



An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fónais
**Commission for
Regulation of Utilities**

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fónais
Commission for Regulation of Utilities

2021 Roadmap for the Clean Energy Package's Electricity and Renewables Directives

Information Paper

Reference: CRU/21019	Date Published: 26/02/2021	CRU Contact: CEPinfopapers@cru.ie
-----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

Executive Summary

This CRU Information Paper provides a high-level overview of the CRU's planned work relating to the Clean Energy Package's revised Electricity and Renewable Directives throughout 2021. This Information Paper updates the CRU's publication of March 2020 titled 'Roadmap for the Clean Energy Package's Electricity and Renewables Directives' (CRU/20/043).

The plans presented in this Information Paper stem from requirements in the Clean Energy Package legislative files. Two of the Directives contained in the Clean Energy Package are Directive (EU) 2019/944 (the 'Electricity Directive') and Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (the 'Renewables Directive'). The requirements in the Electricity Directive have the most impact on the functions of the CRU and is the primary focus of many of the workstreams delivering on CEP Implementation. Additionally, there are some aspects of the Renewables Directive which overlap with requirements in the Directive, and these will also be addressed by the CRU teams working on implementation.

From reviews undertaken by the CRU in 2019, it was concluded that Ireland is already compliant with many of the articles in the Electricity Directive. There are some areas, however, of the Electricity and Renewables Directives which were entirely new and required further analysis and work to be completed prior to implementation. These areas were highlighted in CRU/20043.

Work commenced in 2020 on conducting internal reviews of existing regulatory frameworks, stakeholder engagement to discuss the future role of the DSO and TSO, and the publication of Calls for Evidence to introduce the topic of active consumer and energy communities as envisaged by the CEP to market participants. This work will continue into 2021 as the CRU aims to apply the results of the internal reviews, discussions with stakeholders and the Calls for Evidence into regulatory frameworks.

This Information Paper further details the work completed by the CRU in 2020 on CEP Implementation and contains the approaches to be taken by the teams in the CRU to continue to implement the various aspects of the Electricity and Renewables Directives. The table below outlines the three key areas which the CRU will focus on in 2021 and the anticipated publications and workstreams associated with each of the areas.

Deliverable	2021 Approach to Implementation
Updates to Retail Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Updates to Supplier Handbook. • Decision Paper and publication of updated Supplier Handbook. • Stakeholder engagement to discuss the contents of the Smart Meter Data Access Code. • Consultation on the Smart Meter Data Access Code.
New Market Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Energy Communities and Active Consumers/ • Follow-on Consultations (topics may include, energy sharing and trading, treatment of third-party service providers, aggregators, incentives for demand response, etc.). • Decision(s) on various Consultation topics.
Role of the DSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral engagement with ESNB on procurement of flexibility services from demand response. • If the bilateral engagements highlight a need, the CRU may consult on the role of the DSO and flexibility procurement arrangements as outlined in the Electricity Directive.

This paper is being provided primarily for information and to uphold the transparency of the CEP implementation process. However, the CRU welcomes any comments on the information provided in this paper, or on any other aspects of the Electricity or Renewables Directive which respondents consider of importance for the CRU. Comments or questions can be sent to CEPInfopapers@cru.ie.

Public Impact Statement

The CRU has obligations as the National Regulatory Authority for energy in Ireland under the Clean Energy Package. The Clean Energy Package is a series of legislative documents aimed at facilitating the EU's transition towards clean energy and reducing its carbon footprint.

The Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944 is contained within the package and is the primary focus of this paper. The Electricity Directive is particularly consumer focused and outlines requirements for Member States and Regulatory Authorities to develop frameworks which allow for consumer participation in energy markets through various electricity undertakings, including generation, demand-response, aggregation, supply, etc.

