

CEER Citizens' Q&A

National Regulatory Authorities' (NRAs') Cooperation in Practise

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1 What is NRAs' Cooperation?

The cooperation of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) is based either on the legal obligation (e.g. under the framework of the 3rd Package of EU energy laws including the Network Codes and Guidelines) or on a voluntary basis.

2 What does the status review propose for NRAs' Cooperation?

This paper provides several good examples from across Europe of how NRAs' cooperation has worked in practice to date, in both formal (legally foreseen) and informal (voluntary) ways. The paper presents useful lessons based on cases of good practice observed from practical experience at national, regional and EU levels. It finds that NRA cooperation has played a key (and often leading) role in enhancing market integration at regional level and that NRA cooperation should be supported going forward.

3 How does NRAs' cooperation work?

There two ways of NRAs' cooperation, either based on legal provisions or on voluntary motivation of each NRA. The law does not prescribe the cooperation tools to be used by NRAs. Hence NRAs themselves can decide on the form of the cooperation and the level of involvement of the parties. NRAs usually set their decision-making process through guidelines, memorandums of understanding, letters of intent, agreements, declarations or setting up voluntary platforms.

4 Why is this important for energy customers? What is the impact on energy customers?

The cooperation among NRAs on technical or market-related issues in this paper gives rise to improved market / cost efficiency in the markets concerned. Greater market integration, as a result of NRAs' cooperation, ultimately benefits Europe's consumers and businesses.