

Annual Report to the European Commission

Finland

1. Foreword

The year 2004 was important for the Finnish electricity and natural gas markets especially in two respects. The amendments made to the Electricity Market Act and the Natural Gas Market Act meant a new era in the regulation of network pricing. Secondly, the European emissions trading scheme was implemented in Finland.

The amendments to the Electricity Market Act and the Natural Gas Market Act that entered into force at the end of December 2004 and at the beginning of 2005 have significantly changed the regulation principles concerning the pricing of the electricity and natural gas network businesses. The ex-post regulation, applied to the electricity network business since 1995 and to the natural gas network business since 2000, was changed in part into ex-ante regulation of pricing in Finland at the turn of 2004/2005.

The Emissions Trading Act, which entered into force at the beginning of August 2004, served to implement the emissions trading directive adopted by the European Council and Parliament. A number of regulatory activities related to emissions trading laid down in the Emissions Trading Act were assigned to the Energy Market Authority.

The Finnish electricity market has been one of the forerunners as regards its liberalisation process and regional integration within the framework of the Nordic electricity market. In the past twelve months, the Nordic market integration was actively promoted through the target-oriented co-operation of the Nordic energy ministers, the Nordic TSOs and the Nordic regulators and other relevant authorities as well. The work is bound to continue along the same lines in the future as well.

A new page of integration was turned in Finland in the spring of 2005 when the project to connect the Finnish and the Estonian power systems with a DC cable was launched. In addition to connecting individual countries the new interconnector will create a link between two regional markets – the Nordic and the Baltic electricity markets – in the year 2006.

As a whole, the latter half of 2004 and the first half of 2005 were characterised by a relatively stable price development in the Nordic electricity wholesale market and the Finnish retail supply market. The Finnish retail customers enjoyed a decrease of good 3% in their electricity bills. However, there has prevailed a waiting atmosphere in the electricity market concerning the price of emissions rights and its impact on the electricity price. As the first year of the existence of the European Union emissions trade scheme the effects of it on the electricity market are to be seen in practice in 2005.

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2. Summary / Major Developments in the last year

2.1 The Regulatory Authority

2.1.1 Organization and legal basis of the regulatory authority

The Energy Market Authority is the regulatory agency for electricity and natural gas as well as the emissions trade authority in Finland. The Authority is a monocratic office, which means that it is directed by the head of agency. The head of agency is responsible for the decisions of the authority.

The legal basis for the Energy Market Authority lies within the Act (No. 507/2000) and Decree (No. 621/2000) on Energy Market Authority as well as in the Electricity Market Act (No. 386/1995), the Natural Gas Market Act (No. 508/2000) and the Emissions Trade Act (No. 683/2004).

As per the 1st of July, the total number of staff in Energy Market Authority amounted to 30 of which 27 were permanent. Of this number, 11 were occupied with the electricity market issues, 4 with natural gas market issues and 6 with emissions trading issues. The remaining staff was involved in all of these three areas providing assistance for IT, general administration and secretarial services. The total amount of the budget for 2005 is 2.7 million euros whereof 0.66 million euros are for the emissions trade.

2.1.2 Main tasks, statutory objectives and legal powers

The mission of the Energy Market Authority is to supervise and promote the operation of the electricity and natural gas markets and to create a framework for emissions trading.

As regards the electricity market, the Energy Market Authority shall

- regulate the pricing and conditions of electricity transmission and distribution;
- grant licences for electrical power networks and construction of power lines;
- supervise the obligation to develop the electrical power network;
- monitor the security of electricity supply;
- supervise the guarantee of origin system for electricity; and
- gather and publish data on prices of network services and electrical energy

In the field of natural gas market, the Energy Market Authority shall

- regulate the pricing and conditions of natural gas transmission and distribution;
- grant licences for operation of natural gas networks;
- monitor the security of natural gas supply; and
- gather and publish data on prices of network services and natural gas

The tasks of the Energy Market Authority as emissions trade authority include

- issuing and supervising emissions licences;
- establishing, maintaining and developing the national emissions trading register; and
- approving the verifiers for emissions trading

The Energy Market Authority is mandated to issue both administrative decisions and administrative regulations. The administrative regulations are binding on individual entrepreneurs (network operators, retail sellers, operators covered by the emissions trade legislation). The decisions are subject to appeal the first appellate level being either the Market Court (market supervision issues) or the Administrative Courts (licence issues). The final appeal body in both cases is the Supreme Administrative Court.

On the basis of the Electricity Market Act and the Natural Gas Market Act the Energy Market Authority is empowered to issue administrative regulations on certain clearly defined issues. The administrative decisions are binding on all the entrepreneurs who are active in the defined operation (for instance electricity distribution network operators, natural gas distribution network operators, electricity retail supplier who have the obligation to supply). The administrative regulations are not subject to appeal.

The administrative regulations cover the following issues:

- a regulation instructing the network operators on how and when to submit unbundled accounts information to the Energy Market Authority (natural gas);
- a regulation on the basis of the Authority can issue more detailed instructions on what information and which key figures the network operator has to publish and how the publication shall be carried out (electricity and natural gas);
- a regulation on the publication of technical key figures of the network operation (electricity and natural gas);
- a regulation on the itemization of bills (electricity and natural gas);
- a regulation instructing the retail suppliers on how to publish and inform prices as well as sales terms and conditions (electricity and natural gas); and
- a regulation instructing the network operators on how to publish and inform prices as well as sales terms and conditions (electricity and natural gas)

2.1.3 Independence and accountability

The agency head – director – is appointed for an undefined period of time by the Council of State. As the Energy Market Authority is in the Ministry of Trade and Industry's field of administration the appointment is made on the proposition of the Minister of Trade and Industry. The head of the Authority cannot be dismissed for political reasons.

The Energy Market Authority is overseen by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and especially by its Energy Department according to the standard principles applied in the Finnish public administration. This means agreeing on an annual basis of the objectives and results of the work of the Authority and checking the achievements bi-annually. The Authority has to present an annual report for information to the ministry.

On the other hand, the ministry cannot interfere or influence the decisions by the Authority, as they can only be appealed to the Market Court, Administrative Courts and finally to the Supreme Administrative Court. This guarantees the independence in decision-making.

The Energy Market Authority's operating expenses are financed mainly with supervision and license fees collected from electricity and natural gas network operators and the actors falling within the scope of emissions trading.

2.1.4 Overlapping jurisdictions

The Energy Market Authority has partly overlapping jurisdiction with the Finnish Competition Authority. On the basis of the Act on Competition Restrictions the Finnish Competition Authority has the general supervision mandate over all sectors of the economy including electricity and natural gas markets.

As a general rule, the Energy Market Authority does not have any powers regarding the competitive parts of the electricity and natural gas markets the exceptions being the tasks to supervise retail supply of electricity and natural gas under obligation to supply and to monitor security of supply.

The Energy Market Authority's main areas of supervision and regulation are the network operations in electricity and natural gas markets, and there especially the regulation of pricing and terms and conditions. Furthermore, an important area is the the supervisory tasks in the field of electricity and natural gas supply covered by the obligation to supply. There the Energy Market Authority can interfere with pricing or refusals to supply, for instance. On the basis of the Act on Competition Restrictions and its rules against the abuse of dominant position, the Finnish Competition Authority may investigate the pricing and terms of network services ex post. Additionally, the Finnish Competition Authority may investigate the pricing of electricity and natural gas supply as well as other competition restrictions related to them.

Since the establishment of the sector-specific regulator in 1995, the Energy Market Authority and the Finnish Competition Authority have created a good and functioning platform for co-operation within the limits of their powers and introduced a division of work to prevent forum shopping and contradictory decisions.

2.2 Main developments in the gas and electricity markets

2.2.1 Electricity market

Finland consumed 86.8 TWh electricity in 2004, which was nearly two per cent more than the previous year. Cogeneration of heat and power covered 32 per cent of the consumption of electricity, nuclear power nearly 25 per cent, hydro power 17 per cent and coal-based and other conventional condensing power a good 20 per cent. Wind power accounted for 0.1 per cent. Electricity was imported from Russia to Finland nearly according to the maximum capacity of the import connection and a substantial amount of electricity was exported to the west. Net imports of electricity covered 5.6 per cent of electricity consumption.

At the start of 2005, the Government granted a construction licence for the construction of Teollisuuden Voima Ltd's new nuclear power plant unit. The construction work was started in spring year 2004 and the Olkiluoto 3 power plant unit will be commissioned in 2009. It will be completed at the beginning of the Kyoto target period and it will improve Finland's chances of achieving the reduction targets for GHG emissions. The power plant unit to be constructed is of the pressurised water type. The power plant unit's thermal output will be 4 300 MW and net electric power output 1 600 MW.

In April 2004, the end-customer price of electric energy started to show a falling trend due to a relatively good water situation and forecast. The average end-customer price of electricity

fell by about five per cent in Finland in 2004, whereas a year before the price rose by about 20 per cent. In practice, the distribution prices of electricity have remained nearly unchanged for several years and in the first half of 2005 there was a modest decrease of one per cent. The total price of electric energy including distribution fell by 2.5 per cent in 2004. The price level of electricity fell slightly again at the start of 2005 and by June 2005 the prices had fallen some 3 per cent.

The significant increase in prices of emissions rights during the first half of year 2005 together with the water reservoir situation in the Nordic countries have affected the spot and the futures prices in the Nordic electricity market. In the absence of any change in these parameters the slight downward trend of electricity end-user prices might come to an end and change into an upward trend.

The Finnish electricity market has been an integrated part of the Nordic electricity market since the latter half of the 1990's. The work to further develop the Nordic electricity market continued in 2004. As an outcome of their meeting in Akureyri in Iceland during September 2004, the Nordic energy ministers published an Akureyri Declaration. In the Declaration they noted that the Nordic market was functioning well and that the harmonisation process should continue. The Nordic TSO's were asked to investigate how further co-ordination of the functions of the system responsibility, financing and organisation of Nordic transmission network investments as well as joint management of the power issue could be established. The collaboration organization of the Nordic transmission system operators – Nordel – published its report "Enhancing Efficient Functioning of the Nordic Electricity Market" in February 2005.

The Nordic energy market regulators, who have co-operated unofficially since the year 1999 and officially as the Forum of Nordic Energy Regulators (NordREG) after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2002, enhanced their co-operation in the year 2004 by preparing a Work Programme for the year 2005. In it four strategic objectives for the work on the Nordic electricity market were stated. The strategic objectives are the following: 1) A truly common Nordic retail market with free choice of supplier, 2) A well-functioning wholesale market with competitive prices, 3) Reliable supply and 4) Efficient regulation of TSOs.

As regards the development of the interconnections of the Finnish electricity transmission network with other EU countries' networks, there were two significant projects. In February 2005, the Finnish and Swedish TSOs published their decision to construct a new cross-border transmission line between Finland and Sweden. The connection – a DC cable of 600 - 800 MW – will strengthen transmission interconnections between the countries and contribute to a decrease in temporary electricity price differences between Finland and Sweden. The submarine cable will be ready in autumn of 2010 and the TSO's will share the ownership and investment costs of the cable, amounting to some 200 million euros.

In February 2005, the Energy Market Authority granted an exemption to Estlink – a commercial line to be built between Finland and Estonia – from certain requirements of the Electricity Market Directive (No. 2003/54/EC) and Regulation (No. 1228/2003). Estlink will be the first interconnection between the Baltic and Nordic electricity systems. The total cost of the project will be some 110 million euros. The commissioning of the Baltic-Finnish submarine DC cable is scheduled to the end of 2006.

2.2.2 Natural gas market

In 2004, natural gas consumption in Finland totalled 4.61 bcm (46.1 TWh), down approximately three per cent from the previous year. Consumption was reduced by the slightly warmer-than-average weather during the year, as well as by the continuously falling electricity price, which reduced the use of natural gas in condensing power generation. All natural gas consumed in Finland is imported from Russia.

Large users account for the bulk of natural gas consumption in Finland. Energy and power companies, which use natural gas to co-generate heat and power, use over 50 per cent and pulp and paper companies over 30 per cent of Finland's total gas consumption. Natural gas accounts for approximately 11 per cent of Finland's total energy consumption.

The gas transmission system operator Gasum Ltd is constructing a parallel pipeline to the existing transmission pipeline. This extension will increase the reliability of gas supply and the transmission capacity from the Russian border to southern Finland and Helsinki region. The length of the pipeline under construction and planning in the years 2005 - 2006 is 103 kilometres. The TSO has also plans to extend the gas pipeline to the western coast of Finland, firstly to Turku region.

2.3 Major issues dealt with by the regulator

2.3.1 Electricity

In the field of electricity, the Energy Market Authority is responsible for regulating 91 distribution network operators, 13 regional network operators and one transmission system operator at the start of 2005. Furthermore, the Authority is mandated with the supervision of altogether 70 electricity retailers with the obligation to supply.

The amendments to the Electricity Market Act, which entered into force at the end of December 2004, implemented the Electricity Market Directive's obligations in Finland. The legislative amendments significantly changed the regulation principles concerning the pricing of the electricity network business.

To enable the launch of the first regulatory period in the field of electricity networks, the Energy Market Authority started the preparation work well ahead in the latter half of 2003. In June 2004, the Energy Market Authority published guidelines¹ for reasonable electricity transmission and distribution pricing. The new type of regulation of the electricity distribution and transmission business was started within the framework of the first three-year regulatory period at the start of 2005, and the network operator-specific confirmation decisions were issued at the end of 2004. Furthermore, the methodology for the pricing of the electricity connection charges was confirmed to all distribution network operators in February 2005.

In its decision in February 2005, the Energy Market Authority exempted the Estlink Project – a submarine DC cable to link Finland and Estonia – from certain provisions of the Regulation

¹ The unofficial English translation of the guidelines is available in the Energy Market Authority's website www.energiamarkkinavirasto.fi.

of cross-border exchanges in electricity (No. 1228/2003) and of the Electricity Market Directive (No. 2003/54/EC) and notified the decision to the European Commission. Subsequently, the Commission decided not to request the Energy Market Authority to amend or withdraw its decision.

To integrate the Nordic electricity market closer with the rest of Europe the meeting of the European Regulatory Mini-Forum for the Nordic region took place in Helsinki on January 19, 2005. The representatives of the European Commission, Member States, national regulators, TSOs and Nord Pool Spot, EEX, ETSO and EuroPEX participated in the meeting of the Mini-Forum.

2.3.2 Natural gas

At the start of 2005, the Energy Market Authority was responsible for regulating 32 natural gas distribution network operators and one natural gas transmission network operator. Additionally, the Authority supervised the wholesale and retail supply activities of the operators as well.

The Natural Gas Market Act, which came into force in the year 2000, was enacted to implement the Natural Gas Market Directive (No. 98/30/EC). Finland has availed itself of the possibility of an exemption allowed by the previous and present Natural Gas Market Directives. Accordingly, the natural gas market has not been opened in the manner specified in the directives. As regards Finland, the directives allow for exemptions from licence procedure, unbundling of network operations and deregulation of market, i.e. from the rules for defining the customers which meet the requirements. The exemption is effective as long as Finland does not have a direct connection to the natural gas network of any other EU Member State and as long as Finland has only one main natural gas supplier.

The Natural Gas Market Act aims to improve the functioning of the natural gas market and to prepare the natural gas sector for the integration of the European natural gas market. The Act provides large-scale consumers, buying at least 5 million cubic metres of natural gas per year, with the possibility of mutual secondary market trading in natural gas they have purchased from an importer operating in Finland. A separate market place has been established for trading on the secondary market. Trade in the secondary market is about one percent of total demand in Finland.

The most important need to amend the Natural Gas Market Act of Finland, resulting from the latest Natural Gas Market Directive, was related to the regulatory model of network pricing. In the new Directive, ex-ante approval of the pricing methodology of network services is required. This means that the regulator will approve in advance at least the methods that all network operators will use to calculate the pricing of network services; the previous ex-post and case-specific regulation had thus to be replaced in Finland.