The CRU commenced work on implementing the requirements contained in the Electricity Directive in 2020 by conducting internal reviews of existing regulatory frameworks, stakeholder engagement to discuss the future role of the DSO and TSO, and the publication of Calls for Evidence to introduce the topic of active consumer and energy communities as envisaged by the CEP to market participants. This work is anticipated to continue into 2021.

This Information Paper provides further detail on the work achieved in 2020 by the CRU also discusses a high-level strategy of the workstreams which will be continued into 2021 to progress implementation of the requirements in the CEP which are under the remit of the CRU.

CRU Mission Statement

The CRU's mission is to protect the public interest in Water, Energy and Energy Safety.

The CRU is guided by four strategic priorities that sit alongside the core activities we undertake to deliver on the public interest. These are:

- Deliver sustainable low-carbon solutions with well-regulated markets and networks
- Ensure compliance and accountability through best regulatory practice
- Develop effective communications to support customers and the regulatory process
- Foster and maintain a high-performance culture and organisation to achieve our vision

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	4
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Purpose and Outline of this Paper	7
2. Work Completed in 2020	9
2.1 Updates to the Retail Market	9
2.1.1 Supplier Handbook	9
2.1.2 Smart Meters	10
2.1.3 Aggregation	11
2.2 Prosumer Development	12
2.3 Role of the Network Operators	13
2.4 Additional Work Completed	14
2.5 Summary	14
3. Deliverables for 2021	15
3.1 Updates to the Retail Market	15
3.2 New Market Activities	15
3.3 Role of the DSO	16
4. Summary and Next Steps	18

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This CRU Information Paper provides a high-level overview of the CRU's planned work relating to the Clean Energy Package's revised Electricity and Renewable Directives throughout 2021. This Information Paper updates the CRU's publication of March 2020 titled 'Roadmap for the Clean Energy Package's Electricity and Renewables Directives¹' and is similar to the recently published updated SEM Committee Information Paper, 'Updated Roadmap to Clean Energy Package Implementation²'.

The plans presented in this Information Paper stem from requirements in the Clean Energy Package legislative files. In 2018 and 2019 the EU adopted the Clean Energy for all Europeans Package (CEP) which consists of eight legislative acts with the aim to facilitate a transition in the EU towards cleaner energy. The two main files which have the greatest impact on the functions of the CRU are the Regulation on the internal market for electricity (EU) 2019/943 (the 'Regulation³') and the Directive on common rules for the internal market for electricity (EU) 2019/944⁴ (the 'Electricity Directive'). Additionally, there are some aspects of the recast Directive on the promotion of use of energy from renewable sources (EU) 2018/2001 (the 'Renewables Directive'⁵) which overlap with requirements in the Electricity Directive which also impacts workstreams in the CRU.

In 2019, the CRU conducted an in-depth review of these legislative acts to determine if the current market arrangements were compliant with the requirements, or if further work may be needed to fully implement the contents of the articles. These reviews determined that the aspects of the Regulation are primarily matters which lie within the remit of the SEM Committee and as such, are being evaluated and implemented at an all-island level. Further information on the SEM Committee's plan to implement these deliverables is contained in the previously mentioned Information Paper, SEM-20-089.

¹ [CRU/20/043](#) Roadmap for the Clean Energy Package's Electricity and Renewables Directives

² [SEM-20-089](#) Updated Roadmap to Clean Energy Package Implementation

³ [Regulation](#) (EU) 2019/943 on the internal market for electricity

⁴ [Directive](#) (EU) 2019/944 on common rules for the internal market for electricity

⁵ [Directive](#) (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)

The reviews in 2019 also highlighted that the main legislation which impacts the CRU was the Electricity Directive, as well as some additional aspects of the Renewables Directive. The Electricity Directive covers retail market and electricity network topics and is in the process of being transposed into Irish Law by the Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

In 2019, the CRU concluded that Ireland is already compliant with many of the articles in the Electricity Directive. This is primarily due to the fact that this legislative act is a recast version of previous legislative files, such as Directive 2009/72/EC⁶ from the 3rd Energy Package. As a result, Ireland has already transposed and implemented many articles or can become compliant through relatively minor changes to the existing legal and regulatory framework.

