



Public Consultation on CEER Work Programme 2012

Evaluation of Responses - Overall Results

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 15 stakeholders participated in the public consultation on the work programme 2012 of the Council of European Energy Regulators' (CEER). Overall, energy regulators received strong support for their proposed 2012 objectives. Broad consensus on the importance and choice of the selected focus areas was expressed throughout stakeholder responses. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of respondents deemed CEER's deliverables either very important or important. Given the overall positive feedback, CEER considers that its effort to set up a meaningful work plan for 2012 is endorsed by stakeholders. Energy regulators also thoroughly evaluated legitimate concerns voiced by some stakeholders and will add some suggestions made to its work programme particularly with respect to customer issues.

1 Analysis of stakeholder feedback and evaluation of responses

On 13 September 2011, CEER launched a public consultation on its 2012 work programme. The consultation lasted until 7 November 2011 and gave stakeholders the possibility to express their opinion on CEER's proposed work plan for 2012. A total of 14 respondents took advantage of this opportunity and gave their feedback on CEER's individual deliverables as well as on its general approach including the four proposed key areas via CEER's online consultation platform. One stakeholder submitted its comments in a different format.

Overall, energy regulators received strong support for their proposed 2012 objectives.

With respect to the four key areas, respondents fully endorsed the general approach put forward by regulators. Stakeholders reaffirm and strongly support the choice made on the focus areas and issues selected among them. Positive feedback was received on each individual key area confirming their respective importance particularly with a view to the vital role regulators play in them. The majority of respondents commented in a productive and positive way on the individual deliverables by showing considerable interest in our work through supporting statements, suggestions and specific questions. Some of these stakeholder remarks shall be presented in the following paragraphs.

A more detailed CEER evaluation of the responses submitted online is available in table form via the dedicated consultation page for the 2012 Work Programme at:

http://www.energy-regulators.eu/portal/page/portal/EER_HOME/EER_CONSULT/CLOSED%20PUBLIC%20CONSULTATIONS/CROSS_SECTORAL/2012%20Work%20Programme/EoC

CEER took note of the recurring questions asked by stakeholders particularly regarding the division of work between CEER and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). Some stakeholders demanded further clarification on the respective roles of CEER and ACER given that ACER deliverables appeared in the CEER work programme. CEER provided answers to these questions by explaining that the appearance of 2012 ACER work in CEER's work programme was intended to show the big picture of energy regulatory activities in 2012 and to provide understanding on CEER's share in the overall regulatory effort to be carried out in 2012. Yet, following stakeholders' concerns, CEER understands that there is a need for action and will consider developing a more coordinated way forward in the future allowing for a clearer picture of CEER's and ACER's roles. To this end, stakeholders could possibly be given more room to comment on both CEER and ACER activities alike. In this context, a coordinated CEER-ACER effort could allow for a public consultation to take place jointly on the whole spectrum of regulatory tasks, not merely CEER tasks as has been the case this year. As a consequence, both CEER's as well as ACER's work programme would need to be developed in parallel giving stakeholders the possibility to actively participate in the process.

CEER particularly appreciates the valuable suggestions and comments made with respect to the importance of customers. Stakeholders communicated that they would like to see a stronger emphasis on customer related aspects in CEER's work. This demand reappeared throughout the various sections of the public consultation. Given that the respondents' demands are very much in line with the conclusions of the last London Forum and the issue of customer importance has gained increased importance in European policy making, CEER considers this suggestion very helpful and will pay tribute to it by adding a new dimension to its work programme reflecting the consequences of regulatory work for customers. CEER, as an organisation mainly working to achieve greater benefits for consumers, fully supports current EU policy dedicated to moving customers more to the center stage. Therefore, CEER is also considering introducing regular customer related sections to its future public consultations. This will open up CEER's consultations to a wider audience including consumer organisations who will get the chance to actively contribute in areas beyond purely customer related ones. Given that the conclusions of the London Forum foresee the introduction of customer related issues to the Madrid and Florence Fora, CEER's broad understanding and implementation of a new consumer centered approach fits perfectly into the current policy landscape.

Furthermore, CEER will react to some hints received in relation to enhanced stakeholder involvement and will try to enable increased "virtual" participation at future public hearings and workshops to interested parties via web streaming.

The deliverable "CEER Guidelines of Good Practice on Energy Efficiency" was dropped as CEER has decided to instead wait for the results of the legislative process of the new EU Energy Efficiency Directive and will then actively contribute to the ensuing discussion and develop specific targeted work packages on this basis.

2 Statistics on importance of deliverables and workshops to stakeholders

As mentioned earlier, a total of 15 stakeholders participated in the public consultation. Stakeholders responded to questions according to their individual interests. As a consequence, not all stakeholders responded to the entire range of questions. One stakeholder submitted its comments in a different format and structure. Only the question asking for an assessment of the general approach taken in the work programme was answered by all stakeholders.

The public consultation was divided into three sections: section A dedicated to comments on the regulators' general approach, section B collecting statements on the individual key areas and section C enabling stakeholders to express their opinion on CEER's specific deliverables. While section A and B allowed stakeholders to provide written assessments, section C additionally offered a voting system on the importance of each deliverable. CEER therefore received qualitative assessments on each section in addition to individual ratings on the importance of each deliverable in section C. Selected deliverables also provided stakeholders the opportunity to vote on whether they are interested in attending CEER's workshops on them.