According to the amendment to the Natural Gas Market Act that entered into force at the start of 2005, the Energy Market Authority shall issue a decision confirming the methods that the network operator must follow when determining the level of return for the network business and the charges to be collected for network services during the regulatory period. The methods to be followed in the pricing of services shall be confirmed before they are introduced.

To enable the launch of the first regulatory period in the field of natural gas networks, the Energy Market Authority started the preparation work in the latter half of 2003. In June 2004, the Energy Market Authority published guidelines for reasonable natural gas transmission and distribution pricing. These guidelines include principles on the valuation of regulatory asset base, determination of the acceptable rate of return on capital, the method of determining the result and the correction of the profit and loss account and balance sheet.

In the natural gas sector, the Parliament ended up postponing the introduction of the new regulation model by a year. Thus the Energy Market Authority issued the network operator-specific confirmation decisions on the methodology for the pricing of natural gas network services in May and June 2005. The first four-year regulatory period will commence at the start of 2006 and end at the end of 2009.

2.3.3 Emissions trading

The Emissions Trading Act, which entered into force in August 2004, served to implement the emissions trading directive adopted by the European Council and Parliament. A number of regulatory activities related to emissions trading laid down in the Emissions Trading Act were assigned to the Energy Market Authority. As the national emissions trading authority, the Energy Market Authority is responsible for, inter alia, issuing emissions licenses to installations within the scope of the emissions trading scheme, supervising compliance with the license conditions, approving the verifiers for emissions trading, monitoring emission reports and setting up and administering an emissions trading register.

The Emissions Trading Act defines the installations falling within the scope of the emissions trading scheme. In Finland, combustions plants with an output of more than 20 MW and also smaller combustion installations connected to the same district heating network as the above mentioned bigger plants, oil refineries, coking plants, as well as some installations and processes of the steel, mineral and forest industries fall within the scope of emissions trading. In Finland, the emissions trading scheme covers around 150 operators.

Within the timeframe of four months set in the Emissions Trade Act the Energy Market Authority issued emissions licenses to about 540 plants. The national emissions trading register was taken into use at the end of February 2005.

3. Regulation and Performance of the Electricity Market

3.1 Regulatory Issues

3.1.1 General

In 1995, the new Electricity Market Act brought competition to the electricity market. The production, import, export and supply of electricity were opened for competition. As to the supply of electricity, market opening took place gradually. At the first stage the users with an power requirement of at least 500 kW (circa 2 000 users) were able to choose their supplier. At the beginning of 1997, small-scale users of electricity – i.e. households and small and medium-sized enterprises – gained access to the open market. Accordingly, Finland opened fully its electricity market in 1997 and since then all electricity customers (100 % of customers) have been able to choose their supplier.

In 1998, the position of small-scale users of electricity was improved by creating a balance clearing system based on load-profiling, thus making it possible for them to change their supplier without the requirement of hourly metering. Since then the ordinary consumers have been also in practice free to change the supplier.

According to the Electricity Market Act, consumption places that are equipped with main fuses of over 3 x 63 amperes must have metering based on hourly metering. However, if an electricity user does not want, the hourly metering is not required for those consumption places to which electricity is bought with terms and conditions applying to retailer's obligation to supply, if a service (connection) contract applied to a consumption place has been agreed before the 1st of January 2005 or if consumption in a consumption place is no more than 5 000 kWh per year.

Table 1 shows the development of the opening up of the Finnish electricity market since 1995.

Table 1. Development of market opening.

Year	Threshold	% Market Open (by volume)
1995	500 kW	about 50-60 %
1997	No	100 %
1999	No	100 %
2001	No	100 %
2003	No	100 %
2005	No	100 %
2007	No	100 %

3.1.2 Management and Allocation of interconnection capacity and mechanisms to deal with congestion

Congestion management

Finland is a part of synchronously operated Nordic power system. It has 400 kV and 220 kV AC interconnectors to Sweden and 220 kV AC interconnector to Norway. Furthermore there exists Fenno-Skan DC line between Finland and Sweden. Finland has also interconnectors to Russia (back-to-back DC converter station at Vyborg and a 400 kV and two 110 kV AC interconnectors synchronised to Finnish power system). Transmission capacities on interconnectors within Nordic power system are presented in Figure 1.

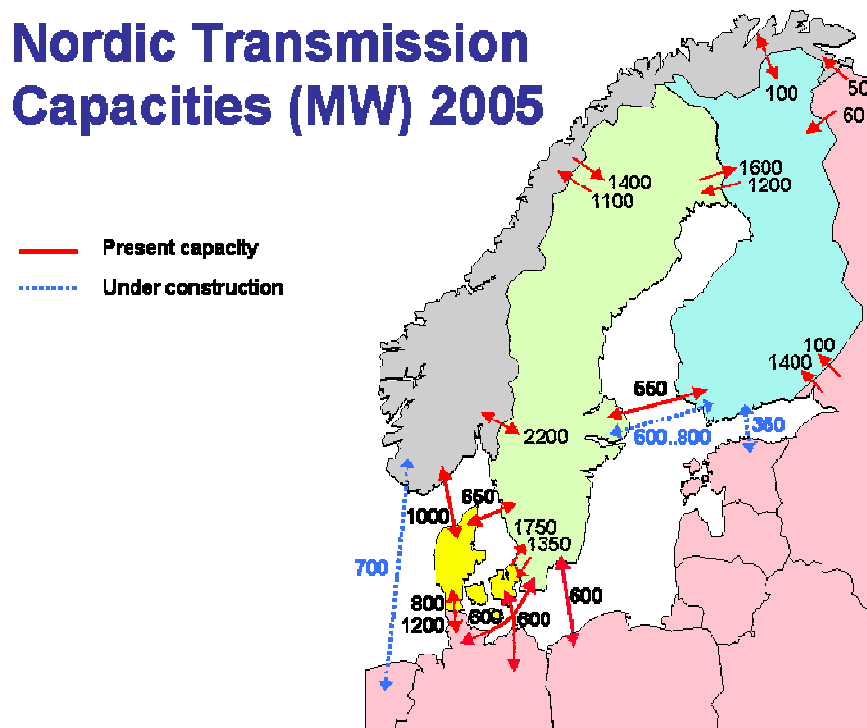


Figure 1. Transmission capacities on interconnectors between Nordic countries (Source: Fingrid Plc).

Finland belongs to the Nordic electricity market and congestions across the borders (from Finland to Sweden and Norway) are managed by implicit auctions (market splitting) in the day ahead market (spot market) in power exchange Nord Pool. Implicit auctions imply that market-based methods are applied in capacity allocation and congestion management is wholly integrated to the functioning of the Nordic wholesale market. Finland is considered as a single price area within Nordic market and congestions within Finland and after spot market closure are managed by counter-trade.

There exist no priority transmission rights for cross-border trade from Finland to Sweden and from Finland to Norway or vice versa.

However, priority transmission rights are used to allocate capacity between Finland and Russia. Actors can buy rights in auctions arranged by TSO for one or more years. Maximum capacity for one actor is currently 300 MW. This allows more actors to utilize the existing cross-border capacity between Finland and Russia.

In implicit auctions (market splitting) price areas exist when there is not enough capacity between these areas and the price of electricity will vary between these areas depending on the amount of congestions. When no congestions exist prices are equal within the price areas.

The Nordic market is normally split into six price areas: Finland (Helsinki), Sweden (Stockholm), West Denmark (Jutland), East Denmark (Zealand), South Norway (Oslo) and North Norway (Tromsø). Moreover, Norway can sometimes be split into more than two price areas. Table 2 presents the amount of hours in percent during the years 1998 - 2004 when a price area has existed.

Table 2. Time in percent when a separate price area has existed.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Sweden	3.2	0.6	5.5	0.0	0.1	0	0.1
South Norway	22.9	33.2	55.0	8.9	25.4	23.8	24.2
North Norway	23.1	36.6	41.7	23.8	21.9	10.9	26.8
Finland	-	4.0	15.8	0.9	5.0	29.2	23.9
West Denmark	-	33.8	44.8	19.1	40.1	48.9	30.5
East Denmark	-	-	7.2	5.4	9.3	2.0	6.0

Source: Nord Pool

In year 2004 about 25 percent of time no congestions existed in the Nordic market region. Finland forms usually own price area, especially during relatively dry water years in other Nordic countries. This leads to increased export from Finland to other Nordic countries, (e.g. years 2000 and 2003 in Table 2). Finland may form a common price area with Sweden especially when hydro power is abundant in other Nordic countries. Swedish regulatory authority (STEM) has in its report² studied price differences in the Finland price area and the Sweden price area from year 2001 until June 2004. It was found out that price difference from the Finland price area to the Sweden price area (congestion from Finland to Sweden) existed during 15 percent of time and the price difference from the Sweden price area to the Finland price area (congestion from Sweden to Finland) existed about one percent of time.

Counter trade is used to relieve both national and inter-regional congestions during the daily network operation. Costs of the counter trade are paid by TSO. Table 3 shows the costs of the counter trade paid by the Finnish TSO during the years 2000 - 2004.

Table 3. Costs of counter trade in Finland during the years 2000 - 2004 in million euros.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Costs	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.3	0.07

Source Nordel, Fingrid Plc.

² STEM report (2004): Hantering av begränsningar i det svenska överföringssystemet för el. Ett nordiskt perspektiv.

To decrease the congestions on interconnectors between Finland and Sweden the TSOs (Fingrid and Svenska Kraftnät) have launched an investment project to build the DC interconnection Fenno-Skan 2 between Finland and Sweden. The capacity of the interconnection will be 600 - 800 MW and it will be commissioned in the year 2010.

Implementation of the Regulation 1228/2003

The amendment to the Electricity Market Act, which was enacted at the end of the year 2004, implemented the Regulation 1228/2003 through mandating the Energy Market Authority to act as the regulatory authority mentioned in the Regulation and to supervise the compliance with the Regulation in Finland (Section 38 of the Electricity Market Act). The supervisory powers of the Energy Market Authority are ex-post by their nature as stated in the Section 39 of the Electricity Market Act. Furthermore, according to the Section 38 a of the said Act, the Energy Market Authority shall take the Regulation into account while issuing the confirmation decisions on the network operators.

As required by Article 5 of the Regulation, available transmission capacity on interconnectors is published on the Nord Pool website www.nordpool.com. Capacity is published on a yearly, weekly and daily basis by Nordel (yearly values) and Nord Pool (most important are values for spot market). Changes in transmission capacity caused by faults, unplanned and planned outages are published on Nord Pool's website. The most urgent ones e.g. faults and unplanned outages are published as Urgent Market Messages (UMM) to inform all market participants.

Nord Pool's website includes also information on flows between Nordic countries (both spot trade and physical flows), spot prices (system price and area prices) and aggregated production and consumption data. The Finnish TSO publishes on its website (www.fingrid.fi) real time information on the state of the power system including e.g. flows across interconnectors, aggregated power generation by production type and aggregated load.

Transmission capacity calculation

Transmission capacity to/from Finland is calculated using simulation models, which represent typical seasonal base load flow cases in the Nordic power system (winter, summer):

- winter day load representing high loading
- summer night load representing light loading

These base cases are defined from measurements and forecasts. The operational situation in neighbouring countries is normally based on the worst case load flow scenarios. The base cases are updated with production, loads, transmission capacity and outages when monthly, weekly and daily capacities are calculated. In the future the real time data from SCADA system can be used more effectively to build simulation cases.

The transmission capacity is estimated a year, a month (six weeks) and a week (every Tuesday the end of week and the following week) ahead. The capacity for a year ahead is calculated with the intact grid. Capacities a month and a week ahead are calculated taking into account planned outages in the system (both grid and production). The daily capacity is announced at 10 o'clock (EET) in the morning for the next day. This capacity is binding to the TSO and in case of congestion the TSO has to counter-trade to relieve congestion.

The transmission capacity is calculated with variable transmission situations (realised by modifying production and load) using a contingency list consisting of credible line and production outages with allowed consequences according to the Nordic dimensioning criteria.

The Nordic TSOs use common simulation models in the calculation of the transmission capacity. All the TSOs calculate the capacity on their interconnections. The capacities calculated by TSOs on both sides of the interconnections are compared and the lowest figure is applied on that interconnection and given to Nord Pool for allocation.

3.1.3 The regulation of the tasks of transmission and distribution companies

According to the Electricity Market Act the electricity network operation calls for a licence issued by the Energy Market Authority (electricity network licence). The licence is granted for the time being or, on special grounds, for a specified period.

In the Finnish legislation the electricity network operation has been defined as placing the electricity system against payment at the disposal of anyone needing transmission and similar system services. Electricity network operation also includes any such design, construction, maintenance and use of electricity network, connection of customers' electric equipment to the network, metering of power, and other measures necessary to transmission of electricity and for similar system services.

The network operators have various obligations:

- obligation to develop the electricity network;
- obligation to connect; and
- obligation to transmit electricity

The electricity network licence granted to a distribution network operator specifies the operator's geographical area of responsibility. According to the legislation the distribution network operator has an exclusive right to construct a distribution network within its area of responsibility. A third party is entitled to construct a distribution network within the distribution network operator's area of responsibility only if:

1. the network to be built is an electricity consumer's service line with which the consumption site is connected to the electricity network of the distribution network operator of the area of responsibility;
2. the network to be built is an electricity consumer's service line with which an electricity generating plant is connected to the electricity network of the distribution network operator or other network operator of the area of responsibility;
3. the network to be built is an internal network for a property or, respectively, a group of properties; or
4. the network operator allows another network operator to construct a network.

The Energy Market Authority has issued electricity distribution network licenses with geographical area of responsibility to 91 distribution network operators. At the Finnish electricity market legislation electricity distribution network have been defined as network below 110 kV level. Some of the electricity distribution network operators have also 110 kV lines. There are also 13 regional network companies having only 110 kV lines.

Fingrid Plc, the electricity transmission system operator, is responsible for the main transmission grid. It owns and operates electricity transmission lines of 400 kV and 220 kV and additionally some 110 kV lines. Based on the Electricity Market Act, the Energy Market Authority has granted the company an electricity network license, in which the Authority has ordered the company to be responsible for the functioning of the power system at a national level (system responsibility). As the transmission system operator – TSO – Fingrid's tasks include the responsibility for electricity transmission in the main grid, the development of the main transmission grid, maintenance of instantaneous balance between electricity consumption and production, clearing the electricity deliveries between various parties at a national level and promoting the functioning of the electricity market.

The electricity market legislation does not require that the network operators shall own the network. However, almost every network operator in Finland owns the network it is operating. Many network operators in Finland have outsourced a part of their activities, for instance construction and maintenance of lines.

Network Tariffs

According to the Electricity Market Act, the network operators are able to set the actual network tariffs and charges by themselves. There is no ex-ante approval of tariffs or prices of network services by authorities. The network operators have to notice their customers about the changes in charges at least one month prior to entering into force.

Due to the new Electricity Market Directive and also due to the experiences from the past ex-post supervision of network activities, the regulation of network tariffs was changed at the beginning of 2005. The regulation model of network tariffs has been reformed from the previous ex-post regulation towards a partial ex-ante regulation. At the present regulatory system the Energy Market Authority confirms ex-ante the methodology to be used in setting both transmission and distribution network tariffs and connection charges. The Energy Market Authority has to approve ex-ante also the terms and conditions of network and connection services before the network operators are able to apply them.

The methodology of setting network tariffs will be confirmed prior to a regulatory period of four years. As an exception, the first regulatory period covers years 2005-2007. Prior to confirming the methodology, the regulator publishes the guidelines³ on the details of the methodology and organises a public consultation on the guidelines with the stakeholders. The Energy Market Authority has confirmed the methodology of setting network tariffs in 2005-2007 in December 2004.

According to the Section 38a of the Electricity Market Act, the methodology confirmed by the regulator may include the following items:

- method for the valuation of regulated asset value
- method for determining approved rate of return on capital
- method for determining realised profit of network operations
- method for setting efficiency targets for network operations

³ Unofficial English translations of the guidelines for assessing the reasonableness of the pricing of electricity distribution and transmission network services in 2005-2007 are available on the Energy Market Authority's website at www.energiamarkkinavirasto.fi.