There are some areas, however, of the Electricity and Renewables Directives which were entirely new and required further analysis and work to be completed prior to implementation. These areas were highlighted in the CRU Roadmap, CRU/20/043, published in March 2020. The paper presented three high-level workstreams which the CRU would progress; each of which contained subtopics to be addressed further in detail. The figure below was provided in CRU/20/043 to present each of these topics.

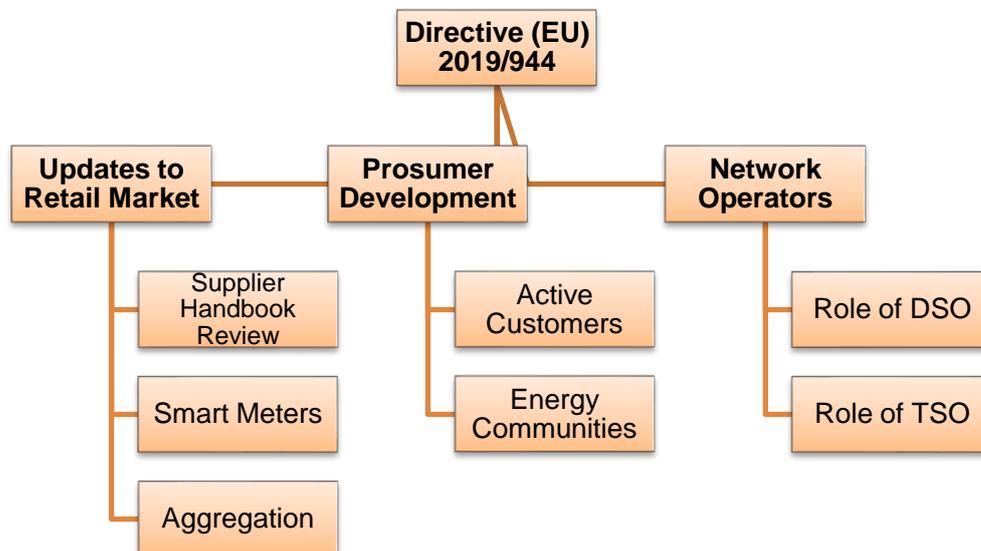


Figure 1: 2020 Deliverables

⁶ [Directive 2009/72/EC](#) concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity

The CRU teams working on CEP implementation worked well on progressing the deliverables highlighted in the figure and tackling the workstreams set out in CRU/20/043. Work included conducting internal reviews of existing regulatory frameworks, stakeholder engagement to discuss the future role of the DSO and TSO, and the publication of Calls for Evidence to introduce the topic of active consumer and energy communities as envisaged by the CEP to market participants. This work will progress into 2021 as the CRU aims to apply the results of the internal reviews, discussions with stakeholders and the Calls for Evidence into regulatory frameworks.

1.2 Purpose and Outline of this Paper

This paper contains the approaches to be taken by the teams in the CRU to continue to implement the various aspects of the Electricity and Renewables Directives. The figure below updates the CRU’s key deliverables and takes into account the work completed in 2020 and realised the new initiatives to be obtained in 2021.

