

2nd Meeting of Ad-hoc Expert Group for Electricity System operation

12-05-2010 from 10:30 to 17:00 hours

CEER Offices, Brussels

(Rue le Titien 28, B-1000)

FINAL MINUTES

Participants			
Tahir	Kapetanovic	E-Control (AT)	Chair - Excused
Katharina	Bauer	E-Control (AT)	
Christine	Materazzi-Wagner	E-Control (AT)	
Francois-Annet	de Ferrières	CRE (FR)	
Carlo	Sabelli	Expert	
Christoph	Schneiders	Expert	
Eckart	Lindwedel	Expert	
Guido	Cervigni	Expert	
Javier	Paradinas	Expert	
Jonathan	O'Sullivan	Expert	
Juan Manuel	Rodriguez	Expert	
Jorg	Teupen	Expert	
Marek	Zima	Expert	
Michael	Zoglauer	Expert	
Peter	Rasch	Expert	Excused
Peter	Christensen	Expert	Excused
Steve	Drummond	Expert	
Rudolf	Baumann	Expert	Excused
Natalie	McCoy	CEER Secretariat	

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 10h39 Katharina Bauer (E-Control, AT) in the Chair.

1.1. Approval of the agenda

The Agenda was approved in the form shown in these minutes.

2. Initial Impact Assessment process on system operation

The Chair explained the latest developments regarding the planning and process for the

development of the initial impact assessment on electricity system operation. A number of changes in perspective and approach have emerged as a result of ERGEG's work on the pilot framework guideline on electricity grid connection. The first two chapters of the initial impact assessment should focus on the problems that need addressing and then identify the objectives of a framework guideline on the issue in question.

It was suggested that a map of the topics under system operation should be put together.

The expert group's focus should be on the problem and objectives chapters. ERGEG will thereafter develop policy options and prepare a draft framework guideline.

Mr. O'Sullivan remarked on the context of this work – namely whether Europe is framing it plans for system operation against the standards of other areas (US, China), with a view to matching or excelling beyond their policies. This is part of the discussion on the drivers for a framework guideline on system operation.

Mr. Drummond enquired if the scope should also include transmission investment issues. ERGEG remarked that this question, as well as R&D, would be outside of the scope of this initial impact assessment.

The initial impact assessment must consider whether national rules are sufficient or whether European-wide rules are to be preferred.

Mr. Rodriguez remarked that existing rules (e.g. UCTE handbook) address two overall areas: operational security and planning/scheduling of operation. TSOs are the natural enforcers of these rules, which apply to all network users (including DSOs). This should be clear in the policy context.

ERGEG wants to address TSOs, DSOs, Gencos and all customers. However, the framework guidelines and network codes will cover cross-border issues, i.e. the TSOs. The objective is for the rules to be implemented down the value chain at national level. The codes will address the whole European system, with the extended logic that a failure/problem in one area has consequences on other areas (such that the rules are not limited to a strict definition of 'cross-border' activity).

Mr. Zima added that another issue which is a current problem is the enforcement of the rules by TSOs vis-à-vis the users.

C. Sabelli highlighted that all Users of the networks should supply TSOs with the information needed for the common evaluations on the security of supply and TSOs should be allowed to exchange those information among themselves.

Given the extensive data exchange involved in system operation (between the TSO, DSO and users), confidentiality issues should also be considered. In particular, Grid Operators should be obliged to maintain confidentiality of information they receive from others. The data for system operation is distinct from trading/commercial data, which is being addressed in a separate project for a comitology guideline on fundamental transparency.

If the work identifies that more information is needed than the system can currently provide, the initial impact assessment may need to include a consideration of these costs. That being said, it is not the aim of ERGEG's work to determine who/how these costs are paid for.

ERGEG clarified that the EU legislation does not specify that the network codes are 'transmission' codes. The codes become legally binding when approved via a comitology procedure initiated by the European Commission. Once adopted, the codes become legally binding for the national regulatory authorities as well. Furthermore, the licenses which implement the codes are binding on the users.

ERGEG has received some internal feedback on its draft chapters. The problem definition section should be further clarified – and other issues (solutions, objectives) should be treated separately.

3. General discussion on questions addressed and way forward

The experts discussed in detail a set of background factors and problems that involve system operation.

Among the background issues addressed, the experts discussed the impact of the behaviour of DSOs and generators on system security; increasing reliance of system security on factors external to the TSO; increases in cross-border exchanges; intermittent generation; enforceability of rules; etc.

Reliability/certainty, controllability and performance are three important problems for many of the issues connected to system operation. The enforceability of rules, the integration of new technologies (DC links, supergrids, 'smart' changes) and the procurement of ancillary services (with products based on differing technical standards) are further general issues.

The discussions were structured under separate categories – generation (conventional and intermittent), TSO-TSO, interconnectors and TSO-DSO.

Problems under generation include lack of information (regarding scheduling, real-time measurements, etc), lack of clarity on the communication process/protocols, and conflicting 'prioritisation' of dispatching for different generation. For wind generation, the question of controllability is important (physical instructions), as is intermittency and the need for ancillary services to adapt.

Mr. Schneiders noted that there are certain overlaps and interdependency between system operation and the issues being addressed in other framework guidelines (e.g. grid connection, congestion management). A holistic impact assessment of all market elements could be beneficial.

Additional problems which relate to distributed generation relate to performance (voltage control and reactive capacity), lack of clarity on responsibility for control and need for adjustments to legal/regulatory framework.

Problems under TSO-TSO include responsibility for overall security (lack of criteria for security of interconnected systems – and is N-1 criteria still adequate), awareness of the rules and responsibilities between the parties, collaboration between areas, cost shedding rules (distribution of costs).

Problems under interconnectors include operation closer to real time (as result of increased cross-border exchanges), the discrepancy between physical base and market models and increased loop flows created by the meshed network. Also, trading with third countries should be considered.

Problems under TSO-DSO include the impact of DSO behaviour on system security and the uncertainty this can create, DSOs not necessarily being involved in restoration after an incident, clarification of the roles and responsibilities (e.g. as regards load reduction) of each party.

These discussions have been gathered and organised in a working table, in order to facilitate discussion and identification of corresponding impacts, objectives, solutions, benefits, costs and synchronous systems. This table will be updated and fleshed out and will be sent to the members of the expert group for their comments ahead of the next expert group meeting. Using the input in the tables, ERGEG will further develop its draft initial impact assessment for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Any other business

5. Next meetings

Monday 5 July 2010 – CEER premises, 10h30

The meeting adjourned at 16h45.