



INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ENERGY REGULATORS

PRESS RELEASE

Quebec, 16th May 2012

ICER launches new work plan at World Forum

The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) launched the themes of its 2012-2015 work plan today at the Fifth World Forum on Energy Regulation (WFER V) in Quebec City, Canada. At the close of the World Forum, ICER chairman, Lord Mogg said:

“ICER has been the central unifying element of the success of this tri-annual World Forum. ICER has accelerated a trend among regulators to come together across political boundaries in order to share experience and to contribute their expertise in helping to tackle today’s global challenges. Participants have provided input to ICER which will guide its work in the coming period and it will report back to WFER VI on these deliverables in Istanbul in 2015.”

As well as showcasing ICER’s current work, the World Forum was an opportunity to discuss themes for its planned work in the period leading up to WFER VI. The four key themes for ICER’s work for the period 2012 – 2015 are:

(1) Technological change and renewables

WFER V discussed the growing drivers for change resulting from changing technologies, the adoption by many countries of increasingly challenging climate change goals, the technological developments in non-conventional gas production, and the current reassessment of nuclear generation technology. Whilst regulated investments in network infrastructure offer stability, uncertainty about the location and sizing of such investments is increasing. Regulation has a role in helping to manage the uncertainty of commercial investments. The Forum welcomed ICER’s intention to assess the likely effects of new technologies which are already changing the way electricity is generated and stored, how gas and electricity networks are developed and operated, as well as the opportunities such technologies may present.

(2) Opening of markets

WFER V discussed the increasing interaction between energy markets regionally and globally, including: regulatory challenges of cross-border investments, energy projects to enhance regional security of supply, and interconnection of isolated countries; the potential to enhance security of supply through greater market integration; and the potential impact of the further development of shale gas production, LNG and CCS technologies. ICER plans to examine the impacts of these interactions whilst acknowledging regionally specific features resulting from legal, regulatory and market development differences.

(3) Regulatory best practice

The Forum acknowledged ICER’s efforts to enhance the independence of regulators and ensure a robust institutional framework related to the governance of the regulators. The Forum welcomed ICER’s intention to continue to develop its work on regulatory best practices and on how these practices could be introduced in practice given the different circumstances of different regions. A highlight of the Forum was the presentation of ICER’s 2012 Distinguished Scholar Awards. In view of the contribution that academia can make, ICER’s intends to step up links with academic bodies.



(4) Consumer issues

A central theme of WFER V was consumer issues. The Forum discussed the increasing role of consumers in the development of energy markets, including: the challenge of increasing the capacity of consumers to guard their own interests; ways in which consumer protection measures may be enhanced, and the particular challenges faced by large consumers. The Forum welcomed ICER's intention to examine how vulnerable energy consumers, both domestic customers and small enterprises, are affected as energy markets develop, the consumer protection and empowerment role of regulators and regulatory instruments which can be used to facilitate affordable access to energy. This examination will focus on the very diverse picture of different regions.

ICER will present the outputs of this 2012- 2015 work at the WFER VI in Istanbul, Turkey in 2015. In his closing comments at WFER V, ICER President, Lord Mogg said:

“Through ICER, we will seek to better involve the regional associations of regulators from the developing world so as to give an even greater focus to the challenges of energy regulatory issues in emerging and developing economies in ICER's work and in the World Forum on Energy Regulation (VI) in 2015.”



Notes to editors

- The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) is a voluntary framework for cooperation between energy regulators from around the globe. ICER's aim is to improve public and policy-maker awareness and understanding of energy regulation. By establishing this voluntary confederation, with regular and structured contacts and cooperation, regulators exchange information and best practices in the regulation field and contribute to the evolution towards a sustainable planet. Our membership includes over 200 national regulatory authorities from 12 regional regulatory associations. ICER is currently chaired by Lord Mogg, President of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and Chair of the Board of Regulators of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).
- For the period 2009-2012, the four themes of ICER's work plan were: reliability and security of supply; climate change; competitiveness and affordability; and regulatory best practices. For the period 2012-2015, the four themes of ICER's work plan are: opening of markets; technological change and renewables; consumer issues and regulatory best practice.
- To learn more about ICER, its members and its publications visit: www.icer-regulators.net or see the ICER Fact Sheet (FS-12-04, May 2012)
- See the [ICER Press Release "Presentation of the 2012 ICER Distinguished Awards during the World Forum on Energy Regulation V"](#), 15 May 2012.
- See the [ICER Press Release "Global cooperation at its very best – energy regulators lead by example"](#), 16 May 2012.

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