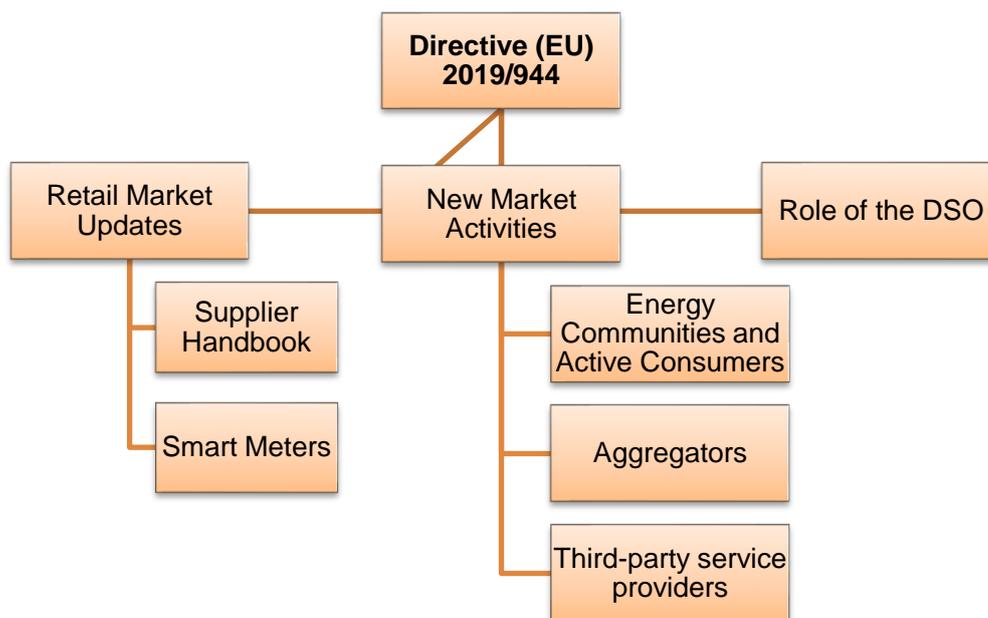


Figure 2: 2021 Deliverables

As can be seen by comparing Figure 1 and Figure 2, there has been a shift in some of the key deliverables as it has become clearer as to what objectives are needed to achieve compliance with the requirements. The updates have been informed from the internal reviews and external discussions which occurred throughout 2020.

The CRU will continue to engage with DECC and impacted stakeholders to continue to narrow the focus on the workstreams associated with implementing the Directive requirements. This means that the approaches in this paper can evolve, if needed, to incorporate other necessary workstreams which may be identified as the year goes on, however, this updated Information Paper is being provided to ensure a transparent approach is provided to interested stakeholders. The following sections of the paper will explain the work already undertaken by the CRU in 2020 and then will discuss each of the workstreams which will be continuing into 2021.

2. Work Completed in 2020

Throughout 2020, the CRU conducted numerous reviews to assess the existing regulatory framework and determine its compliance with the requirements in the Directives. The sections below breakdown the work done on each of the areas highlighted in CRU/20/043.

2.1 Updates to the Retail Market

The Electricity Directive aims to empower consumer participation in the electricity market. This includes providing more information to the consumer to enable informed decisions about their consumption patterns and market participation. Updates were made in the Directive to the existing legislative requirements around information on billing, contracts, switching, and terms and conditions. Furthermore, consumers are to be empowered by being provided a smart meter which allows more up-to-date information to be accessed and enables more informed decisions on energy consumption and usage to be undertaken by the consumer. These updated requirements were addressed by the CRU in 2020 under the following workstreams.

2.1.1 Supplier Handbook

The CRU's Supplier Handbook⁷ contains various sections on supplier/consumer interaction which must be adopted by retail suppliers into their own Codes of Practice and adhered to during any customer engagement. Some of the updates made in the Electricity Directive correspond to the sections of the Supplier Handbook, and as such, the CRU reviewed the updates against the existing framework to determine if any updates were needed. Specifically, the following articles 10⁸, 12⁹ and 18¹⁰ of the Electricity Directive were assessed:

In addition to the review on the Supplier Handbook, the CRU reviewed the Price Comparison Accreditation Framework¹¹ to compare with the requirements outlined in Article 14¹² of the Directive on price comparison tools. This article in the Electricity Directive provides the first

⁷ [CRU/19138](#) Electricity and Gas Supplier Handbook

⁸ [Article 10](#) Basic Contractual Rights of Directive (EU) 2019/944

⁹ [Article 12](#) right to switch and rules on switching related fees of Directive (EU) 2019/944

¹⁰ [Article 18](#) Bills and billing information of Directive (EU) 2019/944

¹¹ [CRU/19/033](#) Price Comparison Website Accreditation Framework

¹² [Article 14](#) Price comparison tools of Directive (EU) 2019/944

statutory footing for comparison websites and outlines high-level principles and requirements for these tools to adhere to while conducting their businesses.