The confirmed methodology for setting network tariffs during the years 2005-2007 includes all the items mentioned above. The network will be included into the regulated asset value as the net present value instead of book value. The net present value of the network will be updated annually by taking into account depreciation and investments. Approved rate of return on capital is determined using a WACC-model (Weighted Average Cost of Capital) and will be updated annually. The Energy Market Authority has benchmarked DSOs on a yearly basis by using a DEA-model (Data Envelopment Analysis) to assess cost efficiency since 1999. However, the Energy Market Authority has not set company-specific efficiency goals for the first regulatory period. Instead, only a general efficiency improvement goal, which is the same to all electricity distribution companies, has been set. The Energy Market Authority aims to set company-specific efficiency improvement goals for the next regulatory period covering the years 2008-2012.

The network operator may, during individual years within the regulatory period, gain earnings from its network operation that are higher than the earnings considered reasonable in line with the confirmed methodology without intervention by the regulator. The pricing shall be reasonable when viewed over the regulatory period as a whole.

After the regulatory period has come to an end, the Energy Market Authority will validate the earnings of each network operator in its supervision decisions for the regulatory period, and will confirm the amount of any accrued earnings that exceed or fall short of reasonable earnings for the regulatory period. Where necessary, the supervision decisions will include an obligation to return to the customers any windfall profit for the completed regulatory period through pricing for the new regulatory period. The supervision decisions will correspondingly confirm that the network operator may allow in its pricing for the new regulatory period, for the amount by which the earnings accruing to the network operator from the previous regulatory period fell below the reasonable earnings level.

The Energy Market Authority collects annually from the network operators several kinds of information on network operations, like tariffs of network services, financial information, technical and economical key figures and data assessing efficiency of network operations. The technical key figures collected annually include for instance information on quality of supply. The Energy Market Authority has also powers to ask additional information from the TSO and DSOs on network operations for the supervision purposes.

According to the Electricity Market Act, charges of transmission and distribution services shall be public. The TSO and the DSOs shall have public charges and terms and conditions for network services. The pricing of network services must not present any unfounded terms or restrictions obviously limiting competition within the electricity trade. According to the legislation, at the request of the customer (either generator or load), the transmission and distribution system operators shall give him/her a comprehensive and sufficiently detailed estimate on the costs of connection.

Estimated national average network access charges as per the 1st of January 2005 for reference customers are shown in Table 4. Prices are excluding all taxes and VAT. During 2004 network access charges remained stable. Network access charges have decreased on average one per cent during the first half of 2005.

Table 4. Estimated national average network charges as per January 1st, 2005 excluding taxes and VAT.⁴

	Number of regulated companies	Approx network access charge (euro/MWh)		
		Ig	Ib	Dc
Transmission	1	2.3 (average)		
Distribution	91 (+ 13 regional)	9.7	25.9	36.9

Interruptions of delivery and compensations from non-delivery

Table 5 shows interruptions in transmission and distribution networks during the years 1999-2004. The numbers include both planned and unplanned interruptions. In 2004, the average interruption time per customer was lower than in previous years. In Finland storms and other circumstances caused by weather or animals have a remarkable influence on interruptions because about 90 per cent of MV distribution network are overhead lines. Thus annual changes in interruption times may be significant.

Table 5. Interruptions in transmission and distribution networks in 1999-2004.

	Interruptions minutes lost per customer per year					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Transmission	6.27	1.62	2.28	5.54	2.12	2.10
Distribution	162	120	281	134	144	103

According to the Amendment to the Electricity Market Act, which came into force in September 1st, 2003, the electricity network operators have to pay fixed compensations to the customers if the interruption time is 12 hours or more. If the interruption time is at least 12 hours the fixed compensation is 10 % of the customer's annual network access charges. The compensation increases stepwise with the interruption time. The maximum compensation is 100 % of the annual network charges when the interruption time has exceeded 5 days.

Balancing

Balancing is managed by market based methods in the synchronously connected Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark). The Nordic countries have established common regulation market in the year 2002 to handle balancing. Imbalances will be handled and settled according to common rules defined in System Operation Agreement between the Nordic TSOs. Balancing is managed within the Nordic control areas as one system consisting of all four Nordic TSOs. The balance regulation is based on the Nordel frequency requirements agreed on the System Operation Agreement. However, imbalances within a country are settled according to principles that vary from one country to another.

⁴ Definitions for reference customers are: (Dc) household customer with annual consumption of 3,500 kWh/year, (Ib) commercial customer with annual consumption of 50 MWh/year, subscribed maximum power 50 kW and (Ig) commercial customer with annual consumption of 24 GWh/year, subscribed maximum power 4000 kW.

Figure 2 presents the balance management in the context of the Nordic electricity market model. Besides the regulation power market for actions during the specific operating hour, Elbas-market can be used for the intra-day trading and revisions of nominations after the day-ahead spot market (Elspot) has closed.

Physical market Power transactions		Specific operating hour	Balance settlement
ELSPOT	ELBAS	Regulation power market	Balance energy
12 - 36 h	1 - 32 h		max 3 months
Bilateral transactions		Balance management	Power balances of the parties

Fixed transactions must be agreed and reported before the specific operating hour

Figure 2. Balance management in the Nordic electricity market model (Source: Fingrid Plc).

In the Nordic regulation market all bids are collected in the joint Nordic merit order list and according to this list the production increases and decreases are carried out where they are most advantageous in the price order, however, taking into account congestions between control areas. This leads to the effective utilisation of the Nordic balance resources.

The price of the regulation power during the specified operating hour (the balancing interval 60 minutes) is determined on the basis of ordered up- or down-regulations. This implies that the price of the regulating power is known only after the end of the specific operating hour. It has been agreed that the price of up-regulation is the most expensive up-regulation bid ordered by the TSO during the specific operating hour. All those who have participated in the up-regulation during the specific operating hour receive the same compensation per MWh. Respectively the price of down-regulation is the cheapest down-regulation bid ordered by the TSO during the specific operating hour. All those who have participated in the down-regulation during the specific operating hour receive the same compensation per MWh. Figures 3 and 4 show an example of regulating power prices and volumes in Finland during the week 27 in year 2005.

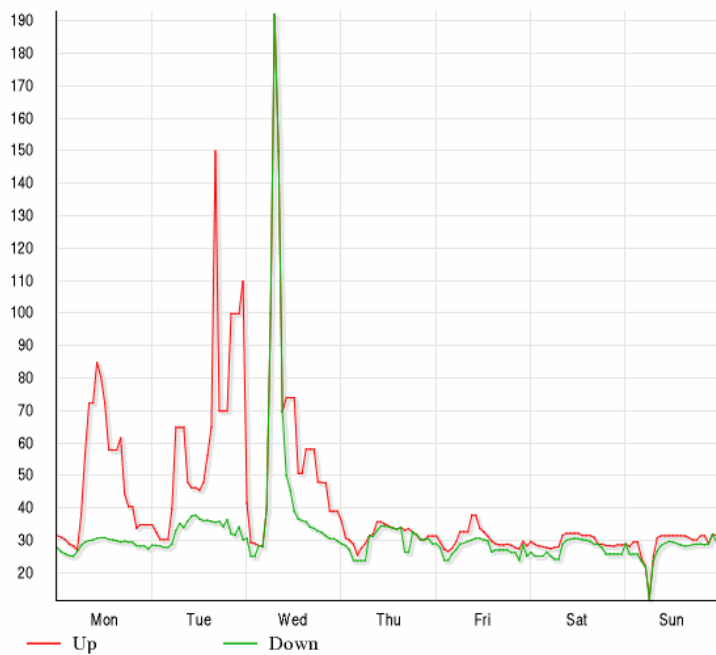


Figure 3. Price of regulating power (euro/MWh) in Finland during week 27 in year 2005 (Source: Nord Pool).

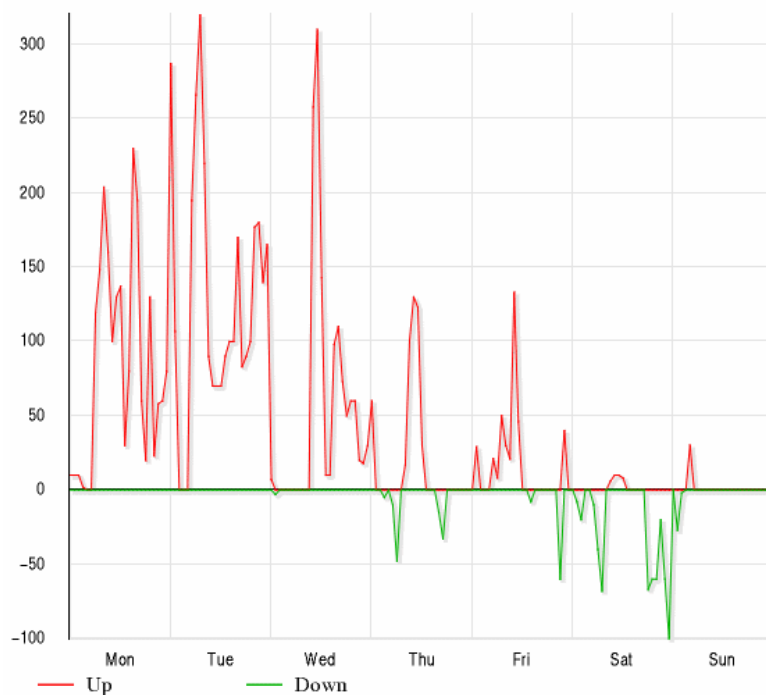


Figure 4. Volumes (MWh/h) traded in regulation market in Finland during the week 27 in the year 2005 (Source: Nord Pool).

Requirements set by the TSO for Finnish bidders to act in the Nordic regulation power market are as follows:

- The minimum capacity of a single bid is 10 MW
- Full power should be delivered by the bidder in 10 minutes after the bid,

- The bid must include power (up/down regulated MW), price (euro/MWh) and location (north/south of Finland)
- The bids are to be submitted electronically to TSO no later than 30 minutes before the beginning of the operation hour, bids can be given within “rolling window” where gate is closed 30 minutes before the specific operating hour and bids can be given from beginning of operating day until 30 minutes before the specific operating hour
- The bid applies to a whole hour and it can be activated immediately from the beginning of the hour or later during the hour
- There may exist several power plants behind one regulation bid

The balance between production and consumption within a specific operating hour is created through the regulation market by the upward and downward regulation of production and consumption to handle physical imbalances taking into account the effects on congestions. The imbalance settlement following after the 24-hour period of operation will distribute incomes and expenditures for those (denoted Balance Responsible) who have been using the balance management. In the imbalance settlement the price of imbalances between countries is based on the regulating power price, which is equal to the hourly marginal price of accepted offers for the regulating power. Figure 5 presents an example of the balance settlement process between control areas (subsystems within Nordic countries)⁵.

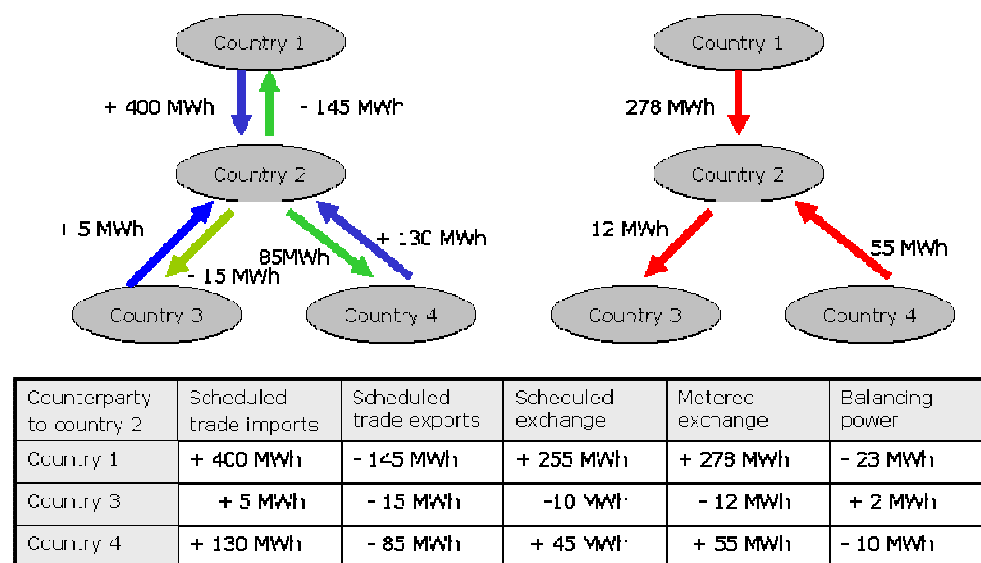


Figure 5. Example of balance settlement process between control areas (subsystems) (Source: Nordel Annual Report 2002).

Imbalance settlement between countries follows common rules but within the country the settlement varies. In Finland the imbalance is settled using total balances, e.g. summing up the production and consumption balances for every Balance Responsible as seen in Figure 6. Another option for the settlement is to have settlement separately to production, trading and consumption. Two-price model is applied for the pricing of the balancing power in Finland: the price depends on whether the purchase or sale has been advantageous or disadvantageous when compared to the balance regulation of the whole power system during the specific oper-

⁵ Nordel Annual report 2002

ating hour. Another option would be to apply one price model (same price for the purchase and sale) for the balance settlement.

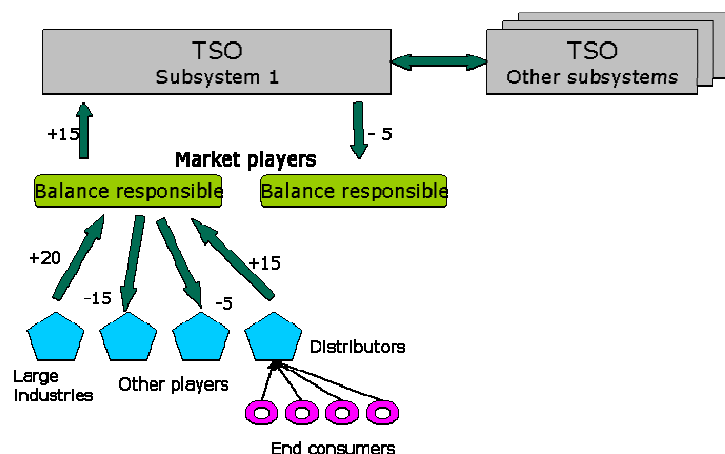


Figure 6. Balance settlement process in Finland (Source: Nordel Annual report 2002).

According to the Electricity Market Act, the Energy Market Authority sets the pricing methodology for balancing services provided by the TSO. Furthermore, the Energy Market Authority shall accept terms and conditions of TSO's balancing services when they are to be renewed. During the first regulatory period (years 2005 – 2007) the Energy Market Authority shall execute joint supervision of both network and system operation (including balancing services) in the price regulation of the TSO.

The balance service costs related to the national energy consumption are in Finland about 30 euro/GWh when costs of regulation power and costs of reserves are excluded. The total annual income for TSO from the balance fees is a few million euros. Fees are charged from every Balance Responsible (24 Balance Responsible in Finland in year 2005).

The TSO provides information on forecasts and values for the reserves before, during and after the operating hour; also regulation prices after operating hour. Most of this information is given only to the market participants and to Nord Pool. Publicly available information can be found on Fingrid's website www.fingrid.fi and Nord Pool's website www.nordpool.com.

3.1.4 Effective unbundling

According to the amendment to the Electricity Market Act, which came into force in December, 2004, a number of the distribution network operators shall legally separate electricity network activities from other electricity business activities. A distribution network operator in whose 400 volt electricity network the annually transmitted quantity of electricity has been at least 200 GWh during the last three calendar years shall be independent in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision-making of the electricity generation and electricity sale operations of the utility or group of utilities. This means that 32 distribution network operators shall be legally unbundled. For the rest, 56 distribution network operators, unbundling only into accounts is necessary. A special legal form of company for the legally unbundled network operator is not required. At the beginning of July, 2005 already 29 distribution network operators were legally unbundled from electricity retail activities.

There are also requirements for functional unbundling. A person managing a network operator engaged in a legally unbundled electricity network operation with 50 000 customers or more may not act as the managing director of a utility in charge of electricity generation or electricity supply or as a member of its board of directors or a corresponding organ, if the network operator and the utility are under the control of the same party. This requirement covers 15 distribution network operators.

