



European DSOs Rally to Restore Power in Ireland After Storm Éowyn

At the end of January 2025, **Storm Éowyn** passed along the Irish coast, reaching far inland with damaging **winds** that **exceeded all previous records**, with a peak gust of 185 kph. These unprecedented winds left approximately **1,000,000 premises without power**, around 33% of Irish homes, across both **Northern Ireland** and the Republic of **Ireland**.

To mitigate the damage, the two main **Grid Operators** on the island, **NIE (TSO)** and **ESB (DSO)**, collaborated with several neighboring TSOs and DSOs and **issued a Europe-wide call for additional assistance**, which was **shared by our Secretariat among GEODE members**. The required support included distribution overhead line workers (both equipped and unequipped), 25 sq mm overhead bare conductors or equivalent, and resources for tree and vegetation removal to facilitate repairs. The call was well received, with many **DSOs** across Europe **sending assistance** to Ireland, including our **Austrian member Linz Netz**, which was one of the first to respond by dispatching a team and machinery to **provide direct on-the-ground support**.

Additionally, assistance was directly requested from **contractors** and **service providers**. To facilitate this effort, our **Finnish member, Elenia**, **extended the deadline for executing local projects** unrelated to new customer connections, enabling electricians from various contractors, such as Eltel, to mobilize and provide direct assistance in Ireland.

Finally, our **Norwegian member Å Energi** widely **disseminated the call for assistance** to partner utilities, including **Renewable Norway**, which shared the news with its members. This broad outreach **directly led to support from Kraftmontasje**.