The conclusion of the review highlighted that the requirements outlined in the Electricity Directive are all encapsulated in the existing accreditation framework, however further considerations will be given to the accreditation framework as the article is transposed into Irish Law by DECC.

These internal reviews highlighted that there is not much change needed to the existing regulatory tools to ensure they are fit for purpose following the transposition of the Directives, however there will still be some ongoing work regarding these articles in 2021. This is further explained in Section 3.1.

2.1.2 Smart Meters

As mentioned, the Electricity Directive contains articles on provisions concerning smart meter rollouts and implementation in Member States. The CRU and ESN are leading on the nationwide rollout of smart meters in Ireland under the National Smart Metering Plan (NSMP) which began in 2019. ESN progressed the installation of meters throughout 2020 and, despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, installed over 240,000 smart meters across Ireland. The CRU recently approved the new version of the retail market design which will enable the smart meters installed so far to go-live at the end of February 2021.

In conjunction to this ongoing work, the Retail and Smart Meter Team in the CRU assessed Articles 19 through 24 of the Electricity Directive to ascertain whether there were additional considerations needed to be applied to the NSMP to ensure compliance with the CEP. The CRU also engaged with DECC to discuss the transposition of these articles to highlight that the contents of these articles are valuable to ensuring a smooth rollout.

The review which was undertaken on the Supplier Handbook also considered these smart metering articles. The last revision of the Supplier Handbook was conducted in 2019, before the Electricity Directive was adopted, meaning that the smart meter provisions in the Handbook also needed to be reassessed to ensure compliance. The review highlighted that the aspects of the NSMP were considered to meet the requirements of the Electricity Directive.

Smart meters will play a large role in facilitating increased participation by consumers and energy communities and further consideration may be needed under the active consumer and

energy community workstream to ensure that smart meters simplify consumer engagement in the electricity sector.

Some of the work anticipated to continue into 2021 relates to developing a Smart Meter Data Access Code which will define the rules for accessing smart meter data. The CRU will work to ensure that appropriate rules and consumer protections are in place regarding consumption and generation data collected by smart meters. This is further explained in Section 3.1 of this paper.

2.1.3 Aggregation

Independent Aggregators are specifically defined in the Electricity Directive and throughout the CEP there are requirements that outline the rights, responsibilities, and obligations for aggregator participation in the electricity sector. Specifically in the Electricity Directive, there are provisions that aggregators should be able to participate individually from suppliers, that their contacts with customers should contain specific information, and that a regulatory framework be developed to ensure fair treatment is applied to market participants engaged in aggregation.

In 2020, aggregation was evaluated at a wholesale level due to requirements in the Regulation which facilitate non-discriminatory access for aggregators in the wholesale market. The review was used to determine whether aggregation as envisaged by the CEP was already occurring in the wholesale market, and additionally, whether those engaged in these activities had a non-discriminatory route to market.

A Consultation was published in July 2020¹³, with a subsequent Decision on the topic in December 2020¹⁴. The concluding decision of this process was that aggregator activities are fulfilled in the SEM by suppliers, demand side units, aggregator generator units, and assetless suppliers and that each of these market participants has pre-existing routes to market which leads to compliance with the specific aspects of the Regulation on aggregator participation in the wholesale market.