Requirements for a compliance program and a compliance officer are set in line with the requirements of the Electricity Market Directive for the distribution network operators having at least 100 000 customers. In Finland there are currently only 6 distribution network operators having at least 100 000 customers, but they serve nearly half of the electricity customers. The tasks and responsibilities of the compliance officer will be defined by the end of 2005 by a ministerial decree.

Figure 7 below shows the requirements for unbundling of electricity business activities in Finland.

Changes in the corporate structures have to be implemented within two years from the end of the calendar year during which the threshold value of legal unbundling has been reached. Thus changes will come into operation by the first of January 2007 at the latest. The TSO is already legally unbundled.

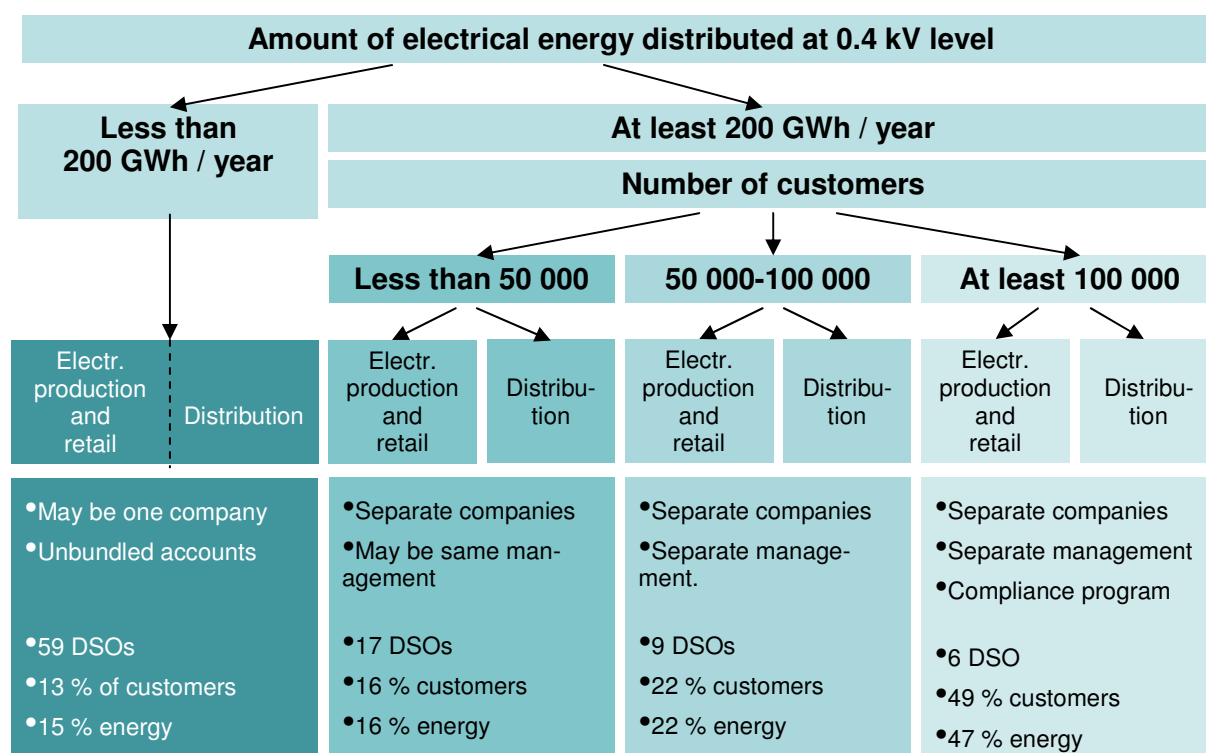


Figure 7. Requirements for unbundling of electricity business activities.

Approximately 14% of the DSOs are wholly owned by municipalities and in the case of 55% of the DSOs the majority shareholder is a municipality. The remaining 31% of the DSOs are in private or state ownership. The TSO is owned by the State of Finland (12%), Fortum Power

and Heat Ltd (25%), Pohjolan Voima Ltd (25%) and a number of institutional investors (38%).

Electricity production and supply activities are typically operated in the same company as the distribution activities. Accordingly, 68 % of the DSOs are also suppliers and 18 % generators. Some 14 % of the DSOs are both generators and suppliers. As a whole, 24 % of the DSOs are located separately from generation and supply affiliates. TSO Fingrid Plc is active only in electricity transmission. Furthermore, it has a share of 20% in Nord Pool Spot AS.

Even if there are legally unbundled DSOs, many of them still have the same corporate presentation with the electricity supply and generation activities. In most cases, for example, the customer service or web-pages are shared, but only few DSOs have separate headquarters.. The TSO doesn't have electricity supply or generation in the same corporation and thus has its own corporate presentation.

Both the DSOs and the TSO are under obligation to publish unbundled accounts. They shall publish the unbundled financial statements as a part of the statutory financial statement, annual report or corresponding other public document available to the stakeholders.

The Energy Market Authority has issued the guidelines on the compilation of unbundled financial statements in June 2005. These guidelines are not legally binding but they show the procedure the Energy Market Authority considers fulfil the requirements of the legislation.

The unbundled income statements, balance sheets and any supplementary information of unbundled operations are audited as part of the statutory auditing. The accounts are not subject of a separate audit and there are no specific requirements set by the regulator for this audit

In the cases that there is no legal unbundling, the proportion of the costs of the network operators that are typically shared with other business units of the company varies between 15 % and 30 %. Proportion of the costs is based on the estimation.

Because of the transition period to implement the legal unbundling, the information about the proportion of the costs of the network operators that are typically shared with or contracted out to other affiliated companies is not available.

The Energy Market Authority supervises that the network companies are fulfilling the unbundling requirements. The Authority has also powers to oblige the companies to correct mistakes or omissions. A conditional fine may be imposed to make decisions effective. As a final mean the Energy Market Authority may also withdraw the electricity network licence from the company.

3.2 Competition Issues

3.2.1 Description of the wholesale market

Market structure and integration to Nordic wholesale market

Finland consumed 86.8 TWh of electricity in 2004, nearly two per cent up on the previous year. Cogeneration of heat and power covered 32 per cent of the consumption of electricity, nuclear power nearly 25 per cent, hydro power 17 per cent and coal-based and other conventional condensing power a good 20 per cent. Wind power accounted for 0.1 per cent. Electricity was imported from Russia to Finland nearly according to the maximum capacity of the import connection and a substantial amount of electricity was exported to the west. Net imports of electricity covered 5.6 per cent of electricity consumption. The peak demand amounted to 13 570 MW. Table 6 shows electricity net production, imports and exports in Finland in 1999-2004.

Table 6. Electricity net production, imports and exports (TWh) in Finland.

TWh	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL PRODUCTION	69.4	70.0	74.3	74.9	84.3	85.7
Consumption in power plants	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.9	3.7
PRODUCTION	66.7	67.3	71.2	71.6	80.4	81.9
Hydro power	12.5	14.5	13.0	10.6	9.5	14.7
Wind power	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nuclear power	22.1	21.6	21.9	21.4	21.8	21.8
Conv. thermal power	32.0	31.2	36.3	39.5	49.0	45.3
Co-generation, CHP	24.8	24.5	25.7	27.2	28.0	27.9
district heating	12.8	12.7	14.1	14.9	15.3	14.8
industry	12.0	11.7	11.6	12.3	12.7	13.1
Condense etc.	7.2	6.7	10.6	12.4	21.0	17.4
conventional	7.2	6.7	10.6	12.3	21.0	17.4
gasturbine etc.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IMPORTS from	11.4	12.2	11.8	13.5	11.9	11.7
Sweden	6.0	7.6	4.1	5.4	0.5	0.4
Norway	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Russia	5.2	4.5	7.7	7.9	11.3	11.1
TOTAL SUPPLY	78.0	79.5	83.0	85.1	92.3	93.6
EXPORTS to	0.2	0.3	1.8	1.5	7.0	6.8
Sweden	0.1	0.2	1.6	1.4	6.9	6.6
Norway	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL CONSUMPTION	77.8	79.2	81.2	83.5	85.2	86.8
Incl. electric boilers	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: Adato Energia Ltd, Statistics Finland

The Finnish electricity generation sector is characterized by a large number of actors. The total number companies producing electricity amounts to some 120 and the number of production plants is circa 550.

The total installed capacity⁶ at the end of 2004 was 16 488 MW consisting of traditional thermal power (8 423 MW), nuclear power (2 671 MW), hydro power (2 986 MW) and capacity based on renewable energy sources like bio fuels, waste and wind (2 408 MW).

In Finland there were four companies with at least 5 per cent share of installed capacity. The share of the three biggest companies of the total installed capacity was estimated to be in the range of 45 – 50%.

Due to the Nordic electricity market integration, there is no separate Finnish wholesale electricity market any more. Finland together with Sweden, Norway and Denmark make up a single Nordic electricity market. Electricity generation differs considerably among the Nordic countries. In Norway nearly all electricity generation is based on hydro power. Sweden and Finland produce electricity from hydro power, nuclear power and thermal power whereas in Denmark electricity generation is mainly based on conventional thermal power with an increasing amount of wind power. Figure 8 shows the marginal cost of production in the Nordic countries.

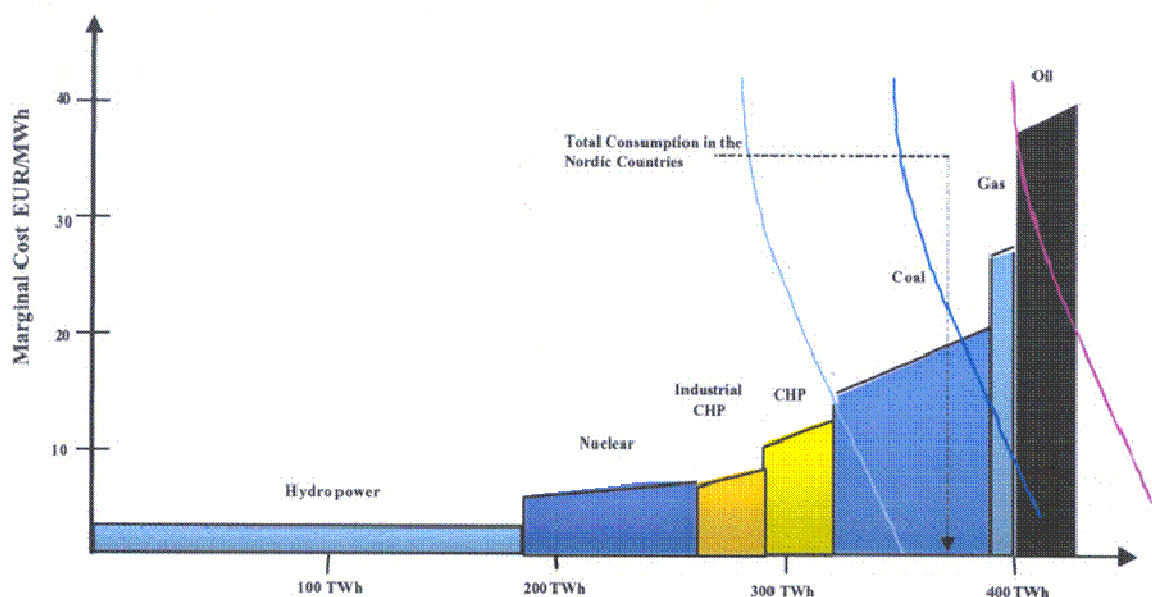


Figure 8. Marginal cost of production in the Nordic countries. (Source: Keskikallio, Lindholm: The Nordic Electric Power market. Ministry of Trade and Industry Finland report 11/2003).

The interconnections between the four Nordic countries are relatively strong although new cross-border transmission lines are needed and already planned or decided to decrease the amount of congestions and to improve the overall functioning of the market. In June 2004 the co-operation body of the Nordic TSOs – Nordel – published a Nordic investment plan drawn up with the intention to strengthen the Nordic transmission grid. The plan includes the five prioritised cross section reinforcements within Nordic countries. As a first concrete step of

⁶ Source: Nordel annual statistics 2004, S1 Installerad effekt den 31 december 2004, MW.

fulfilling the plan, the Finnish and Swedish TSOs published in February 2005 their decision to build a new DC interconnector between Finland and Sweden.

As regards the Nordic countries, Finland is physically connected to Sweden and Norway. The transmission capacity from Finland to Sweden is 1 750 MW and from Sweden to Finland 2 150 MW. The transmission capacity between Finland and Norway is 100 MW to both directions. Outside the Nordel area, Finland has an interconnector capacity of 1 500 MW on the Russian border. The total import capacity of the interconnectors between Finland and the Nordel countries as well as Russia is 3 750 MW. The import capacity as a percentage of the total installed capacity is nearly 23 per cent. Taking only the interconnectors between Finland and the Nordel area (Sweden and Norway) into consideration the corresponding percentage amounts to nearly 14 per cent.

In the Nordic electricity market electricity trading takes the form of bilateral trade – i.e. direct trading among the market actors – and trading via the power exchange. There is the Nordic electricity exchange Nord Pool Spot AS for the physical electricity trade and Nord Pool ASA for the financial electricity trade.

More than 40% of the electricity used in the Nordic market area is traded through power exchange while the rest is traded via bilateral transactions or internal procurement. For Finland, Sweden and the eastern part of Denmark an additional element to the physical electricity market is the Elbas exchange market where trade continues up to one hour before the delivery.

The Nordic TSOs and Nord Pool ASA are the owners of the Nord Pool Spot AS each owning 20 per cent of it. Nord Pool ASA is owned 50-50 by the Norwegian and Swedish TSOs. Nord Pool is headquartered in Oslo, Norway, with offices in Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

The total number of participants – sellers and buyers – in Nord Pool Spot AS was 270 at the end of 2004.

In 2004, the volume of electricity traded in Nord Pool Spot AS amounted to 167 TWh with an increase of 40.8 per cent from the previous year (119 TWh in 2003). The market share of Nord Pool Spot AS rose to 42 per cent compared to 31 per cent in 2003. The market share is almost the same in all the Nordic countries, which can be considered a sign of a truly integrated marketplace.

The share of electricity bought from the power exchange in relation to the Finnish electricity consumption has increased considerably since Finland joined the Nordic power market area in June 1998. From the share of 5 per cent the share of electricity bought from the Nordic power exchange has increased to cover some 40 per cent of the Finnish consumption (38% in 2004 and approx. 47% during the first half of 2005). In the Figure 9 the yearly shares are shown.

The basis of the price formation in the Nordic power market is the spot market. Trade is organised as an auction and is by the hour for a day at a time. The prices are determined by summarising all purchases into a purchase curve and all sales into a sales curve. Bids in the electricity spot market are given in the same way regardless of the player, and accordingly, a bid for the following day has to be given before noon every day indicating the amounts one wishes to purchase or sell at the relevant hour at different price levels. When the price has been determined for each operating hour, the sales and purchases of individual players are de-

terminated. In case there are no grid restrictions between the Nordic countries or internally in Norway, the spot price is the common price for the whole Nordic market area.

