



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

- Report on the progress towards the Internal Energy Market
= *Draft Council conclusions*

Delegations will find in Annex I a further revised version of the draft of the conclusions on the completion of the internal energy market based on the examination by the Energy Working Party on 21 October and the subsequent written comments received from delegations. Changes with regard to the previous text are highlighted in **bold** and deletions are marked with **[]**.

Delegations should note that the next meeting of the EWP on 4 November is the second last meeting planned before the above draft conclusions will be submitted to COREPER for its examination. Following the discussions at the previous meetings of the EWP and the written contributions provided by delegations, the Presidency has carefully considered all contributions received and made a strong effort to strike a proper balance in the text annexed while accommodating the concerns raised by delegations. Accordingly, delegations are invited to review whether the text in Annex I would be acceptable to them although the suggested wording does not exactly correspond to, or include all, the comments submitted.

Delegations are invited to provide written comments on the text until **11 November cob**. All delegations have a general scrutiny reservation on the text.

**Draft Council conclusions on the completion
of the Internal Energy Market**

The Council of the European Union:

RECALLING:

- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 4 February 2011, especially with regard to paragraph 4, section I (Energy), noting that the internal market should be completed by 2014 so as to allow gas and electricity to flow freely,
- conclusions on "strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy policy", adopted by the TTE (Energy) Council on 24 November 2011, and the subsequent Council report on "the follow up to the European Council on 22 May 2013; review of developments on the external dimension of the EU energy policy", adopted by the TTE (Energy) Council on 12 December 2013,
- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 22 May 2013, especially with regard to paragraph 2, section I (Energy), reaffirming the objectives of completing the internal energy market by 2014 and developing interconnections so as to put an end to any isolation of Member States from European gas and electricity networks by 2015,
- the conclusions on the Commission communication "Making the internal energy market work", adopted by the TTE (Energy) Council on 7 June 2013,
- the Council report on "progress on the completion of the Internal Energy Market", adopted by the TTE (Energy) Council on 12 December 2013,
- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 20/21 March 2014, especially with regard to paragraph 19 of Section C (Climate and Energy),
- the Commission communication, of 28 May 2014, on "European Energy Security Strategy",
- the conclusions on the Commission communication "Energy prices and costs in Europe", adopted by the TTE (Energy) Council on 13 June 2014,
- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 26/27 June 2014, especially with regard to Section B (Climate and Energy) **and on 23/24 October 2014, especially with regard to Section I (2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework).**

CONSIDERING that the completion of the internal energy market is a pre-requisite to achieve, in the most cost-effective way, the main objectives of the EU energy policy: sustainability, competitiveness and security of energy supply and ACKNOWLEDGING that a well-functioning, integrated, **interconnected** and competitive internal energy market is an important component of the 2030 policy framework on climate and energy as well as of the security of energy supply.

CONSIDERING that Europe is well underway towards the completion of the internal energy market, however, EMPHASISING that further efforts are needed to remove remaining obstacles for ensuring a well-functioning interconnected and integrated cross-border energy market and the development of interconnections and NOTING, in this context, that certain Member States might continue to remain isolated beyond 2015.

RECALLING section I.4 of the European Council conclusions of 23/24 October 2014 and STRESSING that all efforts must be mobilised to achieve the objective of a fully functioning and connected internal energy market as a matter of urgency. In this regard, UNDERLINING the need to take urgent measures in order to ensure the achievement of a minimum target of 10 % of existing electricity interconnections by 2020.

[] TAKING NOTE OF the Commission communication, of 13 October 2014, on "Progress towards completing the Internal Energy Market" **which indicates that progress has been made taking the European Union a long way towards the completion of the internal energy market.**

IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET, THE COUNCIL:

1. REAFFIRMS the urgent need for effective and consistent implementation and application of the provisions set out in the Third Energy Package by all EU Member States so as to provide a sound and market-driven investment climate throughout the whole European Union based on **a** stable and transparent European legal framework.