The CRU anticipates that there may need to be further reviews on the topic of aggregators; specifically looking at their interactions with consumers, their participation at a retail level, and

¹³ [SEM-20-042](#) Consultation Paper on Aggregation

¹⁴ [SEM-20-088](#) Decision on Aggregation in the SEM

their ability to provide demand response services to individuals or small groups of consumers as opposed to primarily commercial customers. The CRU's anticipation for further reviews on aggregators is discussed in Section 3.2 of this paper.

2.2 Prosumer Development

Both the Electricity Directive and Renewables Directive contain definitions for individual consumers and groups of jointly acting consumers which are meant to clearly identify consumers who are seeking to actively participate in the electricity sector. In the Electricity Directive these consumers are defined as *Active Customers* and *Citizen Energy Communities*. Likewise, in the Renewable Directive, these consumers are called *Renewable Self Consumers* and *Renewable Energy Communities*.

There are many overlapping qualities of these consumer groups and the CRU began work in 2020 to determine the best approach for developing a regulatory framework which would encourage innovation and participation from these consumers. For the purpose of these reviews, *Active Consumers* and *Renewable Self Consumers* were jointly assessed as *Active Consumers* and similarly, *Citizen Energy Communities* and *Renewable Energy Communities* were reviewed in conjunction as *Energy Communities*.

Articles in both the Electricity Directive and Renewables Directives outline the rules, entitlements and obligations for participation as these types of consumers^{15,16}, but the Renewables Directive also specifically requires that an enabling regulatory framework is developed to ensure fair treatment of these consumer groups and to encourage more uptake by individuals and communities in the electricity sector.

The CRU conducted a scoping exercise in September 2020 by publishing two Calls for Evidence^{17,18}. One on the topic of Active Consumers and Jointly Acting Active Consumers and the other on Energy Communities. These two papers raised general questions on benefits, challenges, barriers, definitions, and several other topics. The purpose of the exercise was to determine what initial thoughts market participants had on these topics.

¹⁵ [Article 15](#) Active Consumers, [Article 16](#) Citizen Energy Communities of Directive (EU) 2019/944

¹⁶ [Article 21](#) Renewable Self Consumers, [Article 22](#) Renewable Energy Communities of Directive 2018/2001

¹⁷ [CRU/20098](#) Call for Evidence on Active Consumer and Jointly Acting Active Consumers

¹⁸ [CRU/20099](#) Call for Evidence on Energy Communities

There will be further work conducted in 2021 as the CRU progresses with the development of the regulatory framework around this area. The CRU approach to implementation associated with this workstream is further addressed in Section 3.2 of this paper.

2.3 Role of the Network Operators

Many of the articles in the Electricity Directive which outline requirements for the organisational structure and functioning of the distribution system operator (DSO) and the transmission system operator (TSO) were directly recast from the Electricity Directive from the 3rd Energy Package. As such, many of the requirements have already been transposed and are implemented in the Irish electricity sector.

There were, however, some new requirements which helped solidify the concept that network operators are to be neutral market facilitators, rather than active participants. The role of the neutral market facilitator is to ensure that competition can occur for network related activities, such as flexibility services, electromobility, energy storage solutions, etc., without the DSO or TSO being directly engaged in any of the activities themselves.

Articles 33¹⁹ and 36²⁰ introduce several requirements which state that the DSO should not maintain ownership of any electromobility facilities or energy storage facilities, respectively, and Article 54²¹ which requires that the TSO should not have ownership of any energy storage facilities. These articles help clarify the position of the neutral market facilitator by introducing requirements on some of the activities which network operators should not be directly involved in to ensure a potential for a competitive market.

The CRU conducted a review of these requirements in 2020 and discussed the applicable provisions with the network operators. It was confirmed through this exercise that both ESBN and EirGrid meet these requirements and that there is no further work needed with regards to these articles.

