ENTSO-E position on IEC Use Case Activities

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In 2014, the *IEC* initiated the creation of a new committee – System Committee on Smart Energy (*SyC SE*). The scope of this committee is to work at the system level to provide standardisation, coordination and guidance to stakeholders on the topics of Smart Grid and Smart Energy, including interaction in the areas of heat and gas. The objective agreed upon the establishment of the *SyC SE* was to provide a framework for the Technical Committees (*TC*) to contribute effectively to the construction of a coherent, agile and comprehensive system. Additionally, this work is expected to enable interoperability within the system, including the construction of shared data models. The *SyC SE* was presented as an aid to existing committees and not as a committee with a prescriptive goal.

A conflict has already appeared on the status of documents which the *SyC SE* will issue and on the potential prescriptive role of these documents towards other *TC*s. In relation to the status of these documents, there is support on one hand for a prescriptive status towards other *TC*s, gradually integrated in the normative document (i.e. using the standard as an internal prescription vehicle system to the *TC*s); while on the other hand an informative status is supported.

The *IEC SMB* (Standardization Management Board) is a decision-making body responsible for the management and supervision of the IEC's standards work. The *IEC SMB* has been approached by the *IEC SyC SE* to provide a position on whether the status of the documents towards other *TC*s should be prescriptive or informative.

Four type of deliverables can be distinguished in these documents:
1. The basic elements of the technical framework – the vocabulary; list of actors; methods templates. These elements should be easily adaptable and available for use by the product committees. These elements, without being prescriptive, form the technical framework.
2. Use cases *(UC)* can be described as lists of events which describe interactions between a role and a system to achieve an end goal. They can only have an informative status for the following reasons:
    a. To comply with *IEC* guidelines and directives which recommend the establishment of documents with performance objectives, not with descriptive solutions;
    b. To respect the nature of the content 'Use Case' and not 'Use Standard';
    c. To stay agile and allow the introduction of innovation (e.g. in methods, means, etc). The concept of 'period of stability' is antithetical to the notion of use cases;
    d. To remain capable of capturing local specificities in order to ensure that the standards being set do not exclude permutations of the use case.
3. Requirements on interfaces (including data models) can be quasi-prescriptive but must remain at a level that does not conflict with standards developed by the other *TC*s. Product standards (prepared by *TC*s) ultimately prevail over *SyC SE* documents in accordance with IEC rules.
4. Environment Test Systems which provide significant value in achieving higher levels of interoperability, may be prescriptive so as to measure the actual degree of interoperability achieved.

ENTSO-E therefore strongly advocates the following position: All use cases, developed by the *IEC SyC Smart Energy*, established with the aim of capturing standardization needs, will remain of an informative nature (i.e. Technical Reports) and will not be proposed as International Standards. *IEC SyC Smart Energy* should continue with the production of basic elements, which can have a status of Technical Report (or possibly Technical Specification), while leaving the standards of Technical Committees to prevail.