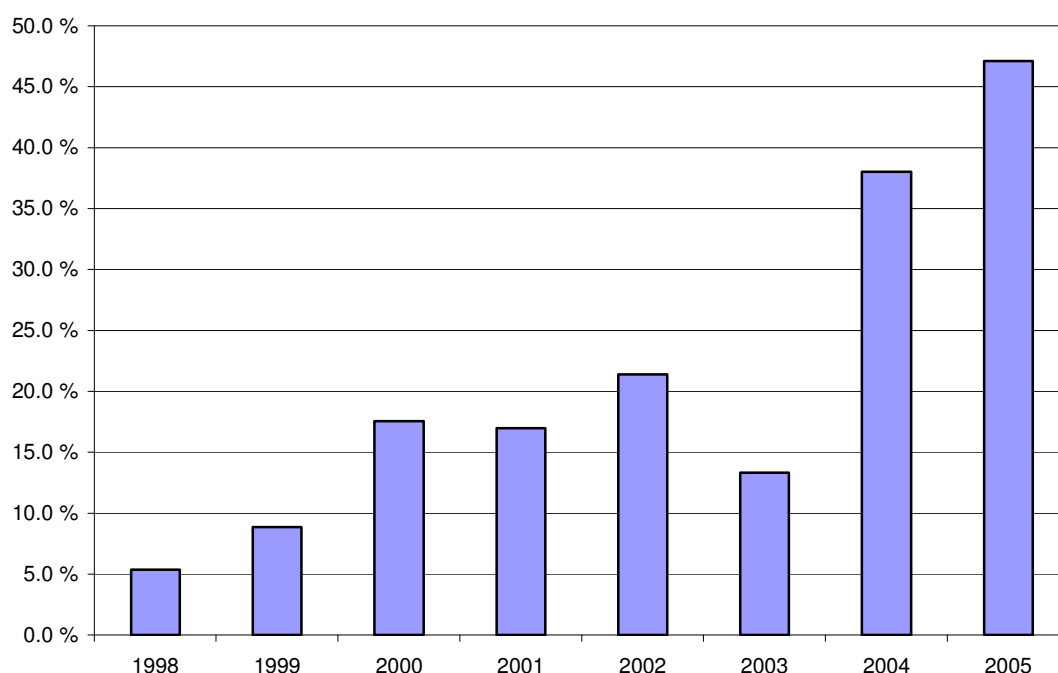


Figure 9. The share of electricity bought from power exchange in relation to the electricity consumption in Finland. (Source: Nord Pool Finland Ltd)

The users of electricity, especially the large users, are able to join the power exchange and purchase their electricity from there. Furthermore, it is possible for end-users to join forces and to form joint purchasing enterprises.

Ancillary services

The TSO provides system services (ancillary services) in Finland. Technical properties of system services are presented in more detail in Chapter 5.1 (TSO and security of supply issues).

As far as the power reserves are concerned, the TSO's goal is to make sure that sufficient volume of reserves is maintained continuously in Finland in cost-efficient manner and in accordance with the system operation agreement signed between the Nordic transmission system operators.

The TSO produces only part of the system services (TSO owns 515 MW gas turbines used as fast disturbance reserve) and the maintenance of reserves is primarily arranged as a service purchased from electricity producers and reserve holders. Agreements of this kind exist specially in three first categories of system services.

The participation of electricity producers and others in the maintenance of the reserves as a service provider is fully voluntary. The TSO has established a "reserve bank" where compa-

nies owning controllable capacity can register their resources. The resource owners maintain the agreed and measured properties at their power plants in the agreed manner and receive the compensation from the TSO.

As far as the agreements concerning the maintenance of primary reserves (frequency controlled normal operation reserve and frequency controlled disturbance reserve) are concerned, the terms, contents and compensations specified in the agreements are identical for all service providers.

The agreements to provide instantaneous reactive power reserves have been established with all generators over 10 MVA when they are connected to the network and the terms, contents and compensations specified in the agreements are identical for all generators within a voltage level.

The load shedding serving as primary and secondary reserve (frequency control and fast disturbance reserve) have been agreed upon with companies in the pulp and paper, chemical, and metal industries. The agreements provide for a total power of around 1000 MW and will be in effect from 2005 to 2015.

Balancing service is provided with market based methods using the Nordic regulation market as described in Section 3.1.3.

Acquisitions and mergers

During the period July 1st 2004 and July 1st 2005 no reportable acquisitions or mergers took place in the Finnish electricity market.

3.2.2 Description of the retail market

In Finland electricity retail supply does not require any license or registration at the Energy Market Authority. There are no regulated tariffs for retail supply that have to be approved by the Energy Market Authority or any other authorities.

However, according to the Section 21 of the Electricity Market Act an electricity retailer in a dominant position within the area of responsibility of a distribution system operator shall deliver electricity at reasonable prices to consumers and other users of electricity whose place of use is equipped with main fuses of 3x63 amperes at maximum or whose site of electricity use receives annually no more than 100 000 kWh of electricity (obligation to deliver). If an electricity retailer referred to above does not exist, the obligations of an electricity retailer in a dominant position shall be applied to an electricity retailer whose market share is the highest in the area of responsibility concerned (distribution network area). An electricity retailer in a dominant position shall have terms of retail sale and prices, and the criteria underlying these that are publicly available to consumers and to the customers encompassed by the retailer's obligation to deliver. They shall not include any unreasonable conditions or limitations that would restrict competition within electricity trade. The Energy Market Authority may order the retailer referred to here to deliver electricity to the customers within the obligation to deliver.

The prices of electricity offered within the obligation to supply system do not have to be approved by the regulator before the supplier takes them into use. On the basis of the Electricity Market Act (Section 21) the Energy Market Authority may investigate either on the basis of a complaint received from a customer or at its own initiative the pricing of electricity.

There are today 70 electricity retailers having the obligation to supply within at least one distribution network area of responsibility. Most of the electricity retailers are part of companies involved in the network business. On July 1st, 2005 there were 9 electricity retailers who had the obligation to supply and who were legally unbundled from electricity network activities.

In the Finnish electricity retail market there are about 5 electricity retailers with a larger than 5% share of market. The market share of the three largest companies in the retail market for small and medium-sized customers has been 35-40% (Table 7).

Some large foreign players have entered the Finnish retail supply market by acquiring local electricity companies. Those companies are active both in electricity retail supply and distribution businesses. These companies also own electricity generation in Finland. In the electricity retail supply market the share of those companies amount to some 20-25%.

In addition to the 70 electricity retail suppliers with an obligation to supply, there are a few electricity retailers in the Finnish electricity retailer market acting only in the competitive part of the retail supply market. These retailers are fully independent from network companies. The market share of these companies is quite small.

Table 7. The largest companies in the electricity retail market (market shares according to energy sold to end users connected to the distribution network).

	Total retail consumption (TWh)	No. of companies with >5% retail market	Number of <u>fully</u> independent suppliers (1)	Market share of three largest retail companies		
				large and very large industrial	small-medium industrial and business	very small business and household
2001	43.6	4	< 5	N/A	35-40 %	
2002	45.0	4	< 5	N/A	35-40 %	
2003	45.5	4	< 5	N/A	35-40 %	
2004	45.9	5	< 5	N/A	35-40 %	

According to the electricity market legislation, the network operator may not charge a customer for the change of supplier unless the time elapsed from the previous change of supplier is less than 12 months. In that case the network operator may charge only for the cost of extra meter reading if the customer will not read the meter by himself/herself. Instead of reading the meter, the network operator may also estimate the meter values during the change of supplier.

There are no exact rules for the maximum delay for switching in the electricity market legislation. However, the branch organization has given the Procedure Recommendations regarding

the exchange of information in connection with supplier switching. According to these recommendations the new supplier shall notify the network operator about the new contract. This notification shall be done at the earliest three months and at the latest 21 days before the contract enters into force. If metering changes are needed in the consumption site, a notification shall be available to a network operator at the latest 30 days before. The Energy Market Authority has not collected statistical information on actual time delays for switching.

In the Finnish electricity retail supply market about 11% of household customers have changed the supplier by the year 2004. The number has increased a bit as in 2002 the equivalent share was 5% and in 2000 it was 2%. Taking into account also the share of negotiated contracts with the local supplier (supplier having obligation to supply), the share of electricity sold by non-local supplier or by the local supplier according to the negotiated contracts was in 2004 for household customers 30% and for small and medium-sized commercial users 82%. There has been a steady increase in this share since 2001 (Table 8).

Table 8. The share of energy sold by other than local suppliers or according to the renegotiated contracts.

	% customers having changed supplier or a negotiated contract (by energy volume)			
	large and very large industrial	small-medium industrial and business	very small business and household	total
2001	N/A	77 %	24 %	56 %
2002	N/A	78 %	26 %	55 %
2003	N/A	79 %	28 %	57 %
2004	N/A	82 %	30 %	59 %

The estimated national average electricity prices as per January 1st, 2005 for three reference customers defined by Eurostat are shown in Table 9. Energy costs and supply margin are based on public energy tariffs. Negotiated prices might be lower especially for industrial users. During 2004 total electricity prices decreased by 2.5 per cent on average. Energy costs and supply margin have decreased by 3 per cent on average during the first half of 2005.

Table 9. Electricity prices for reference customers as at January 1st, 2005.⁷

Euro/MWh	Ig	Ib	Dc
Network charges (excl. levies)	12.0	28.2	39.2
Levies included in network charges	-	-	-
Energy costs and supply margin	37.6	38.0	40.0
Taxes (incl. Electricity tax and VAT)	16.4	20.1	26.5
Total (including all taxes)	66.1	86.2	105.7

⁷ Definitions for reference customers are: (Dc) household customer with annual consumption of 3,500 kWh/year, (Ib) commercial customer with annual consumption of 50 MWh/year, subscribed maximum power 50 kW and (Ig) commercial customer with annual consumption of 24 GWh/year, subscribed maximum power 4000 kW.

3.2.3 Measures to avoid abuses of dominance

Competition supervision

The responsibility of supervising the electricity generation, wholesale supply and retail supply falls primarily to the Finnish Competition Authority. The Electricity Market Act in Finland does not include any rules governing the generation and supply of electricity except supervision of retail supply under obligation to supply (the kind of “regulated market”), the monitoring of security of supply and unbundling. On the basis of the Act on Competition Restrictions (No. 480/1992, last amended in 2003), the Finnish Competition Authority has powers to investigate and give decisions on cases amounting to abuse of a dominant position.

The Finnish Competition Authority’s Monopolies Unit is responsible for cases concerning the abuse of dominant position and merger control. The rules governing the abuse of dominant position are equivalent to the article 82 of the EC treaty. The following are considered as abuse of dominant position under Article 6 of the Finnish Competition Act:

1. directly or indirectly imposing unfair purchase or selling prices or other unfair trading conditions;
2. limiting production, markets or technical development to the prejudice of consumers;
3. applying dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other trading partners, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage;
4. making the conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by the other parties of supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connections with the subject of such contracts

The Finnish Competition Authority works, among other industries, also in the electricity sector to promote healthy competition and to investigate antitrust and merger cases. In the Finnish Competition Act there are no special provisions related to the abuse of dominant position in the electricity market. The Finnish Competition Authority’s analysis is always case-specific and there are no universally applicable criteria which could be used in the decision making. The Finnish Competition Authority’s view is that energy sector cases should be assessed on equal standard with cases in other industries. Nor has the Finnish Competition Authority gathered up any special information of the electricity markets. However there is a one special provision related to merger control on the electricity sector. Market Court may, upon the proposal of the Finnish Competition Authority, prohibit a concentration in the electricity market as a result of which the combined share of the transmission operations of the parties to the concentration and the entities or facilities in such a relation to them of the amount of electricity transmitted at 400 V in the transmission grid exceeds 25 per cent on a national level. So far the Finnish Competition Authority has not investigated a merger where this provision could have put into practise.

In the recent years the Finnish Competition Authority has not investigated any significant cases in the electricity sector. The role of the Energy Market Authority in avoiding abuses and harmful dominance in electricity and gas market is based on maintaining equality and transparency in terms and pricing of transmission and distribution activity. The competitive sector of electricity sales is supposed to be self-conducting as long as the transmission and distribution work neutrally.

In gas sector there is not yet an independent sales activity, as the sole importer is also the sole gross seller and transmission net owner in Finland.

Transparency and provision of information

Transparency and market surveillance have been organised in two ways within the Nordic energy market. There are arrangements that are based on legislation and authority surveillance, and additionally, there are voluntary contract-based arrangements between the Nordic power exchange and the market actors.

The surveillance responsibility over the Nordic power exchange lies in Norway where the headquarters of Nord Pool Group is situated. As regards the spot market, Nord Pool Spot AS operates on the basis of license from the Norwegian energy regulator Norges vassdrag- og energiverk (NVE) and the market supervision is the responsibility of the Norwegian competition authority. The financial market is operated by Nord Pool ASA on the basis of a license from the Norwegian Financial Supervisory Authority.

The Forum of Nordic energy regulators (NordREG) has agreed to co-operate regarding the issues of the Nordic power exchange despite the fact that excluding the Norwegian regulator NVE the others have no legal mandate over the Nordic power exchange. Similarly, the Nordic financial supervision authorities co-operate regarding the issues of the financial power market.

As required by the Norwegian Stock Exchange Act and the related regulations on market surveillance, Nord Pool has established its own market surveillance department. The department is responsible for monitoring trading activities and the conduct of participants both in the physical and the financial power market. The market surveillance is intended to ensure that the activities of the market actors are in line with the prevailing statutes and regulations as well as with the power exchange's own rules.⁸

All members in Nord Pool Spot have a contractual obligation to release information to Nord Pool Spot and general public on events which have a relevant effect to price formation in the Nord Pool Spot or in the financial market. Members have to report on any plans or changes of plans for maintenances or limitations of their production units. The same applies to any outage or failure concerning more than 200 MW, as soon as possible after the event has occurred.

Market participants have to report relevant information within 60 minutes to Nord Pool. National information has to be reported to the TSOs as well.

More information is available on Nord Pool Spot's website under Disclosure rules.

<http://www.nordpool.com/products/elspot/avtal/2005/BILAG%20Rules%20on%20disclosure%20of%20information.pdf>

<http://www.nordpool.com/nec/Agreement/2005/Clearing%20Appendix%20Market%20Conduct%20Rules%2020.1.05.pdf>

⁸ Source: Nord Pool ASA Annual Report 2004, p. 10.

Nord Pool has its insider trading rules for the spot and the financial market. Furthermore, Nord Pool has rules for handling market sensitive information and guidelines for ethics in trading. More information is available at Nord Pool's website:

http://www.nordpool.com/nec/Agreement/2005/Clearing%20Appendix%206_Market%20Conduct%20Rules%2020.1.05.pdf

<http://www.nordpool.com/products/elspot/avtal/2005/BILAG%209%20Ethical%20guidelines%20for%20trade%20on%20nord%20pools'markets.pdf>

http://www.nordpool.com/products/clearing/rulebook/2005/Trading%20Appendix%205%20Ethical_Guidelines_final_13.11.03.pdf

In June 2005, Nord Pool ASA decided to introduce further measures to deter and penalise breaches of the trading rules at the power exchange – including the establishment of a disciplinary committee. The committee will contribute to ensure that safer and more appropriate reactions are applied against a market participant or participants involved in possible contraventions of the exchange rules.⁹

Furthermore, the maximum violation charge for breaching the rules will increase from 1 million Norwegian crowns to 10 million (approx. 1.2 million euros). By establishing a disciplinary committee and substantially increasing the maximum violation charge, Nord Pool intends to ensure that no market participant is tempted to break the trading rules at the expense of the market and its other participants.

The disciplinary committee will be presented with cases which the market surveillance department believes to involve breaches of the trading rules and regulations, and will make recommendations to the board of directors. The board of directors will remain the final arbiter on breaches of the regulations. The aim is to clarify borderline cases and lay a stronger basis for responding to possible breaches of the regulations.

In Finland there are national rules on disclosure of information. In the Electricity Market Act in Section 36 it is stated that: "A power plant operator shall notify the electricity market authority of a plan for constructing a power plant, of commissioning of a power plant and of long-term or permanent decommissioning of a power plant." Further provisions on the contents of the notification obligation and notification procedure are given by Government decree.

Furthermore, on the basis of Section 36a of the Electricity Market Act, the power plant operator is obliged to notify the Energy Market Authority of a planned maintenance outage of its power plant practising separate electricity generation, with an output of 100 mega-volt-amperes, which would take place between the 1st of December and the 28th of February. The notification shall be made at least six months before the planned starting date of the maintenance outage. The Energy Market Authority may order that the date of a maintenance outage of a power plant be rescheduled outside the period of the 1st of December and the 28th of February.