In addition to these requirements, Article 32²² of the Electricity Directive also outlines conditions that the DSO should be able to procure services from distributed generation,

¹⁹ [Article 33](#) Integration of electromobility into the electricity network of Directive (EU) 2019/944

²⁰ [Article 36](#) Ownership of energy storage facilities by distribution system operators of Directive (EU) 2019/944

²¹ [Article 54](#) Ownership of energy storage facilities by transmission system operators of Directive (EU) 2019/944

²² [Article 32](#) Incentives for the use of flexibility in distribution networks of Directive (EU) 2019/944

demand response, and energy storage. There are to be incentives in place to encourage these procurement activities and the CRU considered these provisions as work was conducted on the 5-year Price Review in 2020. It is anticipated, however that there may need to be further reviews and considerations as to how to fully apply the conditions of this article. As a result, this workstream will progress into 2021 and is further described in Section 3.3 of this paper.

2.4 Additional Work Completed

In addition to the deliverables highlighted in CRU/20/043, the CRU also worked alongside the various teams in DECC to aid in the transposition process of the Electricity and Renewables Directives; particularly on the articles which have an impact on the regulator and require tasks for completion by the CRU. The CRU will continue to engage closely with DECC as they continue the transposition process on the Directives in 2021.

2.5 Summary

The table below outlines the previous sections into a high-level summary of the work achieved by the CRU in 2020 on the implementation of the Electricity and Renewables Directives.

Deliverable	Work Achieved
Updates to the Retail Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal high-level review of the Supplier Handbook to identify if there was a need for any urgent amendments for the CEP. • Hosted meetings with DECC and ESNB to determine changes needed to current market arrangements to comply with requirements relating to Smart Meters. • Determined an approach for the Smart Meter Data Access Code. • Collaborated with the SEM Committee to identify how aggregation is occurring at a wholesale level.
Prosumer Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook internal reviews to determine the best approach to develop or adapt the existing framework for active consumers and energy communities. • Published two Calls for Evidence on Active Consumers and Energy Communities. • Held bi-lateral discussions with interested stakeholders to discuss the impacts on their projects/businesses. • Participated in discussions with DECC to provide the CRU's input on the transposition of the related Articles of both Directives.
Role of the Network Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted internal reviews to assess EirGrid's and ESNB's compliance with the requirements on electromobility and storage ownership.

3. Deliverables for 2021

As noted throughout this paper, some of the workstreams developed for 2020 will progress into 2021 as the implementation of the Directives continues. The following sections provide a high-level summary of the work anticipated on each of these deliverables for 2021.

3.1 Updates to the Retail Market

The internal review conducted by the CRU in 2020 to assess what updates are needed to the Supplier Handbook to comply with new requirements in the Electricity Directive will continue into 2021 as the CRU will explore the options on how to introduce these few updated requirements around billing information, contracts, switching, smart meters and terms and conditions. The process to update the Supplier Handbook will follow a similar procedure to the last Handbook update, whereby a Consultation will be published to allow for market participant input, which will be followed by a subsequent Decision.

The CRU will continue to monitor the rollout of smart meters and will also continue the engagement with DECC on the transposition of the Electricity Directive, with focus on the smart metering articles. Additionally, the CRU is in the process of developing the Smart Meter Data Access Code which will define rules of access, and processing of, personal data from smart meters. This Code will ensure there is a clear set of criteria outlined for data access to ensure consumer protections are in place for data being accessed through smart meters.

The following points summarize the upcoming work for the updates to the retail market workstream.

- Consultation on Updates to Supplier Handbook
- Decision Paper and publication of updated Supplier Handbook
- Stakeholder engagement to define the objectives of the Smart Meter Data Access Code
- Consultation on the Smart Meter Data Access Code

3.2 New Market Activities

To progress the work started in 2020 on the topics of energy communities and active consumers, the CRU plans that a Consultation will be published which will address the feedback received from the Calls for Evidence as well as some follow-up discussions which were held with industry stakeholders and market participants. The contents of the Consultation are expected to cover a variety of topics that need to be addressed to progress development of an enabling regulatory

framework to incorporate market actors engaged in the new energy activities outlined in both Directives into the electricity market. It is anticipated that there may be subsequent Consultations on the topics discussed in the paper.

