**EDSO elects new Board of Directors and visits flagship InovCity Évora**

Lisbon, Portugal – European Distribution System Operators for Smart Grids (EDSO), the association of leading European DSOs for electricity, has elected a new Board of Directors for the next two years. The new Board of Directors consists of:

João Torres, EDP Distribuçao, Chairman

Livio Gallo, Enel Distribuzione, Vice-Chairman

Javier Villalba, Iberdrola Distribución, Vice-Chairman

Christian Buchel, ERDF, Vice-Chairman

Jacques Hugé, ORES

Angel Arcos Vargas, Endesa Distribución

Peter Layr, Netz Niederösterreich

Blanca Losada Martin, Unión Fenosa Distribución

Jan Peters, Enexis

Richard Vidlicka, ČEZ Distribuce

Donald Vanbeveren, Eandis

Helmar Rendez, Vattenfall / Stromnetz-Berlin

Martin Konermann, Netze BW

Georgios Kollias, HEDNO

Further future developments in the governance of the association were also discussed, principally the change in leadership, following the announcement by EDSO’s Secretary General, Per-Olof Granström, that he will be leaving the association later this year once a suitable successor is in place.

The EDSO Board and General meeting, held in Lisbon on March 20th 2014, discussed the central issues for DSOs. In light of the ever nearing 2020 climate and energy deadline, the evolving role of the DSO was tackled by the 40 CEOs and high-level member representatives. The extreme need for investment in grids and the DSOs’ positioning as neutral market facilitators, managing data and having the right to procure flexibility system services in the future market design, were among the central topics discussed.

Alongside the EDSO meeting, the group visited the InovCity Évora and Inovgrid project, a flagship smart city demonstration in function since 2007, and discussed the innovative solutions that EDP Distribuçao has been testing in this real-life setting. Inovgrid will be one of the 22 projects presented at the InnoGrid2020+ Conference taking place next week in Brussels, organised by EDSO, ENTSO-E and the GRID+ Project. EDSO’s Chairman, João Torres, will be opening the conference alongside the Director General of the European Commission’s DG Energy, Dominique Ristori, and the Chairman of ENTSO-E, Pierre Bornard.

*EDSO for Smart Grids is gathering leading European Distribution System Operators for Electricity cooperating to bring smart grids from vision to reality, and focused on guiding European and member states’ RD&D, policy and regulation to support this development.*

[*www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu*](http://www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu)