

REGULATORY REVIEW AND BARRIERS FOR THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTED GENERATION IN THE EU-15

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ABSTRACT

The share of distributed generation (DG) in Europe is increasing and the regulation policies are changing. When distributed electricity supply surpasses a particular level, it can no longer be ignored in the planning and operation of electricity networks. Therefore, improvements to the regulatory framework of the electricity networks are required along with the growth of the electricity supply from distributed generation. So far, the energy policy of the European Union (EU) has only indirectly addressed DG - mainly as one means to achieve other policy goals, e.g., renewable energy targets and security of supply. However, with the increasing role of DG in obtaining these goals in the near future, national and European network regulation needs to be targeted more directly at facilitating DG deployment. This paper reviews the regulation of the electricity supply system with respect to distributed generation in the EU-15 Member States and compares the different systems. In contrast to previous studies, this paper presents a cross country comparison of the State-of-the-art in the EU-15 and an identification of major barriers to the further deployment of distributed generation.