

# ***Testimonial on privacy protection in the smart grid***

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*“Trust comes by foot, and leaves by horse” – Dutch proverb*

- The intensive and sustained development of information technologies in the electricity grid offers new benefits alongside new risks to the privacy of consumers. To a large extent, the raw material of the smart grid consists of the personal consumption data of European households using appliances in their home.
- The potential benefits of smart grids can only be enjoyed in practice if they are able to generate trust. Such trust will only be secured if SMs are reliable, secure, under individuals' control and if the protection of their personal data and privacy is guaranteed.
- Privacy and security by design. To significantly minimise the risks and to secure users' willingness to rely on smart meters, it is crucial to integrate, at practical level, data protection and privacy from the very inception of the Smart Metering/ Grid Project and at all stages of its development.
- Since smart grid development is still in its infancy, we (policymakers, industry and consumers) still have a chance to get consumer data protection and privacy right from the start.

**Consumentenbond**

*Dan weet je het.*