2. In order to foster cross-border energy exchanges, STRESSES the importance of timely adoption and implementation of network codes and guidelines for gas and electricity throughout the European Union and CALLS for the continued work to ensure a commonly agreed operational framework for the efficient and non-discriminatory use and development of capacities in gas pipelines and electricity grids with transparent **and harmonised transmission tariff structures** .
3.
4. UNDERLINES that the Projects of Common Interest (PCI), **as set out** in the first Union list adopted by the Commission in October 2013, **including** those projects **identified** in the Commission communication on European Energy Security Strategy, urgently need to be realised so as to further strengthen the integrated energy market and STRESSES in this regard the continued swift implementation of the "TEN-E Regulation 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure" of 17 April 2013 providing fast-track permit authorisation procedures for projects coordinated across borders **and the availability of EU co-funding**.
5. REAFFIRMS the need for more investments in strategic, smart and flexible¹ infrastructure as being a precondition to the completion of the internal energy market, in particular sufficient interconnections between Member States and regions as well as internal grid reinforcements aimed to improve **full availability and efficient usage of existing interconnections**, diversification of both energy routes and sources **and security of supply**, to end energy isolation and integrate the more remote and/or less well connected parts of the single market **into the European continental networks**, to enable the uptake of increasing amounts of variable renewable energy and to foster significant volumes of cross-border trading in gas and electricity.
- 5a. RECALLS the importance of addressing the problem posed by unplanned power flows on electricity interconnections through the implementation of appropriate methodologies of calculation and allocation of transmission capacities and SUPPORTS, **where appropriate**, the **review** of existing bidding zones and their optimal setting, **according to the criteria provided in the CACM² guidelines**.

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2 Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM).

6. ACKNOWLEDGES that the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) provided opinions and recommendations on Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) methodologies elaborated by the European Networks of Transmission System operators for electricity (ENTSO-E) and for gas (ENTSO-G) and notes that PCI selection and cross-border cost allocation will be based on CBA methodologies.
7. INVITES the Commission to review and, where needed, to propose improvements to the arrangements for cooperation of the European Networks of Transmission System Operators (ENTSOs) and of other bodies essential to the functioning of the internal energy market.
8. To this end, UNDERLINES the continued cooperative efforts at European level of national administrations, National Regulatory Authorities and network operators, notably within ACER and ENTSOs, while STRESSING the importance for ENTSOs to perform their role of monitoring implementation of the network codes and guidelines, as they have been entrusted under the Third Energy Package.
9. NOTES that security of supply would benefit from a more coordinated and efficient approach towards consistent system adequacy and increased flexibility, which encompasses generation, demand, interconnection, storage and cooperation, especially in case of supply disruption, while recognizing the responsibility of Member States as regards ensuring security of supply.
10. REAFFIRMS the importance of ensuring stable, competitive and affordable energy prices, considering cost-reflectiveness and contestability of prices, within the Internal Energy Market and, to this end, RECALLS the Council conclusions of 13 June 2014, especially with regard to paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10.

WHOLESALE MARKETS

11. While CONSIDERING regional market integration¹ as an **[] important** step towards ultimate consolidation of a single energy market across the European Union, CALLS for the assurance of necessary conditions to **[] enhance [] liquidity []** at regional level both in the electricity market, *inter alia* encouraging market coupling, and in the gas market, and UNDERLINES the importance of ensuring adequate level of cross-border cooperation **[] with regards to** balancing markets, without hampering the proper functioning of the grids, through the finalisation and timely implementation of the related network codes and guidelines, in order to allow the sharing of balancing resources between Member States and enhance security of supply and generation adequacy at lower costs for the system.
12. RECOGNISES that ensuring generation and system adequacy is a key challenges to be continuously addressed by Member States as the Union moves towards a **safe and sustainable** low carbon energy system; **Member States considering implementing** capacity mechanisms **[]** should take cross-border regional effects into account and avoid any disincentives for investment in interconnection **while minimising market distortion**. State intervention in this context should be implemented in compliance with the new State aid Guidelines on energy and environment² **with the view to promote a more cost-effective achievement of energy and climate targets**. In this regard, the Council ENCOURAGES the Commission to undertake detailed studies on the development of a European generation and system adequacy assessment, involving also ENTSO-E, ACER and the Member States' authorities, including through the Electricity Coordination Group, **while recognizing the responsibility of Member States as regards ensuring security of supply and the right for Member States to determine their energy mix**.
13. CALLS for the **[] full implementation** of the Gas and Electricity Target Models as an essential reference for the coherent development of the internal energy market **and their ongoing development to meet evolving system and market needs**.

