic:
  - Remove the energy topic from the center of the discussions in order to promote human well-being (e.g. local commodities, local heritage, financial autonomy etc);
  - Change the relation with the consumer: co-design and co-creation are not enough (temporary tool). Long-term collaboration and coordination are needed to stimulate consumer and citizen in the long term and keep them engaged (still applying energy efficiency);
  - Existing Social Science data from previous projects are available and must be used in R&I projects;
  - Have more human resources dedicated to customer/citizen engagement in R&I projects in order to: i) Stick to the promises and manage the customers’ expectations and inquiries; ii) Keep a trustful relationship with customers; iii) Hire social science experts as interface with the consumers;
  - Plan properly consumer engagement dimension before implementing the project in order to: i) Engage groups of citizens and not only a single citizen and regroup into energy cooperatives; ii) Keep in mind that the motivation of the consumer and citizen depends on social/cultural/geographical framework even inside a same country. A social cohesion is needed; iii) Stress energy education;
  - Automatization of the monitoring equipment and market data collection is essential;
  - Have national and local authorities on-board;
- Following these statements, WG Customer Engagement agrees that the following topics could be tackled:
  - Make mandatory that citizen and consumers engagement topic is addressed in all projects;
  - Knowledge sharing on social science data and project experiences is an issue to be addressed;
  - Share knowledge with other initiatives (Interreg, JPP ERA-Net SES, Erasmus +) and build on results of other projects (Lighthouse projects, Erasmus +, S3C);
  - Enlarge the scope of the working group to all relevant stakeholder – move toward stakeholder engagement;
To engage consumers and citizens GDPR is a big requirement that needs to be more effective (e.g. agreement contract for users). This topic could be treated by WG Data Management.

Template/guidance document on ‘Engagement of consumers and citizens’

- WG Customer Engagement will work on a template/guidance document on how to engage consumers and citizens, starting from the statements raised during the session.

Parallel Session 3 – Scalability & Replicability

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- Guidelines developed in the last period by TF Replicability/Scalability Analysis (RSA) have been tested and validated by 2 pilot projects: GOFLEX and Wisegrid. In its present state (version 1), guidelines have reached an adequate level of maturity to be recommended for use by starting and ongoing projects, and doesn’t require to be further detailed;
- Guidelines should remain open enough and not too prescriptive. However, guidelines would benefit from being illustrated by more examples of SRA application in ongoing and ending/ended BRIDGE projects;
- Synergies have been highlighted between the TF RSA and ETIP-SNET WG 5;
- D&E Booster is an existing support service of the EC to better identify and describe results of the projects and set up action plans for the use of results.

Definition and specification of a common repository

- TF RSA will work on the definition/specification of a common repository with useful information for helping projects in implementing the guidelines. As a basis, the repository could help to collect:
  - Use cases / scenarios from existing projects with relevant KPI details;
  - Tools from existing projects;
  - Best practices and lessons learned from previous SRAs;
- The repository is a task identified for the future tender (next service contract).

Seminar organized by InteGRIDy project

- InteGRIDy will organize a seminar to present their tool for evaluating Replicability/Scalability potential in the business and functional layers of SGAM.

Parallel Sessions 4 – Interoperability of Flexibility Assets

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- WG Data Management and other participants to the session produced key statements concerning the interoperability of flexibility assets:
  - Interoperability has to follow a per layer approach, covering the 5 layers of the Smart Grid Architecture Model (SGAM): i) Interoperability at the business layer could be difficult to achieve due to differences in national regulatory frameworks; ii) Interoperability at component and communication layers are mostly technical issues that are hard to regulate (because market-driven) but quite straightforward to tackle, also communication layer interoperability is often supported by user associations (e.g. through
Interoperability at function and information layers are the most crucial as function layer makes the link with the use-cases and defines the requirements towards the lower layers, and information layer is key to enable data sharing (at the information layer, SAREF and SAREF4ENER are recognized as valid references);

- This work needs to start from some use-cases (e.g. “voltage support”, “congestion management”, ...) and a common way of defining use-cases is needed: all projects should rely on IEC 62559 standard and SGAM;
- As a first step, it would be advised to focus on 2-3 use-cases that are commonly accepted and compliant with the existing Harmonized Electricity Market Role Model (HEMRM);

ICT4water cluster has defined a multi-year roadmap, which seems to be a good approach to tackle such complex issue.