The Section included in the Electricity Market Act concerning the notifications of planned maintenance outages has at least two objectives. Firstly, it is aimed at improving the knowl-

⁹ Source: Nord Pool press release No. 12/05.07.05. Nord Pool establishes own disciplinary committee and increases violation charge.

edge on security of supply, and secondly, it is aimed at increasing the efficiency of the electricity price mechanism. Thus, the objective is to guarantee that the price of electricity is determined on the basis of supply and demand also in those situations when the supply of electricity is constrained – for instance due to low hydro reservoirs and/or increased demand – in the Nordic electricity market. The Section intends to make it more difficult to manipulate the market price and to enhance the possibilities to utilize the generation plants.

4. Regulation and Performance of the Natural Gas market

4.1 Regulatory Issues

4.1.1 General

The Finnish natural gas market has been under sector-specific regulatory supervision since the assertion of the Natural Gas Market Act in August 2000. The Natural Gas Market Act was enacted to implement the Natural Gas Market Directive (No. 98/30/EC). The Natural Gas Market Act aims to improve the functioning of the natural gas market and to prepare the natural gas sector for the integrating European natural gas market. The Act provides large-scale consumers, buying at least 5 million cubic metres of natural gas per year, with the possibility of mutual secondary market trading in natural gas they have purchased from an importer operating in Finland. A separate market place, operated by Gas Exchange Ltd, has been established for trading on the secondary market.

The Finnish natural gas market is relatively isolated with a pipeline connection only to the importing country Russia (Figure 10). There is only one importer and wholesale supplier – Gasum Ltd – which also owns and operates the natural gas transmission network and is the TSO.



Figure 10. The natural gas transmission network in Finland (Source: Finnish Natural Gas Association)

Accordingly, Finland has availed itself of the possibility of an exemption allowed by the previous and present Natural Gas Market Directives. Following this, the natural gas market has not been opened in the manner specified in the directives. This exemption is effective as long as Finland does not have a direct connection to the natural gas network of any other EU Member State and as long as Finland has only one main natural gas supplier.

There were 32 local natural gas distribution network operators at the beginning of the year 2005. As can be seen from the Figure 10, all the Finnish DSO's and the consumption sites of natural gas are situated in the southern part of the country along the main transmission pipeline.

Due to the limited extent of the Finnish natural gas network the development of the Finnish natural gas market will require further extension of the pipeline system. There are plans to extend the gas pipeline to the western coast of Finland. Increasing the volume of the gas market would be important in making additional import connections economically viable. Furthermore, it would be important for Finland to be connected to the integrated European gas network as well. This would improve the reliability of gas supply and promote competition in the Finnish natural gas market.

4.1.2 Management and allocation of interconnection capacity and mechanisms to deal with congestion

Due to the derogation from the Gas Market Directive there is no third party access at the only cross border interconnection between Finland and Russia.

In Finland there is only one natural gas wholesale company, Gasum Ltd. The company imports natural gas and transmits it through its own transmission network to large-scale consumers and distribution companies.

On the secondary market the users of natural gas can trade the gas supplied to them by the natural gas wholesale company. There are two preconditions for the trade. Firstly, the consumption of natural gas shall be at least five million cubic metres per year, and secondly, the metering of natural gas shall be encompassed by the system of remote gas meter reading.

The secondary market was opened on the 1st of March 2001. The amount of gas sold in the secondary market consists of about one percent of natural gas demand in Finland. Monthly volumes in secondary market have varied from 10 GWh to 45 GWh during May 2004 – June 2005. At the same time the system price has varied from 11 to 15 euro/MWh.

The volume of day-ahead product in secondary market was 282 GWh in the year 2004 and the volume of future (FUT) product (launched in year 2004) was only 1.6 GWh. The volume of the bilateral trade in the secondary market was 103 TWh. In total, the volume in the secondary market was 387 GWh in the year 2004, which covered about 0.8% of natural gas consumption in Finland.

There is a congestion management mechanism in place for the secondary market but due the basis for the secondary market (secondary market functions within the limits of transmission capacity of the network operator) there are no congestions in the transmission system.

4.1.3 The regulation of the tasks of transmission and distribution companies

In the natural gas sector, there are 32 local distribution network operators and one transmission system operator. The transmission system operator is also the sole importer and wholesale supplier of natural gas. Its ownership is divided between the State of Finland, Fortum Plc, E.ON Ruhrgas and Gazprom. Approximately 80% of Finnish DSOs are wholly or mainly owned by municipalities. The rest 20% of DSOs are owned by other company's from the industry.

Network Tariffs

According to the Natural Gas Market Act, the network operators are able to set the actual network tariffs and charges by themselves. There is no ex-ante approval of tariffs or prices of network services by authorities.

Due to the Natural Gas Market Directive and the experiences gained from the ex-post supervision of electricity and natural gas network pricing, the regulation model of network pricing has been changed from the previous ex-post regulation towards a partial ex-ante regulation. In the present regulatory system the Energy Market Authority confirms ex-ante the methodology to be used in setting both transmission and distribution network tariffs and connection charges. The Energy Market Authority has to approve ex-ante also the terms and conditions of network and connection services before the network operators are able to implement them.

The methodology of setting network tariffs will be confirmed prior to a regulatory period of four years. The first regulatory period will cover the years 2006-2009. Prior to confirming the methodology the regulator publishes the guidelines on details of the methodology and organises public consultation on the guidelines with the stakeholders. The Energy Market Authority has confirmed the methodology of setting network tariffs in 2006-2009 for the DSOs in May and for the TSO in June 2005.

According to Section 1a of Chapter 7 of the Natural Gas Market Act the methodology confirmed by the regulator may include the following items:

- method for the valuation of regulated asset value
- method for determining approved rate of return on capital
- method for determining realised profit of network operations
- method for setting efficiency targets for network operations

The confirmed methodology of setting network tariffs in 2006-2009 includes all items mentioned above. The network will be included into the regulated asset value as the net present value instead of a book value. The net present value of network will be updated annually by taking into account depreciation and investments. The approved rate of return on capital is determined by using a WACC-model (Weighted Average Cost of Capital) and will be updated annually.

The network operator may, during individual years within the regulatory period, gain earnings from its operations that are higher than the earnings considered reasonable in line with the confirmed methodology without intervention by the regulator. The pricing shall be reasonable when viewed over the regulatory period as a whole.

After the regulatory period has ended the Energy Market Authority will validate the earnings of each network operator in its supervision decisions for the regulatory period, and will confirm the amount of any accrued earnings that exceed or fall short of reasonable earnings for the regulatory period. Where necessary, the supervision decisions will include an obligation to return to the customers any windfall profit for the completed regulatory period through pricing for the new regulatory period. The supervision decisions will correspondingly confirm that the network operator may allow in its pricing for the new regulatory period, for the amount by which the earnings accruing to the network operator from the previous regulatory period fell below the reasonable earnings level.

The Energy Market Authority collects annually from the network operators several kinds of data of network operations, like tariffs of network services, financial information and technical key figures. Annually collected technical key figures include i.e. information on quality of supply. The Energy Market Authority has also powers to ask additional information from the TSO and DSOs on network operations for the supervision purposes.

According to the natural gas market legislation, charges of transmission and distribution services shall be public. TSO and DSOs shall have public charges and terms and conditions for network services.

As an example Table 10 shows the transmission tariffs of Gasum Ltd for reference customers from the year 2001 to the spring of 2005; the entity is euros per MW, and the customers are supposed to have a yearly consumption of 50-1000 GWh, during 4000-6000 hours and peak power of 12.5-166.7 MW. Transmission tariffs have been unchanged since the year 2002. Table 11 presents the distribution network charges for reference customers in May 2005.

Table 10. Natural gas transmission charges for reference customers (euro/MWh).

GWh	50	50	150	150	500	500	1 000	1 000
h	4 000	6 000	4 000	6 000	4 000	6 000	4 000	6 000
MW	12.5	8.3	37.5	25.0	125.0	83.3	250.0	166.7
2001	6.25	4.78	6.19	4.72	4.26	4.67	4.22	3.04
2002-2005	5.70	4.41	5.32	4.05	4.12	2.98	4.08	2.95

Table 11. Distribution network charges (cents per kWh) for reference customers in May 2005.¹⁰

cnt/kWh	P1	P2	P3	P4
Average value	2.22	2.05	1.99	1.81
Lowest value	1.14	1.14	1.11	0.98
Highest value	3.5	3.64	3.89	3.31

On the basis of statistics in year 2004 delivered by the distribution system operators to the Energy Market Authority it can be concluded that interruptions of supply on the distribution level were minimal during the year 2004. In transmission pipeline of TSO the total forced interruption time due to disturbances were 3 hours in year 2004. Besides this there were planned outages, in total 39 hours.

Balancing

Deliveries of natural gas in excess of the annual transfer capacity are possible as additional transfers within the constraints of the transfer capacity of the network as maintained by the network operator. The buyers of natural gas will be charged an additional transfer charge for additional transfers. These additional transfers are used to balance demand. Secondary market can also be used to balance gas demand in a day-ahead market.

Additional transfer charges are used to cover the average costs of stepped-up transfer pipe network use and supervision caused by deliveries in excess of the annually confirmed delivery capacities. The additional transfer charge is of the same magnitude for all buyers resorting to additional transfers. Where necessary, the price of the additional transfer of natural gas can be changed if the transfer capacity maintained by the network system operator requires such a change.

Changes in the price of additional transfer shall be informed of at least two hours before the commencement of balance clarification period. The announcements concerning the changes in the price of additional transfer contain a point in time when the change took place, and additionally, closing and new prices of additional transfer. The price of the additional transfer during the computation period is computed as the arithmetic average of the prices of the balance clarification periods. The balancing interval is one hour. Imbalances are defined on contractual level.

Practically all customers in the wholesale market are connected via the SCADA system to on-line metering reading. The settlement of imbalances is available on-line.

4.1.4 Access to Storage

There are no storages for natural gas in Finland. For the time being there are no take-or-pay obligations for the customers on the primary wholesale market.

¹⁰ Reference customers are: P1: Small house, gas consumption 20 MWh/a, demand 17 kW; P2: Small house, gas consumption 100 MWh/a, demand 70 kW; P3: Small flat building, gas consumption 225 MWh/a, demand 175 kW; and P4, Small flat building, gas consumption 450 MWh/a, demand 315 kW.

4.1.5 Effective Unbundling

Finland has availed itself of the possibility of an exemption allowed by the Gas Market Directives and thus there is neither legal nor operational unbundling of natural gas transmission network operation. Furthermore, Finland has not applied legal and operative unbundling in distribution network operations because Member States are free to decide that the unbundling provisions are not applied to network operators with fewer than 100 000 customers. All Finnish distribution network operators fall below the limit set by the Directive.

Approximately 80% of the Finnish DSOs are wholly or mainly owned by municipalities. The rest 20% of the DSOs are owned by industrial users of natural gas. The TSO Gasum Ltd is owned by E.ON Ruhrgas (20%), State of Finland (24%), OAO Gazprom (25%) and Fortum Plc (31%).

In Finland the retail supply of natural gas is operated in all the DSOs within the same company as distribution. There is no natural gas production in Finland. Also in the case of the TSO, both supply and transmission operations are managed in the same company.

Unbundled accounts are published for both DSOs and TSO. DSOs and TSO are obliged to publish the unbundled financial statements as a part of statutory financial statement, annual report or correspondingly other public document available to the stakeholders.

The Energy Market Authority has issued guidelines on the compilation of unbundled financial statements in June 2005. These guidelines are not legally binding but they show the procedure the Energy Market Authority considers fulfil the requirements of the legislation.

The unbundled income statements, balance sheets and any supplementary information of separated operations are audited as part of the statutory auditing. The accounts are not subject of a separate audit and this audit is not addressed to the requirements of the regulator in any extent. Auditors are required to give their opinion in the auditor's report on whether the income statements and balance sheets and the supplementary information conform to Natural Gas Market Act and any rules and regulations related to it.

The proportion of the costs of the network operators that are typically shared with other business units of the company varies between 15% and 30%. Proportion of the costs is based on the estimation.

The Energy Market Authority supervises that the network companies are fulfilling the unbundling requirements. The Authority has also powers to oblige the companies to correct mistakes or omissions. A conditional fine may be imposed to make the decisions effective. As a final measure the Energy Market Authority may also withdraw the natural gas network licence from the company.

4.2 Competition Issues

4.2.1 Description of the wholesale market

In the year 2004, the size of the Finnish natural gas market was 4.61 bcm, which was all imported from Russia by Gasum Ltd, which is the sole wholesale supplier in Finland. Only propane is produced indigenously as it is the only gas to be stocked in small amounts by Gasum Ltd for immediate substitute for the possible lack of natural gas. The importing capacity of Gasum Ltd is estimated to be about 5 bcm, so the maximum transmission capacity is often at use.

The Russian natural gas exporter Gazprom and Gasum Ltd entered into an agreement to extend the contract for Russian natural gas exports to Finland till the 31st of December 2025. The agreement marks a substantial increase of more than 15% in gas sales to Finland, with an annual level of 6 cbm to be reached by 2008.

The wholesale supply of natural gas to the Finnish end-users and retailers is based on customer-specific contracts between Gasum Ltd and the customers. A part of the contracts are based on a public tariff, which Gasum Ltd renews at the intervals of 3 to 4 years. Next renewal of the public tariff occurs in the beginning of year 2006. Another part of the contracts has been concluded before the year 1992, when the new type of competition legislation came into force prohibiting the previously used pricing methods as an example of abuse of a dominant position. In the year 2005, the share of wholesale supply sold under public tariffs will increase to some 70%.¹¹ The whole contract-based trading covers some 99.2% of the wholesale market and the resting 0.8% is traded in the secondary market via Gas Exchange Ltd.

4.2.2 Description of the retail market

The size of the natural gas retail market in Finland in relation to the total consumption of natural gas is small. The retail supply of natural gas covers only about 5% of the total amount of natural gas used in Finland.

In Finland there are only about 36 000 customers in the natural gas market. Less than 150 customers - heavy industrial users as well as power and district heating plants - use more than 95% of the total natural gas consumption in Finland. The largest customer segment (31 000 customers) consists of households who buy natural gas for cooking. However, the total natural gas consumption of this segment amounts to only 1 mcm (0.02% of total consumption).

The share of the top three retail suppliers is about 50% of the total volume. The retail supply of natural gas has grown with an annual rate of 2%. In addition to the original domestic retail suppliers, there are also retail suppliers owned by foreign-based companies. The market entrance of the foreign-based companies has occurred through acquisitions.

No new retail suppliers without any affiliate connection to either TSO or DSOs in Finland have entered the market since the introduction of natural gas markets. As regards vertical in-

¹¹ Electrowatt-Ekono, Suomen maakaasumarkkinoiden toimivuus ja kehittämistarve (in Finnish). Report Ministry of Trade and Industry 12.11.2002.

tegration in the natural gas retail market, the wholesale supplier and TSO Gasum Ltd is downward vertically integrated into natural gas retail supply and distribution network operation through its ownership in Suomen Kaasuenergia Ltd.

Estimated national average natural gas prices in May 2005 for one reference customer defined by Eurostat are shown in Table 12. In smaller reference customer groups there are only few customers within distribution companies leading into problems when representative prices are to be defined. These prices are defined from regulated end-user prices.

Table 12. Natural gas price for the Eurostat reference customer in May 2005.¹²

Cent/kWh	I4-1
Network charges (excl. levies)	0.53
Levies included in network charges	-
Energy costs and supply margin	1.36
Taxes	0.19
Total (excluding VAT)	2.08

In the secondary market, consisting only about one percent of gas demand, the prices are market based. In the secondary market the price of natural gas has varied 11 – 15 euro/MWh between May 2004 and June 2005.

¹² Reference customer defined by Eurostat: I4-1: annual consumption 116 300 MWh, load factor 250 days, 4000 hours.

5. Security of supply

5.1 Electricity

5.1.1 Supply-demand situation during the peak load

The maximum level of peak load demand in Finland measured on the 11th of February 2004 amounted to 13 570 MW. At the same time the electricity generation capacity in Finland during the peak load period was estimated to be about 13 500 MW. The power reserves related to system disturbances in Finland were 1 080 MW. In addition to the production capacity, capacity totalling 435 MW was either mothballed or local reserve.

