**Towards a comprehensive** **hydrogen infrastructure: assessing progress and addressing gaps**

**Stakeholders Consultation**

*This meeting is under Chatham House Rule*

\*\*\* Draft Agenda \*\*\*

*Speakers are currently being confirmed*

**Date**: Wednesday 15th October 2025

**Time**: 15.00 – 17:00 CET

**Location**: ONLINE, by invitation only

The development of a robust hydrogen infrastructure is a key enabler of the EU’s decarbonisation ambitions and the broader green transition. As part of its strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the EU has laid the groundwork for a hydrogen infrastructure framework that aims to facilitate the deployment of hydrogen across borders and sectors. This includes initiatives under the revised Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation, includes dedicated hydrogen infrastructure as a priority corridor, as well as targeted funding mechanisms. Together, these tools are intended to ensure that infrastructure planning keeps pace with the ramp-up of hydrogen production and demand. However, for the hydrogen economy to scale up effectively, the physical infrastructure, including pipelines, import terminals, storage, and third-party access facilities, must be timely, coherent, and interoperable. Any delays or gaps risk creating bottlenecks that could slow down or even derail progress toward climate and industrial goals.

ERCST aims to collect relevant feedback on this topic to support the drafting of a comprehensive policy paper.

Key topics to be discussed during this stakeholders consultation include:

* The current status of hydrogen infrastructure development, including pipelines and terminals;
* Key uncertainties and challenges, including permitting, cross-border coordination, and demand visibility;
* Mechanisms in place to support infrastructure rollout, such as financing instruments and policy tools;
* The upcoming European Grid Package (expected Q1 2026), which aims to accelerate the upgrade, digitalisation, and expansion of the European grid. While primarily focused on electricity, it will also address hydrogen and other infrastructure relevant to TEN-E corridors.

15:00 – 15:10 **Welcome**

* Andrei Marcu, ERCST

15:10 - 15:25 **ERCST Presentation**

The ERCST Presentation will set the scenes for an in-depth discussions with experts and participants. The Presentation will focus on the following topics:

1. EU hydrogen infrastructure framework
2. Current EU hydrogen infrastructure state of play
3. Challenges and opportunities
* Andrei Marcu, ERCST
* Olivier Imbault, ERCST
* Chiara Cavallera, ERCST

15:25 – 16.30 **Roundtable discussion**

The roundtable speakers will share their views on the current state of hydrogen infrastructure in Europe and reflect on what is needed to close the remaining gaps. They will explore whether existing planning and investment frameworks are sufficient, and what additional steps are required to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with hydrogen market development. Their expertise will bring additional depth and practical insights into the discussions, enriching the conversation with diverse perspectives from policy, industry, and NGOs.

Guiding Questions:

1. How adequate is the existing EU framework (e.g. TEN-E, CEF, PCI/PMI) in supporting hydrogen infrastructure development?

2. What are the main bottlenecks in the rollout of hydrogen pipelines, terminals, and storage today?

3. What uncertainties are slowing down investment and project development and how can they be addressed?

4. What role will the upcoming European Grid Package play in accelerating hydrogen infrastructure development?

Each speaker will have around 7 minutes for his/her intervention.

* Geert Decock, Transport & Environment
* Stefan Gielis, Airliquide
* Lukas Karl, BDEW
* Valeria Palmisano, Snam
* Kamila Waciega, Hydrogen Europe

16:30 - 17:00 **Q&A**

17:00 **End of the event**