Develop a stable methodology for a continuous analysis

- WG Data Management will develop a continuous analysis of the projects based on a stable methodology, that should be used to maintain a set of recommendations, best practices and possibly tools (e.g. CIM extension);
- A sub-group of WG Data Management dedicated to the definition of the methodology (incl. its inputs and outputs) will be created with concerned projects (InterConnect, E-LAND, IElectrix, EU-SysFlex...). It will be named Sub-Group Interoperability;
- 2 or 3 commonly accepted use-cases of BRIDGE projects will be selected for a 1st run of the methodology, inside the use case-repository also developed by WG Data Management (further details regarding this repository in session 5);
- WG Data Management will collect projects inputs, apply the methodology, and generate first outputs (such as set of recommendations, best practices and possibly tools). Projects should provide their use-cases and architecture when it is the most relevant for them (instead of asking all the projects to provide this content at the same time whatever their progress and roadmap);
- Following external parties could be involved: CEN-CENELEC, IEC, ETSI, ISO, AIOTI.

Parallel Sessions 5 – TSO-DSO Cooperation #2 – Data Management

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- Following work performed by WG Data Management in the TSO-DSO report, and discussions held during the session, the need of a use-case repository easily accessible has been identified. This would help to develop and agree on high-level/specific use-cases, it will be also an input to other topics including interoperability (link with session 4) and data exchange architecture;
- Development of a conceptual data exchange architecture for Europe is needed. This architecture should: i) consider the interoperability of the variety of existing (and planned) solutions; ii) enable cross-border data exchange; iii) accommodate any type of data, including real-time, sub-meter, TSO-DSO, etc; iv) ensure GDPR compliance and data owner's control over their data; v) enable sector coupling – gas, heating & cooling, water, buildings, health, etc; vi) be open source; vii) use a SGAM based approach;
- **Existing Harmonized Electricity Market Role Model (HEMRM) needs to be updated** through:
  i) summarizing already existing roles and creating a central repository; ii) elaborating new data roles; iii) harmonizing the approach to role definitions;
- **The application of CIM for standardization needs to be reinforced** considering that: i) Projects should identify the needs that would require CIM extensions; ii) then merge all these needs; iii) create an easily accessible repository for already developed CIM extensions; iv) suggest extensions to CIM.

**Set-up a use-case repository**
- A sub-group of WG Data Management dedicated to investigate the creation of the repository **will be created** with concerned projects (X-FLEX, EU-SysFlex, GIFT, ...). It will be named **Sub-Group Use Case Repository**;
- The recommendation is using the standardized IEC template (IEC 62559-2)
- **Sub-Group Use Case Repository** will coordinate with IEC and CEN-CENELEC-ETSI initiatives and identify other existing initiatives to avoid duplication;
- **Sub-Group Use Case Repository** will look at gaps identified by CEN-CENELEC-ETSI in terms of CEP implementation;
- Governance of this use case repository will have to be defined.

**Develop conceptual data exchange architecture for Europe**
- A sub-group of WG Data Management dedicated to the development of a European wide conceptual data exchange architecture **will be created** with concerned projects (EU-SysFlex, PlatOne, MuseGrids, SOFIE, InterConnect) and external stakeholders (Energy Data Access Alliance, ENTSO-E, DSO association, ETIP-SNET, European Commission, national data hubs and platforms, ICT4Water, CEN-CENELEC-ETSI). It will be named **Sub-Group Data Exchange Architecture**;
- Replicable and scalable solutions of European ambition and potential will be identified by the Sub-Group;
- Regarding the implementation, additional regulation and rules of governance are required.

**Update Harmonized Electricity Market Role Model (HEMRM)**
- A sub-group dedicated to the update of HEMRM **will be created** with concerned projects (PlatOne, EU-SysFlex, GIFT, ...), jointly with WGs Data Management and Regulation;
- **It will be named Sub-Group HEMRM**, and could be composed of members of WG Regulation and Data Management;
- **External parties (ebIX, ENTSO-E, DSO associations) will be involved. Sub-Group will work closely with ebIX**. The ebIX drafting team should be joined/advised;
- HEMRM should be compared with other models (USEF, EDF).

**Reinforce application of CIM for standardization**
- A sub-group dedicated to the Common Information Model (CIM) will be created with concerned projects (E-DREAM, ...), with the objective to share experience on CIM usage between projects and draft proposals for CIM extension. It will be named **Sub-Group CIM**;
- Two options regarding the organization of this task are pending: **draft proposals to be pushed to the CIM Users Group or set-up a dedicated “European” user group**;
• WG Data Management will contribute by defining profiles of standards when relevant, merging needs from projects cooperating in drafting CIM extensions and a CEN-CENELEC-ETSI workshop agreement template, considering the frameworks of FIWARE, European Data Space, SAREF, DLMS-COSEM, COSMAG, IEC61850;

• This proposal for this task should be prepared for, presented and discussed in CEN-CENELEC-ETSI meeting in May.