¹ For instance, BE-DE-FR-LU-NL Pentalateral Energy Forum, North Sea Countries Offshore Grid Initiative (NSCOGI) and CZ-HU-RO-SK market coupling.

² Commission's Communication " Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020" of 9 April 2014.

14. **As regards** gas supply contracts, **ENCOURAGES** the adoption of gas pricing formulas linked to hub prices in the destination markets in order to address the issue of the contractual linkage of gas and oil prices **and STRESSES the importance of ensuring the removal of contractual clauses contrary to EU law.**
15. REAFFIRMS the importance of ensuring an adequate market transparency level for creating a level playing field between market participants and avoiding the scope for market power to be abused. To this aim, while RECOGNISING the improvement made thanks to the **ongoing** implementation of the Regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency ('REMIT Regulation'), INVITES regulators and ACER to effectively monitor the trading activities and welcomes the establishment of ENTSO-E and ENTSO-G Transparency Platform.
16. While RECOGNISING that investments in energy infrastructure are capital intensive and require stable and predictable regulatory conditions, STRESSES the importance of eliminating existing market distortions to provide for more market-driven investment signals accompanied, where **appropriate**, by **established** EU financial instruments to optimize the use of existing infrastructure and ensure investments in the most economically sensible projects for the future, without prejudice to the possibility for Member States to take measures to secure supply or **their right** to determine their energy mix and the conditions for exploiting **their** energy resources.

RETAIL MARKETS

17. UNDERLINES the importance of strengthening the role, rights and awareness of consumers in line with the Council conclusions of 7 June 2013 and REAFFIRMS the use of a coordinated and balanced combination of social, energy and consumer policy, as determined by each Member State, to combat energy poverty, **where appropriate**, and to assist consumers in vulnerable situations, as set out in the Council conclusions of 13 June 2014.

18. SUPPORTS the empowerment of consumers to participate actively in energy markets; including [] through stakeholder panels of energy actors and consumer representative bodies with the aim of increasing the awareness and the involvement of the consumers. In this context, **while ACKNOWLEDGING that the end-consumers would benefit by the completion of the internal energy market,** UNDERLINES the importance of retail market designs that support the move of consumers from passive to active consumption habits in order to lower their energy costs. To that effect consumers should have [] easy and direct access to their consumption data, [] adequate tools to make informed choices in a simple manner and to adjust the time and amount of their consumption while taking into account the costs and benefits of these measures.
19. STRESSES that innovation is a key factor for enabling the retail market to be designed in a way that allows all possible innovative business models and technologies. In that regards, UNDERLINES the importance of deploying, in a cost-effective manner, available technologies such as smart **grids and smart** meters to exploit, in a cost-effective manner, [] the potential of demand response and energy efficiency.
20. EMPHASISES the role of the National Regulatory Authorities and the Competition Authorities in ensuring that markets are open and transparent to new services and service providers so as to guarantee a more competitive retail market. UNDERLINES the need to maintain and develop a secure, reliable, and cost-efficient distribution system taking into account possible network constraints and impacts on technical operation.
- 20a CALLS for the Commission to swiftly present its communication on the electricity and gas retail markets recognizing the importance of promoting flexible demand response.**

21. []

22. []

NEXT STEPS

23. ACKNOWLEDGES the impact of the above measures on the completion of the internal energy market and CALLS for a follow-up review by the Commission on its progress by [20176].

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

22 July	WP ENER: update on preparation of draft Council conclusions
16 September	WP ENER: presentation of outline of conclusions / reactions
23 September	deadline for comments on outline
30 September	WP ENER: examination of 1st draft conclusions
6 October	Informal Energy Ministerial
10 October	deadline for comments on 1st draft
21 October	WP ENER: examination of 2nd draft conclusions
29 October	deadline for comments on 2nd draft
4 November	WP ENER: examination of 3rd draft conclusions
11 November	deadline for comments on 3rd draft
18 November	WP ENER: final examination of draft conclusions
26 November	Coreper
9 December	TTE