



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: Activities of the Electricity Coordination Group
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached the abovementioned information note.

Information note from the Commission
Activities of the Electricity Coordination Group

The Electricity Coordination Group was proposed at the informal Energy Council in Wroclaw in September 2011 and further discussed during the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council in November 2011.

The Group provides a platform for strategic exchanges of views between Member States, national regulators, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and the Commission on electricity policy, with a special emphasis on national decisions on the energy mix, which may have an effect on other Member States. It is to be convened flexibly when a need for strategic discussions arises and it will complement the technical exchange between Member State experts which take place in the Cross-border Committee.

The first meeting of the Group took place on 2 December 2011. ENTSO-E presented its Winter Outlook 2011-2012, indicating that under severe weather conditions our system would be constrained. Luckily the weather was mild in the critical period of December but the Commission keeps on monitoring the situation also now when a cold spell has been hitting Europe. It is clear that transmission capacities have reached their limits and grid reinforcement is urgently required, as underlined by ENTSO-E in its winter outlook 2011-2012.

ENTSO-E took the opportunity of the first meeting of the Electricity Coordination Group to present its preliminary analysis on the frequency control of photovoltaics and underlined the new risks to system operations which have come about with the increased penetration of photovoltaic cells.

At the Commission's proposal, welcomed by Member States, ENTSO-E agreed to reactivate its weekly alert e-mail as regards grid stability. The Commission also proposed to set up a list of emergency contact points in national administrations, transmission system operators, national regulatory authorities, Commission and ACER.

The next step should be to have a look at market design measures in Member States to ensure compatibility with neighbours and with the internal market rules. The past year demonstrated we need a common market's architecture where different styles can coexist but with common principles allowing them to be mutually supportive, cost-effective and sustainable. The Electricity Coordination Group can deliver a fruitful discussion to prepare this common architecture to ensure security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness for our European market. The next meeting should therefore take place still in the first quarter 2012.