In January 2005 the total peak load demand of electricity in Finland was about 13 400 MW. Total demand for electricity in Finland in 2006 is estimated to be 90.2 TWh and the corresponding peak load demand is estimated to be 15 000 MW. For the year 2007, the forecast for the peak load is 15 300 MW (total demand 91.7 TWh) and in 2008 forecast for the peak load is 15 500 MW (total demand 93.2 TWh).

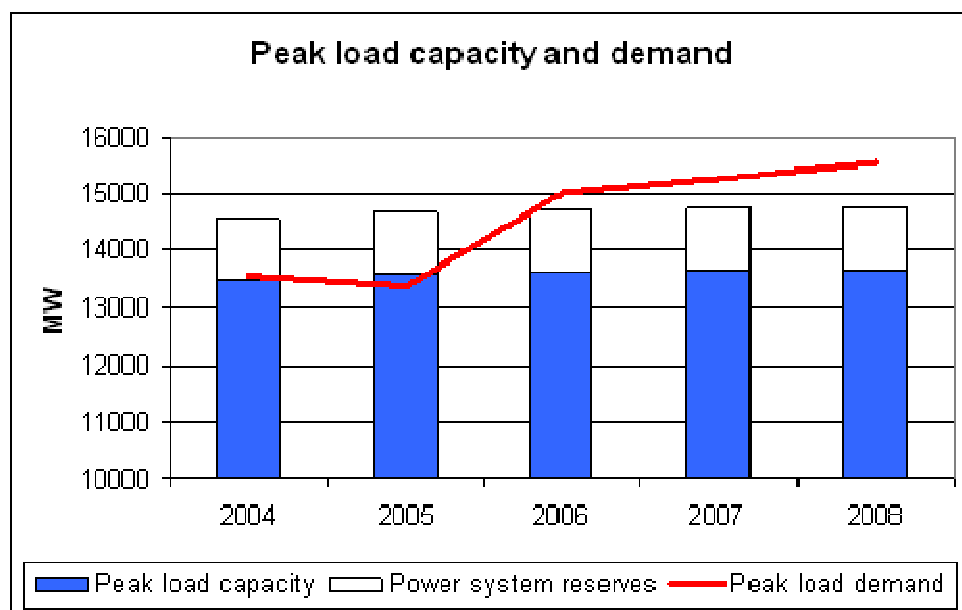


Figure 11. Peak load demand and generation capacity balance based on presented forecasts and forthcoming generation investment (excluding capacity of mothballed generation or local disturbance reserve of 435 MW).

The import capacity of electricity in year 2004 from neighbouring countries to Finland was about 3 500 MW. Transmission capacity will increase by 350 MW in the beginning of year 2007 when the Estlink DC line between Estonia and Finland is commissioned by the end of year 2006.

5.1.2 Generation capacity

The total available generation capacity for peak load at beginning of 2005 was about 13 600 MW in Finland. Table 13 presents the generation capacities in peak loading by production type during the years 1999 – 2005.

Table 13. Electricity Generation Capacities in Peak Load Period, MW.¹³

	Separate Electricity Generation			Gas turbines and engines	Combined Heat and Power		Capacity of power stations	Power system reserves
	Hydro power	Nuclear power	Condensing power		Industry	District heat		
1999	2420	2640	3990	800	1610	3310	14770	..
2000	2430	2640	4000	800	1570	3320	14760	..
2001	2460	2640	4000	800	1610	3400	14910	..
2002	2480	2640	3990	800	1780	3420	15110	..
2003	2490	2680	3200	20	2180	2910	13480	1030
2004	2500	2680	3200	20	2200	2900	13500	1080
2005*	2520	2680	3200	10	2290	2900	13600	1080

Source: Adato Energia Ltd, Statistics Finland, Fingrid Plc

Generation fuel mix from the year 2003 is presented in Figure 12. During the next three years (2005-2008) it is not expected to be any significant changes in fuel mix for power generation in Finland.

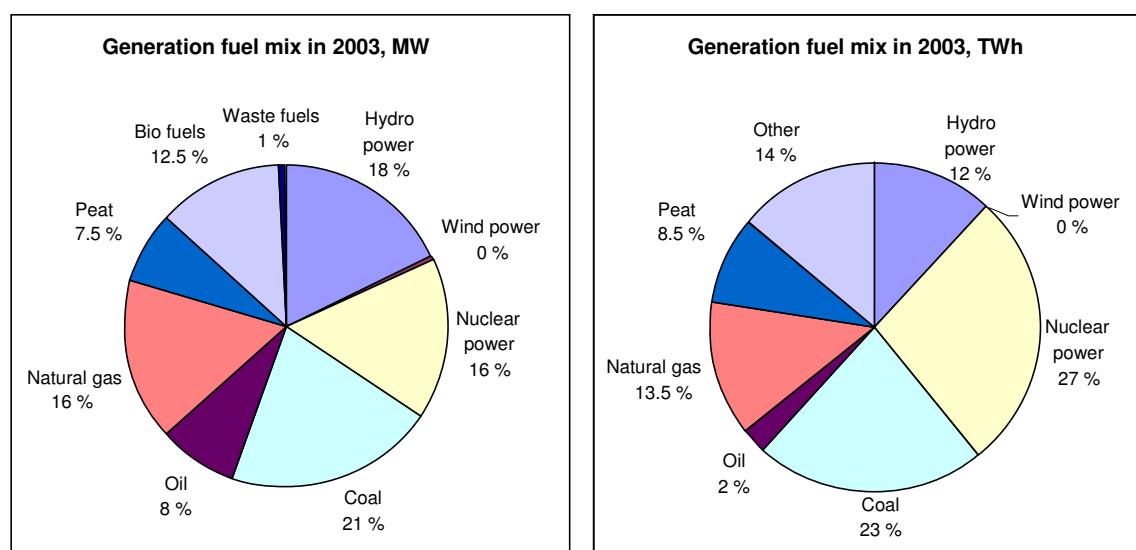


Figure 12. a) Generation fuel mix in year 2003 (MW), b) Generation fuel mix in year 2003 (TWh)

¹³ The simultaneously available capacity (net) of power plants during extreme cold and dry water situations, which can be produced during one hour in Finland. The calculation method was amended in 2003, when the reserve capacities related to system maintenance were placed into a separate column. In addition to production capacity, there are 435 MW of machinery out of production or local disturbance reserve. Numbers for 2005 are at beginning of year.

Increase of power generation capacity (commissioned new capacity minus decommissioned capacity) in 2004 is presented in Table 14.

Table 14. Net new generation capacity in 2004.

	Plant completed minus plant closed in the year (MW)				
	Coal and oil	Natural gas	RES	CHP	Other
2004	-	-	47	140	-

Source: Nordel, Annual statistics 2004

Electricity production capacities under construction at the moment are presented in Table 15. In addition construction project for the fifth nuclear power plant unit (Olkiluoto 3) is going ahead. The new plant will be in production in 2009 with total electricity generation capacity about 1 600 MW.

Table 15. Forthcoming new generation capacity in 2005-2007 (decisions taken, plants larger than 10 MW).

	Forthcoming new capacity (MW)			
	Hydro	CHP		Condensing power
		District heat	Industry	
2005	-	32	-	-
2006	32	-	-	-
2007	-	-	-	-

Source: Nordel, Annual statistics 2004

5.1.3 Role of regulatory authorities

The investment decision to build new generation capacity will depend on market based criteria and mechanism. However, according to the Electricity Market Act in very extreme balance situation the Government can take actions to acquire more generation capacity or to organise some balance options to avoid expected difficult problems in case of power and energy shortage.

On the basis of the amended Electricity Market Act, which entered into force at the end of 2004, the monitoring of the balance between electricity demand and supply will be intensified and the monitoring will be carried out in a more detailed manner, where electricity producers will provide data on power plants. Also the division of tasks between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Energy Market Authority underwent a change, as the monitoring of issues related to security of supply was transferred to the Energy Market Authority, along with the tasks related to the rules and regulations concerning the monitoring of electricity generation. The Ministry of Trade and Industry continues to be responsible for the forecasts of electricity consumption and strategic long-term planning of supply and demand.

In cooperation with other authorities, the Energy Market Authority monitors the development of the balance between the supply and demand for electricity in Finland. To be able to estimate the generation capacity, the Energy Market Authority is establishing a register of the generation capacity available in Finland, consisting of all production units with an output of more than 1 MVA.

The Electricity Market Act includes provisions on maintenance outages of power plants scheduled for the period 1 December – 28 February. The Energy Market Authority may order that the date of a maintenance outage of an electricity-only power plant with an output above 100 MVA be rescheduled outside the winter season due to a tight generation situation, provided that there are no technical or safety-related obstacles that would prevent this. The Energy Market Authority shall consult the Safety Technology Authority and, if the maintenance outage concerns a nuclear power plant, the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, before making the rescheduling decision. However, maintenance outages resulting from unplanned maintenance needs do not fall within the scope of the notification procedure and the related rescheduling possibility.

The above-mentioned provision on the notification procedure does not, however, oblige the power plant to generate electricity at the time concerned.

In Finland the State can grant investment subsidy for power plant construction project if the new production is based on renewables, including wind power. Power producer can also get subsidy for produced electricity generated by wind power or low capacity hydro power and also for electricity generated by certain fuels (for example wood and biogas).

5.1.4 Major infrastructure projects on interconnections

Fenno-Skan 2

Fingrid Plc and Svenska Kraftnät, the transmission system operators in Finland and Sweden respectively, have decided to construct a new cross-border transmission connection between the countries. The submarine DC cable of 600 – 800 MW is due to be ready in the autumn of 2010. The companies will share the ownership and investment of the submarine cable, totalling about 200 million euros, in equal proportions. The new Fenno-Skan 2 connection is the first concrete investment decision in the implementation of the prioritised cross sections reinforcement measures within the Nordic countries introduced by Nordic transmission system operators (TSOs) in the year 2004. Fenno-Skan 2 will be carried out as a direct current connection with a total length of almost 300 kilometres. Power converter stations will be built at each end of the connection. In Finland, the new cable will be connected to the main grid at the Rauma substation. In Sweden the cable will be connected to the main grid at the Finnböle substation located north of Stockholm. The actual construction work will commence after the license process is completed. The project will be subject to international competitive bidding.

Estlink

The purpose of the Estlink Project is to construct a DC line from the Harku 330 kV substation in Estonia to Espoo 400 kV substation in southern Finland and later to control and use it. The interconnector of a 350 MW capacity will be built with a 70-km submarine cable and with a 9-km ground cable in Estonia and 20 km ground cable in Finland. The interconnector shall be operated on a commercial basis (merchant line) until year 2009-2013 according to the exemption granted by the Energy Market Authority, where after it shall be bought by TSOs on both sides of the interconnection. During the merchant operation the transmission capacity is divided, by contractual arrangement, between Pohjolan Voima Ltd, Helsingin Energia, AS Eesti Energia, State JSC Latvenergo and AB Lietuvos Energija. Unused capacity shall be dealt with the use-it-or-lose-it –principle. The investment cost is about 110 million euros.

Estonian company, Nordic Energy Link AS, has been formed to construct and own the direct-current cable connection. Nordic Energy Link AS has chosen ABB to design, build and install the Eslink interconnection.

5.1.5 TSO and security of supply issues

The TSO secures the system operation in Finland by delivering the following services:

- Maintenance of operational security
- Maintenance of frequency (by power reserves)
- Maintenance of voltage
- Data exchange to maintain operational security

Maintenance of operational security implies that power system is planned and operated in a way that the impacts of disturbances are minimised. Here the grid planning, transmission limits, disturbance management and reserves (frequency controlled and fast disturbance reserves, black start reserves) are considered.

The power system in Finland is planned in accordance with principles agreed jointly between Nordic TSOs in Nordic Grid Code¹⁴. The main planning principle is that the power system has to withstand any single fault (N-1 criteria). A dimensioning fault (worst possible fault) varies on the basis of the operational situation of the Finnish grid, but is often the tripping of the largest production unit or an extensive busbar fault.

Electricity transmissions in the main grid are kept during real time operation within the predefined limits given by operational reliability calculations, which take into account potential faults and planned outages in the power system. The transmission limits are defined for each probable fault and network situation. Short-term congestion problems in the main grid are managed commercially through counter trade, and long-term congestions are managed by applying price areas or by investments in the grid.

The Nordic electricity grid is synchronously interconnected and the frequency is allowed to vary in normal state between 49.9 and 50.1 Hz. The frequency controlled normal operation reserve and frequency controlled disturbance reserve are power reserves which are activated automatically by frequency changes. Within the Nordic power system, it has been agreed that the Nordel countries maintain continuously a total frequency controlled normal operation reserve of 600 MW for frequency control in a normal state. Of this volume, Finland's share is presently 141 MW.

For disturbance management purposes, both power and transmission reserves are maintained in the Finnish power system. TSO is responsible for the maintenance of reserves that are needed in the Finnish power system. For this, TSO uses its own resources and also purchases reserve maintenance from other resource owners. Restoration of the power system from severe disturbance incidents is headed by TSO's Power System Control Centre.

¹⁴ Available on website www.nordel.org.

The frequency controlled disturbance reserve begins to activate when frequency goes below 49.9 Hz, and the full reserve has been activated at a frequency of 49.5 Hz. The frequency controlled disturbance reserve used includes both active power reserves of power plants and load shedding. During a normal operational situation, the interconnected Nordic system is required to have approximately 1 000 MW of frequency controlled disturbance reserves, of which Finland's obligation is approximately 240 MW.

The fast disturbance reserve consists of active and reactive power reserves that can be activated manually within 15 minutes. After activating this reserve, the power system has been restored to such a state that it can withstand another potential disturbance. In the Nordic grid, each country must have a volume of fast disturbance reserve that equals the country's dimensioning fault. In Finland, this volume is normally 850 MW. Table 16 presents summary of reserves for securing system operation in Finland.

Table 16. Summary of reserves for securing system operation in Finland (Source: Fingrid Plc).

Type of reserve	Contractual capacity	Obligation
Frequency controlled normal operation reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power plants - Vyborg DC link, 10% of transmission power 	141 MW
Frequency controlled disturbance reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power plants - Load shedding 	220 – 240 MW
Fast disturbance reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gas turbines - Load shedding 	850 MW

The voltages in the power system are maintained at a technically and commercially optimal level during both normal and disturbance situations. The objective of voltage level and reactive power adjustment is to prevent overvoltage and undervoltage, to achieve nominal voltages specified in agreements (110 kV network) and to minimise the grid losses. The voltage level in the Finnish transmission grid is adjusted by using reactors and capacitors. The voltage ratio between different voltage steps is controlled with on-load tap changers of transformers.

Instantaneous reactive power reserve is also needed in order to secure the technical functioning of the Finnish power system during the disturbances. The reactive power reserves of the main transmission grid are located in synchronised generators. Reactors and capacitors also serve as reserves. Reactive power reserves are activated automatically when the voltage in the grid decreases as a result of a disturbance. Compensation is paid to power producers for reactive power reserves reserved in generators.

TSO takes care of data exchange required by the maintenance of operational reliability in the power system. TSO and parties connected to the grid supply each other with planning and measurement data needed in the maintenance of operational reliability. Such data includes production plans, generator power measurements, and status data on generator circuit breakers and connecting stations. If necessary, the amount of data exchanged and the technical details of data exchange are agreed upon between TSO and the other party through a separate data exchange agreement.

5.2 Gas

All natural gas supplied in Finland is imported from Russia. There are no production or storage facilities in Finland. The current level of gas consumption in a year is 4.6 bcm. The forecasts for the next three years are: 4.6 bcm in year 2005, 4.8 bcm in year 2006 and 5.0 bcm in year 2007. The currently available import capacity from Russia is about 5.0 bcm.

According to the amendments to Natural Gas Market Act, the role of the regulator in security of supply issues is to monitor the balance between supply and demand in natural gas, the quality and maintenance of networks and measures to cover the peak demand and avoid the supply shortages.

The TSO, Gasum Ltd, has plans to expand its natural gas transmission pipeline to the western part of Finland to Turku region if the extension project turns out to be profitable. Currently it seems probable that natural gas will be used in the Turku region by 2008.

