

**THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN GAS REGULATORY FORUM**

**14-15 October 2020**

**CONCLUSIONS**

**Incentivising supply and demand of renewable and low-carbon gases in lead markets**

The Forum takes note of Member State and industry initiatives to boost demand and supply of renewable and low-carbon gases, which provide valuable input for further regulatory considerations. The Forum invites the Commission to implement the actions defined in the Energy System Integration and Hydrogen strategies, including the development of additional measures to support renewable and low-carbon gases in the context of the upcoming legislative work. Such measures could include minimum shares or quotas in specific end-use sectors.

**Certification of renewable and low-carbon gases – methodology and criteria**

The Forum takes note of the work of the European Renewable Gas Registry towards enabling the cross-border transfer of certification for renewable gases.

The Forum invites the Commission to propose comprehensive terminology and a European certification system covering all renewable and low-carbon fuels, based on full life cycle greenhouse gas emissions savings, building on existing provisions and systems.

**Creating a market for renewable and low-carbon gases**

The Forum invites the Commission to come forward with proposals to facilitate the uptake of renewable and low-carbon gases, including the use of tradable instruments, whilst ensuring an integrated, liquid and interoperable EU internal gas market to ensure decarbonisation at least cost. The Forum underlines the importance of ensuring that renewable and low-carbon gases have access to wholesale markets and networks.

The Forum invites the Commission to design a regulatory framework for hydrogen enabling the development of a competitive and efficient hydrogen market in Europe within an integrated energy system, with unhindered cross-border trade and a clear separation between regulated network and market-based production activities.

The Forum invites the Commission and national regulatory authorities to ensure competition on a level playing field between different energy carriers in pursuing the objectives of decarbonisation at least cost and security of supply.

The Forum notes the technological and economical challenges lying ahead of importing renewable and low-carbon gases, e.g. via LNG terminal adaptations. The Forum invites the Commission to consider regulatory measures addressing these challenges whilst making efficient use of LNG terminals to contribute to increased system flexibility and security of supply.

## **Infrastructure for renewable and low-carbon gases**

The Forum invites the Commission to design enabling market rules for the deployment of hydrogen, including by removing barriers for efficient hydrogen infrastructure development (e.g. via repurposing) and ensuring access to liquid markets for hydrogen producers and customers, as expressed in its Hydrogen Strategy. The rules should accommodate the various pathways of renewable and low-carbon gases deployment, such as industrial demand in clusters efficiently linked by hydrogen backbones – including in combination with the scale up of renewable electricity generation – and connected to storage as well as decentralised production for local demand, including blending in the grid to guarantee broader availability of renewable and low-carbon gases for end-users.

The Forum further invites the Commission to consider the need for a more integrated and flexible energy system and the role of hydrogen infrastructure, including storage and import terminals in this context, when revising the TEN-E Regulation.

The Forum also invites the Commission and national regulatory authorities to consider how to fairly allocate costs of the hydrogen infrastructure (newly built or repurposed).

## **Gas quality standardisation in the energy transition**

The Forum invites CEN to finalise the process on the Wobbe Index standardisation and to continue its work in support of the use of renewable and low-carbon gases in gas infrastructure and gas applications.

The Forum invites the Commission to integrate gas quality and hydrogen quality considerations, including cross-border operational rules, in its work when re-examining the gas market regulatory framework to facilitate the uptake of renewable and low-carbon gases.

## **Network Code implementation**

The Forum agrees that the implementation and enforcement of existing Network Codes remains a key priority to improve market functioning. The Forum encourages further engagement from all Member States, national regulatory authorities and market participants, supported by ACER and the Commission, to ensure full and proper implementation.

The Forum welcomes the ongoing work undertaken by ACER at the request of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Madrid Forum on allowed revenues including TSO benchmarking and remuneration, and invites ACER to continue this work in close cooperation with national regulators incorporating topics related to decarbonising the gas sector.

The Forum encourages ACER to take a more cross-sectoral approach over time to market monitoring examining competition, balancing and energy security issues incorporating all energy solutions.