

Dear Fellow Cigreans,

At the end of each year it is pertinent to reflect on the past year and look to the future. From a power sector viewpoint the issues are becoming more complex and more challenging. Not only are there low inertia generators to contend with but market design is changing affecting power flow. There is also the reduction of costs of inverters and renewables. Transmission lines are required but right of way and environmental issues force other solutions. Politicians continue to impact the network with closure of power plants and subsidy of others. Load magnitudes and generation sources are now almost impossible to predict into the future. All this bodes very well for CIGRE in that there are continuously more problems to solve for the industry. In the past year we have seen the formation of a more efficient and stable Central Office. The new Steering Committee, which I am privileged to chair, is very enthusiastic and is already working on developments and improvements. In the New Year we are aiming to have a revised e-CIGRE (end 2017) which will permit documents to be searchable by current search engines. Electra will be revised to make it more relevant to readers especially decision makers in the industry. We are also looking to improve the brand of CIGRE with clear Mission, Vision and Strategic plan. As members we need to appreciate that CIGRE has the ability to enable developing countries expand networks and supply the over 1bn people currently without electrical power. This is an amazing ability that could make the world a better place. It always amazes me as to how CIGRE operates so successfully with volunteers. Each of you deserve credit for the work and effort put in to make CIGRE the great organization it is. The Festive season is a time for family and vacation. I wish you and your families all the very best over the Festive season. Please travel safely and I hope to see you at a CIGRE event in 2017.

**Rob Stephen**  
**CIGRE President**

*Best wishes  
For 2017!*