Additionally, the TSO has launched together with Gazprom, Eesti Gaas and Latvijas Gaze a project to examine the feasibility of constructing a pipeline to link Finnish, Estonian and Latvian natural gas networks. This new pipeline would enable that the Latvian natural gas storage facilities could be used to improve reliability in natural gas transmission to Finland.

6. Public Service Issues

6.1 Electricity

6.1.1 Obligations of market participants

To operate an electricity network, a licence is required from the Energy Market Authority. An electricity network licence is granted if the applicant has the technical, economic and organisational capabilities needed for conducting its electricity network operations. There are several requirements placed on the network operator related to public service issues. The network operator shall maintain, operate and develop its electricity network and the connections to other networks in accordance with its customers' reasonable needs, and to secure, for its part, the supply of sufficiently high-standard electricity to its customers (obligation to develop the electricity network). On request and against reasonable compensation, the network operator shall connect to its network electricity consumption sites and power generating installations meeting the required technical specifications within its area of operation (obligation to connect). The network operator shall sell electricity transmission services against reasonable compensation to those that need them within the limits of its network transmission capacity (obligation to transmit).

The generation, foreign trade, wholesale supply, and in principle the whole of retail supply of electricity are carried out in the competitive market. No licence is required from the Energy Market Authority to be active in any of these businesses. However, for every licensed distribution network area there is one electricity supplier who is responsible for supplying electricity to a restricted group of customers. An electricity supplier who has the dominant market position a supplier with the highest market share within the area of responsibility of a distribution network operator shall deliver electricity at reasonable prices to consumers and other electricity users whose place of use is equipped with main fuses of 3 x 63 amperes at maximum or whose place of electricity use receives annually no more than 100 000 kWh of electricity (obligation to supply).

6.1.2 The implementation of labelling for primary energy source

The Act concerning certification and notification of the origin of electricity (1129/2003) states that electricity suppliers shall specify in or with the bills and in promotional materials made available to electricity users:

- the proportions of the energy sources used to generate the electricity that the supplier sold during the previous calendar year in relation to the total volume of electricity sold; as well as
- a reference to public sources of information concerning the carbon dioxide emissions and the radioactive waste resulting from the energy sources used to generate the electricity that the supplier sold during the previous calendar year.

The electricity supplier shall ensure that the reliability of the above-mentioned information can be demonstrated for at least six years following the end of the calendar year to which the information relates.

Producers, importers and suppliers of electricity shall provide purchasers, on request, with the information on the electricity being purchased, which they need to meet the mentioned notification requirement.

More detailed provisions are laid down in the Governmental Decree on notification of the origin of electricity. According to the Decree, the supplier shall include information on the origin of electricity in or with the bills at least once a year. Information on the origin shall be included also in all promotional materials directly distributed or sent to electricity users. Information must include at least following three categories: 1) fossil energy sources and peat; 2) renewable energy sources; as well as 3) nuclear power. Information may be more detailed.

6.1.3 The implementation of Directive Annex A criteria

Information to be given before concluding a contract

According to the Section 25c of the Electricity Market Act (386/1995) the distribution network operator and the supplier shall provide the connecting party and the electricity user with information on the principal conditions to be applied to the contract and on the alternatives available with respect to the contents of the contract, such as various pricing alternatives before concluding the contract. At least the following information shall be provided:

- 1) name and contact information of the service provider;
- 2) the performance or service offered and its quality, as well as the period of delivery of the connection in the case of a connection contract;
- 3) possible maintenance services related to contract-based performance or service;
- 4) methods by which the connecting party or electricity user receives information on the charges applied to the contract or the related maintenance services;
- 5) period of validity of the contract and the conditions to be applied to renewal and termination of the contract;
- 6) compensations of damage and other compensations to be applied if the quality of the performance or service does not correspond to the standard agreed upon;
- 7) information on the available procedures of settling disputes and their institution.

No information on an electricity network contract or an electricity supply contract needs to be given if the contract is concluded orally and the electricity user does not want this information. The above mentioned information shall be entered in its agreed form in the contract or confirmation notification.

Publicising the terms and fairness of the terms

According to the Section 21 subsection 3 an electricity supplier who has the dominant market position power shall have terms of retail sale and prices, and the criteria underlying these that are publicly available to consumers and to the customers encompassed by the supplier's obligation to supply. They shall not include any unreasonable conditions or limitations that would restrict competition within electricity trade.

Regarding networks services the Section 12 of the Electricity Market Act states that the network operator shall publish the general terms of sale and the prices of its network services as well as the underlying criteria. Furthermore, Section 14 states that the sale prices and terms of the network services and the criteria according to which they are determined shall be equita-

ble and non-discriminatory to all network users. Exceptions to them may only be on special grounds. The pricing of network services shall be reasonable and must not present any unfounded terms or restrictions obviously limiting competition within the electricity trade.

According to the Section 9 of the Electricity Market Act the connection conditions and technical requirements shall be impartial and non-discriminatory and they shall take note of the conditions of the reliability and efficiency of the electricity system. At the request of the subscriber, the network operator shall give him a comprehensive and sufficiently detailed estimate on the subscription costs.

The distribution network operator shall have publicly available general terms of contract (terms of connection) for customers that connect to the electricity network at a nominal voltage of 20 kilovolts at maximum and that are not electricity generating installations.

Amending the terms of contract

According to the Section 26 of the Electricity Market Act the distribution network operator and the supplier may change the prices and other terms of the contract in the following cases only:

- 1) on the grounds specified in the contract, provided that the content of the contract does not change materially; however, a supplier may not on these grounds change a fixed-term electricity supply contract concluded outside the obligation to deliver;
- 2) if the change is based on an amendment to legislation, or on a decision made by the authorities, which the distribution system operator or the supplier has not been able to take into account when concluding the contract; or
- 3) if there is a special reason for the change, owing to an essential change in the circumstances, revision of outdated contractual or pricing arrangements, or implementation of measures necessary for energy saving; however, a supplier may not on these grounds change a contract concluded outside the obligation to deliver.

In addition, the distribution network operator and the supplier shall be entitled to make minor amendments to the contractual terms, provided that these amendments do not affect the principal content of the contract. If the distribution network operator's area of responsibility changes, the distribution network operator is entitled to change the price of distribution services in order to implement the uniform pricing within the network operator's area of responsibility. Price changes causing considerable changes in the fees of individual customers shall be carried out during the transition period approved by the Energy Market Authority before the introduction of the new pricing.

The distribution network operator and the supplier shall provide their contracting party with information on how the prices or other contractual terms will change, when the change will come into effect, and what the grounds for the change are. The contracting party must be informed whether he has the right to terminate the contract. If the reason for the change is not a legislative amendment or a decision by the authorities, the change may come into effect, at the earliest, one month after the notification of the change has been given.

Marketing

The Consumer Protection Act includes sections regarding the regulation of marketing and information conveyed to the consumers in marketing.

Changing the electricity supplier

According to the Section 15a of the Electricity Market Act the network operator shall not collect a separate fee on registration and balance determination services and other corresponding services related to changing the electricity supplier. Furthermore, the network operator shall not collect a separate fee on the reading of a metering device in connection with changing the supplier, if at least one year has elapsed from the customer's previous change of supplier.

Dispute settlement

The disputes between consumers and entrepreneurs may be solved in the Consumer Complaint Board, which is an impartial body of experts for solving disputes between the parties. The Consumer Complaint Board does not charge any fees for handling disputes. The Board's written decision is a recommendation and the parties are not obliged to follow it. A dispute handled by the Board can always be taken to a court of law.

6.1.4 Appropriate treatment of vulnerable customers

According to the Section 21 subsection 1 and 2 of the Electricity Market Act an electricity supplier who has the dominant position or a supplier with the highest market share within the area of responsibility of a distribution network operator shall deliver electricity at reasonable prices to consumers and other electricity users whose place of use is equipped with main fuses of 3 x 63 amperes at maximum or whose place of electricity use receives annually no more than 100 000 kWh of electricity (obligation to supply). The Energy Market Authority may order the above mentioned supplier to deliver electricity on its public terms and conditions of supply to the customers within the obligation to deliver.

The supplier's right to interrupt electricity supply is restricted according to the Electricity Market Act. According to the Section 27i the supply of electricity can be interrupted if the electricity user has materially defaulted on the payments to be made to the supplier or to the distribution network operator, or has otherwise materially infringed against the obligations based on the contract. Before interrupting the supply of electricity, the electricity user must be sent a written notification of the default on payment or of the breach of contract, and a separate warning of disconnecting the supply of electricity, which is sent at the earliest two weeks after sending the notification. The supply of electricity may be disconnected at the earliest five weeks after the payment has fallen due or after the electricity user has been informed of some other breach of contract for the first time, and the breach of contract has not been rectified in time before disconnecting the supply of electricity.

If the default on payment is caused by the user's financial difficulties that he has run into because of serious illness, unemployment or some other special cause, principally through no fault of his own, the supply of electricity may be disconnected at the earliest two months after the due date of the payment. The supply of electricity may not be disconnected, because of default on payment, between the beginning of October and the end of April in a building or in a part of a building that is used as a permanent residence, if the building is heated by means of electricity, until four months have elapsed since the due date of the outstanding payment.

As it regards interrupting electricity supply for a reason attributable to the supplier the distribution network operator may not interrupt electricity supply to an electricity user encompassed by the obligation to supply until the Energy Market Authority has designated a new supplier.

Social assistance is a form of last resort of economic assistance available when an individual's or a family's income is not enough to manage on a daily basis. The payment of the benefit is stipulated by the Act on Social Assistance and is handled by the municipalities.

6.1.5 Disconnections for non-payment in 2004

Data about the disconnections for non-payment are not available.

6.1.6 No end-user price regulation in Finland

According to the Section 21 subsection 1 and 2 of the Electricity Market Act an electricity supplier who has the dominant position or a supplier with the highest market share within the area of responsibility of a distribution network operator shall deliver electricity at reasonable prices to consumers and other electricity users whose place of use is equipped with main fuses of 3 x 63 amperes at maximum or whose place of electricity use receives annually no more than 100 000 kWh of electricity (obligation to supply).

There are no price caps in use, so revising and updating of these price caps is not necessary. The designated supplier is entitled to obtain reasonable price for fulfilling his obligation to supply. The suppliers are able to change their retail tariffs when they see it necessary. However, the pricing have to be reasonable.

There is no accurate information on annual switching rates in each customer segments (household, commercial and industrial) available. According to the sample surveys carried out by the branch organisation the Finnish Energy Industries approximately 11 per cent of household customers had changed their supplier by the end of year 2004. However, some of customers who have not switched his/hers supplier, have negotiated a new contract on competitive prices and are no more purchasing electricity within supplier's obligation to supply. According to the energy amounts sold to the household customers about 70% of energy was sold within supplier's obligation to supply in 2004. The comparable figure for the small and medium-scale industrial and business users was only 18%.

The branch organisation the Finnish Energy Industries has prepared the standard contracts including general terms of electricity supply. These standard contracts are widely used by the suppliers. In view of consumer protection, the Consumer Ombudsman supervises the legality of the terms of the supply contracts.

The Energy Market Authority supervises that supplier who has the dominant position has terms of retail sale and prices, and the criteria underlying these that are publicly available to consumers and to the customers encompassed by the supplier's obligation to supply. The Energy Market Authority also supervises that the terms not include any unreasonable conditions or limitations that would restrict competition within electricity trade. Furthermore, an electric-

ity supplier who has the dominant position shall deliver the above mentioned public terms and the criteria underlying these, to the Energy Market Authority prior to their introduction.

An electricity supplier shall notify the Energy Market Authority or a body specified by it of the terms of retail sale and prices of electricity that the supplier in general applies when supplying electricity to consumers and other electricity users whose place of use is equipped with main fuses of 3 x 63 amperes at maximum or whose place of electricity use receives annually no more than 100 000 kWh of electricity. The Energy Market Authority may issue further regulations on what information related to the terms of retail sale and prices and pricing criteria should be delivered to it, how the information should be itemised and how the information should be delivered.

6.2 Gas

6.2.1 The implementation of Directive Annex A criteria

According to the Natural Gas Market Act (Chapter 4 Section 7), the following rules are applied when providing natural gas services to consumers:

- (1) Customers have a right to a contract with their gas service provider that specifies:
 - a) the identity and address of the supplier;
 - b) the services provided, the service quality levels offered, as well as the time for the initial connection;
 - c) if offered, the types of maintenance service offered;
 - d) the means by which up to date information on all applicable tariffs and maintenance charges may be obtained;
 - e) the duration of the contract, the conditions for renewal and termination of services and of the contract, the existence of any right of withdrawal;
 - f) the alternative procedures for dispute resolution.
- (2) Conditions shall be fair and those should be provided prior to the conclusion or confirmation of the contract.
- (3) Customers must be given adequate notice of any intention to modify contractual conditions.
- (4) Gas service provider shall inform customers about their right of withdrawal when the contractual conditions are modified.
- (5) Gas service providers shall notify their subscribers of any increase in charges, at an appropriate time no later than 30 days before the increase comes into effect.
- (6) Customers are free to withdraw from contracts if they do not accept the new conditions, notified to them by their gas service provider.

According to the Natural Gas Market Act (Chapter 2 Section 6 and Chapter 4 Section 2) the gas service provider shall keep his terms of sale, prices and pricing principles publicly available. The gas service provider shall notify the Natural Gas Market Authority of their terms of sales, prices and pricing criteria laid down by a decision by the Energy Market Authority.

According to the Natural Gas Market Act only customers whose consumption is over 5 million cubic meters are considered as an eligible customer. Thus there are no special provisions concerning consumers' right to change the supplier.

The disputes between consumers and entrepreneurs may be solved in the Consumer Complaint Board, which is an impartial body of experts for solving disputes between the parties. The Consumer Complaint Board does not charge any fees handling disputes. The Board's written decision is a recommendation and the parties are not obliged to follow it. A dispute handled by the Board can always be taken to a court of law.

6.2.2 Appropriate treatment of vulnerable customers

According to the Natural Gas Market Act (Chapter 4 Section 1) the supplier in a dominant market position in a natural gas network shall supply natural gas at a reasonable price upon the request of a customer connected to the network, if the customer has no other economically competitive options to purchase natural gas through a natural gas network (obligation to supply). The Energy Gas Authority may order the natural gas retailer to supply natural gas to the natural gas consumer, if the latter has no other possibility to obtain natural gas.

According to the Natural Gas Market Act (Chapter 4 Section 5) the supply of natural gas may be interrupted if the consumer fails, despite a reminder, to pay the natural gas retailer or distribution network operator the fees due for them, or otherwise essentially infringes the terms of the contract on natural gas sales or network services. However, supplying natural gas to a property used as a permanent residence, or to any part thereof, shall not be interrupted, on account of failure to pay, between the beginning of October and the end of April, if the heating of the property is dependent on the delivery of natural gas, unless four months have elapsed from the due date of payment.

Data on the number of disconnections for non payment in the year 2004 is not available.

6.2.3 The end-user price regulation of gas

As mentioned above the supplier in a dominant market position in a natural gas network shall supply natural gas at a reasonable price upon the request of a customer connected to the network, if the customer has no other economically competitive options to purchase natural gas through a natural gas network (obligation to supply). Since the Finnish gas market has not been fully opened to competition and there is only one importer/wholesaler, the obligation to supply applies to all gas suppliers practically in every case. So customers in every customer category have the same right to purchase natural gas at a reasonable price. In other words the proportion of customers in each segment (household, commercial, industrial) still supplied by the last resort supplier is practically 100 per cent in every segment.

The designated supplier is entitled to charge reasonable price when he fulfils his obligation to supply. So there is no need for any other compensation.

There are no price caps. Prices have to be reasonable. Regulation of transmission and distribution tariffs is based on rate of return approach.

6.2.4 The activities of regulators in ensuring transparency of the terms and conditions of supply

The Finnish Natural Gas Association (the branch organisation of the natural gas industry) has issued standard contracts, including general terms and conditions for natural gas supply. The Energy Market Authority was consulted before the standard contracts were published.

The TSO and also the sole gas importer Gasum Ltd has also consulted the Energy Market Authority about their new tariff structure.