Vote by Stakeholders on the Importance of Deliverables (please see names of deliverables in the Annex III):

Importance of Deliverables (% of responses)				
	Total #	very important %	important %	not important %
C1	10	10.00%	70.00%	20.00%
C2	8	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%
C3	11	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
C4	11	18.18%	63.64%	18.18%
C5	11	18.18%	18.18%	63.64%
C6	10	60.00%	10.00%	30.00%
C7	11	54.55%	36.36%	9.09%
C8	12	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
C9	11	54.55%	45.45%	0.00%
C10	11	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%

Table 1- Vote by stakeholders on the importance of deliverables

The table shows the importance stakeholders assigned to each consulted deliverable and displays a clear result: the overwhelming majority of respondents deemed CEER's deliverables either "very important" or "important". This result certainly reflects strong approval of CEER's deliverables by stakeholders.

Particular support was expressed for deliverable C6¹ which 60 percent of respondents considered “very important”.

Yet a single deliverable, namely C5² was considered unimportant by the majority of respondents. This being a gas deliverable, it was only to be expected that stakeholders which focus on electricity would not regard it as important. When looking at the stakeholders which are concerned with the gas market and leaving aside the electricity ones the result is a balanced one. This is further added to by the regulatory authorities of countries with LNG considering this deliverable as very important. For these reasons CEER has decided to keep this deliverable in its 2012 work programme.

Workshop Participants (% of responses)			
	Total #	yes %	no %
C1	10	50.00%	50.00%
C5*	9	55.56%	44.44%
C7	10	90.00%	10.00%
C9	8	100.00%	0.00%

* C5 = Public Hearing

Table 2 - Stakeholders’ interest in workshop participation

Deliverables C1, C5, C7 and C9 offered stakeholders the possibility to indicate whether they are interested in participating in CEER’s workshops. The voting result clearly shows that stakeholders are keen on taking part in our workshops. Deliverable C9³ has received particular support with 100 percent of stakeholders expressing their interest.

3 Conclusions

CEER considers that its effort to set up a meaningful work plan for 2012 is endorsed by stakeholders. While significant support signaled that energy regulators should go ahead with the bulk of its proposals, some adaptations will be made to complement the work programme process following specific stakeholder requests. The most significant adaption will be the insertion of an overarching consumer dimension into CEER’s work programme.

The final 2012 Work Programme can be consulted here:

http://www.energy-regulators.eu/portal/page/portal/EER_HOME/EER_PUBLICATIONS/Work_Programmes

¹ CEER Advice on Auctions and NDPs as Mechanisms for the Identification and Allocation of Incremental Capacity

² CEER Status Review on the Evaluation of Access Regimes at LNG Terminals in the EU: Efficiency Indicators and Actual Market Functioning

³ CEER Benchmarking Report on Meter Data Management in a Smart Metering Environment - Case Studies

ANNEX I – CEER

The Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) is the voice of Europe's national regulators of electricity and gas at EU and international level. Through CEER, a not-for-profit association, the national regulators cooperate and exchange best practice. A key objective of CEER is to facilitate the creation of a single, competitive, efficient and sustainable EU internal energy market that works in the public interest.

CEER works closely with, and supports, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

ACER, which has its seat in Ljubljana, is an EU Agency with its own staff and resources. CEER, based in Brussels, deals with many complementary (and not overlapping) issues to ACER's work such as international issues, smart grids, sustainability and customer issues.

The work of CEER is structured according to a number of working groups and task forces, composed of staff members of the national energy regulatory authorities, and supported by the CEER Secretariat.

This report was prepared by CEER's Work Programme Drafting Committee.

ANNEX II – LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
ACER	Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
CAM	Capacity Allocation Mechanism
CEER	Council of European Energy Regulators
CMP	Congestion management procedure
DSO	Distribution System Operator
EU	European Union
GGP	Guidelines of Good Practice
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
NDP	Network Development Plan
SSO	Storage System Operator
TPA	Third Party Access
TSO	Transmission System Operator

ANNEX III – NAMES OF DELIVERABLES IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

	Name of Deliverable
C1	Guidelines of Good Practice on the Implementation and Use of Voltage Quality Monitoring Systems for Regulatory Purposes
C2	CEER Status Review on Renewable Energy Support in Europe - update of the report C10-SDE-19-04a
C3	CEER Guidelines of Good Practice on Energy Efficiency
C4	CEER Status Review of the Implementation of the Guidelines of Good Practice for Third Party Access (TPA) for Storage System Operators (GGPSSO) for CAM and CMP
C5	CEER Status Review on the Evaluation of Access Regimes at LNG Terminals in the EU: Efficiency Indicators and Actual Market Functioning
C6	CEER Advice on Auctions and Network Development Plans as Mechanisms for the Identification and Allocation of Incremental Capacity
C7	CEER Status Review and Advice on Further Transparency Measures on the Publication of Fundamental and Transactional Data
C8	CEER Status Review on the Transposition of Unbundling Requirements for TSOs and DSOs
C9	CEER Benchmarking Report on Meter Data Management in a Smart Metering Environment - Case Studies
C10	CEER Status Review of Customer and Retail Market Provisions from the 3 rd Package, as of 1 January 2012