



EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP FOR ELECTRICITY AND GAS

The Chairman Gas Working Group

Brussels, 3 February 2011

European Commission - DG Energy
Attn. Mr Heinz Hilbrecht
Rue de Mot 24-28
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Draft framework guideline on gas balancing

Dear Mr Hilbrecht,

On 6 August 2010 the Commission invited ERGEG to draft a framework guideline on gas balancing. ERGEG has declared its readiness to assume the role assigned to the Agency under Article 6 (2) of Regulation (EC) 715/2009 and to submit a non-binding framework guideline within 6 months of receipt of the Commission's notification. Our public consultation (which included a public workshop) closed on 29 October 2010. Since then, we have evaluated responses and discussed the evolution of the document with your staff, ENTSOG, EFET and Eurogas in a series of meetings.

In order to avoid the misunderstanding, which arose in respect of the Commission's letter following ERGEG's submission of the pilot framework guideline on capacity allocation mechanisms, we have invited your staff to several meetings to discuss the draft framework guideline on gas balancing and shared the revised draft with them on 23 December 2010. We have invited your staff to comment the draft version by 24 January 2011. Due to staff changes within the relevant unit, your officials have indicated that they will need more time to consider the document. In this respect we were unable to approve the framework guideline at the ERGEG meeting on 2 February 2011 and submit it in February within the 6 months period. Instead, we plan to submit the framework guideline to the General Assembly meeting on 5 April 2011 (BoR meeting on 6 April 2011). This means that we will only be in a position to submit to the Commission the gas balancing framework guideline after the General Assembly/BoR meetings. I would therefore like to kindly ask for an extension of the deadline until 6 April 2011. We also look forward to receiving your comments before April. If this is not possible the Commission's comments could be submitted to the ACER Director.



EUROPEAN REGULATORS GROUP FOR ELECTRICITY AND GAS

The Chairman Gas Working Group

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Boltz".

Walter Boltz