Within this Consultation, the topic of participation in demand response aggregation will be discussed, however, it is anticipated that this will be one of the areas that will have a follow-up Consultation after the assessment of the feedback on the first paper.

As part of the review in 2020, the CRU also understood that the provisions in the Directives encourage participation by third-party service providers to offer their assistance to active consumers and energy communities. The CRU considers these service providers to also be 'market actors' as they would be offering services which enable participation in the new energy activities provided for in the Directives. The CRU anticipates that there may need to be further consideration on how to ensure a level-playing field for these market participants, but also ensure fair treatment of the final customers they conduct business with. The list below highlights a high-level plan to address the topic of new market activities, including participation as an active consumer and in energy communities in 2021.

- Consultation on Energy Communities and Active Consumers.
- Follow-on Consultations (topics may include, energy sharing and trading, treatment of third-party service providers, aggregators, incentives for demand response, etc.)
- Decision(s) on various Consultation topics.

The CRU anticipates that the implementation of a regulatory framework for energy communities and active consumers will require further Consultations beyond what is described in the bullet points above. It is expected that this workstream will continue into 2022. Further information on the expected subtopics to be consulted upon will be further detailed in the upcoming Q1 Consultation on Energy Communities and Active Consumers.

3.3 Role of the DSO

The CRU gained better understanding throughout 2020 on what the CEP envisages the role of the DSO to be in the electricity markets. Specifically, that they should aim to procure flexibility services from distributed generation and demand response, they should act as a neutral market facilitator and that they should aid energy communities in facilitating the transfer of energy between participants.

The CRU aims to explore these concepts further in 2021 and aims to ensure that requirements

in Article 32 are upheld and ESNB is incentivized to fulfil the expectations of the DSO as prescribed in the CEP. It is expected that these discussions will occur bilaterally with ESNB to advance this workstream and if necessary, there may be a Consultation or a Call for Evidence to collect view from industry and stakeholders.

The following points provide a brief approach to continue the ongoing work around developing the role of the DSO as envisaged by the CEP in 2021.

- Bilateral engagement with ESNB on procurement of flexibility services from demand response.
- Further to the bilateral engagements, the CRU may consult on the role of the DSO and flexibility procurement arrangements as outlined in the Electricity Directive.

4. Summary and Next Steps

The table below summarises the work on the Electricity and Renewable Directives expected to be progressed by the CRU in 2021.

Deliverable	2021 Approach to Implementation
Updates to Retail Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Updates to Supplier Handbook. • Decision Paper and publication of updated Supplier Handbook. • Stakeholder engagement to discuss the contents of the Smart Meter Data Access Code. • Consultation on the Smart Meter Data Access Code.
New Market Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Energy Communities and Active Consumers/ • Follow-on Consultations (topics may include, energy sharing and trading, treatment of third-party service providers, aggregators, incentives for demand response, etc.). • Decision(s) on various Consultation topics.
Role of the DSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral engagement with ESBN on procurement of flexibility services from demand response. • If the bilateral engagements highlight a need, the CRU may consult on the role of the DSO and flexibility procurement arrangements as outlined in the Electricity Directive.

In addition to the Consultations and Decision Papers mentioned above, the CRU will continue to track progress on implementation of all the articles in the Directive which lie within the remit of the CRU, and will also continue to engage with stakeholders to discuss the best approaches to the implementation of the various deliverables. Engagement with DECC on the transposition process is also ongoing, and the CRU will provide assistance the department during this process in situations where the new legislation will affect the workstreams of the CRU.

This paper is being provided primarily for information and to uphold the transparency of the CEP implementation process. However, the CRU welcomes any comments on the information provided in this paper, or on any other aspects of the Electricity or Renewables Directive which respondents consider of importance for the CRU. Comments or questions can be sent to CEPInfopapers@cru.ie.