Parallel Session 6 – Future R&I Priorities and BRIDGE Topics

Main discussions and key statements of the session

• EC and participants to the sessions discussed about 3 main topics leading to the identification of several R&I priorities (15):
  o For Flexibility/Storage topic, priorities identified were: i) long term and large-scale storage; ii) harvesting the flexibility from smart charging; iii) development of new control architectures for optimal use of demand; iv) supply and consumer engagement in flexibility and efficiency;
  o For Vector/Sector integration topic, priorities identified were: i) configuration of the grid with regards to resiliency of the energy system; ii) development of transnational collaborative sandboxes (to tackle regulatory barriers and consider tariffs incentives); iii) reconciling scenarios for different networks (in terms of development, needs and planning); iv) Grids/networks planning (joint or coordinated planning);
  o For Digitalisation topic, priorities identified were: i) management of data flow and standardisation focusing on the exploitation of data from DSO sides; ii) use of prediction for decision making and the data modelling; iii) digitalisation of energy asset (such as substation and Power Electronics) to make them more interoperable; iv) consideration of digital resilience and cybersecurity (encompassing a better security by design and security of new system, cooperation and trust), v) establishment of digital marketplace by using the blockchain at the service of market transaction and defining a trading regulatory framework; vi) putting the user at the centre of the system (User centric approach); vii) sharing among projects to foster the re-use of projects’ results.

Creation of a new BRIDGE Task Force Future R&I priorities

• TF Future R&I priorities will work on the above-mentioned R&I priorities to feedback into co-creation process for Horizon Europe and into the evidence base for the Clean Energy Research and Innovation Outlook;

• TF will be built in cooperation with ETIP SNET representatives to look for concrete achievements from H2020 projects and link them to the future R&I needs;

• TF could be strengthened with cooperation on topics of common of interests with regulators (to tackle regulatory barriers) and international bodies for identification of best practices outside of Europe;

• TF leader needs to be identified.
Parallel Session 7 – Sector Integration

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- Sector integration topic is consisting to integrate energy sectors with end-user sectors (Buildings, Mobility, Industry – incl. water);
- Synergies between BRIDGE and ETIP-SNET WG1-Smart grids will be further developed on that topic;
- BRIDGE projects could help to the definition of use cases treating synergies/interfaces between energy vectors and with buildings and mobility, considering that BRIDGE projects are mainly centred on electricity grids, with few cases on P2G (hydrogen). This type of use cases contributes to electricity grid stability;
- DG ENER will prepare an EU communication on status of the Clean Energy Package implementation in member states, highlighting barriers and projections for 2050 (potential inputs from BRIDGE projects on barriers);
- ICT4WATER Cluster has link to gas (biogas), electricity (cons./prod., energy efficiency), heat (waste water), it is also treating common metering/data management issues. A wider scope to NEXUS has also been mentioned during the session: Energy, Water, Food, Ecosystems (Land). ICT4WATER Cluster will then contribute to ETIP-SNET WG1-Smart grids;
- BRIDGE will be invited to the next ICT4WATER event (16/06/2020).

Parallel Session 8 – CEER Meets BRIDGE Projects

Main discussions and key statements of the session

- On TSO-DSO cooperation topic, work done by BRIDGE projects brings operational aspects, while next steps of WG Regulation (see parallel session 1) will be interesting for flexibility topic;
- It has been identified a need to monitor the constant evolution of legislation on Energy Communities;
- Flexibilities are key for Energy Communities to manage their portfolios and provide benefit to DSOs etc.;
- TF Energy Communities has to keep the Energy Communities topic simple and open, in order to facilitate the understanding of the concept (not only collective self-consumption);
- Section 2 as well as annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the 2019 report of the TF is available on co-creation platform (expera); TF will open the discussion and invite more experts to contribute to living documents
- CEER is interested by the developments of BRIDGE projects and TF Energy Communities, interactions between these groups will continue in 2020:
  - CEER currently writes a report on TSO-DSO cooperation. They will contact specific BRIDGE projects for feedback if needed;
  - Once CEER report will be out, interactions between CEER and BRIDGE will be organized to check needs and scopes.

Collaboration between CEER and TF Energy Communities

- Inputs from CEER on Energy Communities topic will be communicated to the TF Energy Communities, in order to introduce discussions with the BRIDGE TF Energy Communities on what they need to focus on;
• A common meeting between TF and CEER will be prepared in April to materialize this collaboration;
• TF Energy Communities will update the report of the last period, if the need has been identified to have a formal report in addition to the ongoing knowledge co-creation process on expera platform. This would be in preparation of a training session which is planned in September with CEER;
• EC will see how they communicate on this task force to Member States.