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Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen (recast) - General approach

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Delegations will find in Annex the Council general approach on the above proposal as adopted by the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) held on 28 March 2023.

The general approach establishes the Council's provisional position on this proposal, and forms the basis for the preparations for the negotiations with the European Parliament.

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases for hydrogen(recast)**  
**(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 194 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>2</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 211, 19.8.2008, p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 172, 5.7.2008, p. 55.

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup> has been substantially amended several times. Since further amendments are to be made, that Regulation should be recast in the interests of clarity.
- (2) The internal market in natural gas, which has been progressively implemented since 1999, aims to deliver real choice for all consumers in the Union , be they citizens or businesses, new business opportunities and more cross-border trade, so as to achieve efficiency gains, competitive prices and higher standards of service, and to contribute to security of supply and sustainability.
- (3) The European Green Deal and the Climate law set the target for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050 in a manner that contributes to European competitiveness, growth and jobs. For a decarbonised gas markets to be set up and contribute to the energy transition, significantly higher shares of renewable energy sources in an integrated energy system with an active participation of consumers in competitive markets are needed.

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 36).

- (3a) **This Regulation should be seen in conjunction with other policy and legislative instruments, notably those proposed under the European Green Deal. Many of these other proposed instruments, such as the extension of the Union’s [Emission Trading System, the Effort Sharing Regulation, the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the ReFuelEU initiatives and the proposed revision of the Energy Taxation Directive seek to incentivise the decarbonisation of the Union’s economy and ensure its remains on a trajectory towards a climate neutral European Union by 2050, as mandated by the European Climate Law]. The main objective of this Regulation is however not to incentivise the transition but to enable and facilitate it by ensuring the continuing existence of efficient markets for gases.**
- (4) This Regulation aims to facilitate the penetration of renewable and low-carbon gases into the energy system enabling a shift from fossil gas, and to allow these new gases to play an important role towards achieving the EU’s 2030 climate objectives and climate neutrality in 2050. This Regulation aims also to set up a regulatory framework that enables and incentivises all market participants to take the transitional role of fossil gas into account while planning their activities to avoid lock-in effects and ensure gradual and timely phase-out of fossil gas notably in all relevant industrial sectors and for heating purposes.

**(4a) In the trajectory for the European Union to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, energy saving and direct electrification are expected to present the most cost-effective and energy-efficient decarbonisation option in many cases. There will however remain a number of end-use applications where this might not be feasible or have higher costs. In such cases, it may be relevant to use renewable or low-carbon gases and fuels , including biomethane and renewable and low-carbon hydrogen. The incentives created by the European Green Deal Package are thus expected to result in a fundamental change in the structure of energy demand in general and that for gases in particular. For instance, where today natural gas is widely used for space heating purposes, this demand is expected to be met largely by other energy carriers, such as through ~~by~~ electrified space heating appliances, in the future. The future use-cases for hydrogen are expected to primarily be in otherwise hard to decarbonise sectors. These include a number of industrial processes, but also transport modes such as long-haul heavy-duty road transport, aviation and maritime. As the precise decarbonisation trajectories, role of energy carriers and their use cases will also depend on local starting points, endowments and circumstances, they should not be prescribed in detail. Efficient markets will ensure that, given local endowments and circumstances, consumers incentivised by other policy instruments are empowered to choose the decarbonisation options most suited to their particular use-case.**

- (5) The EU hydrogen strategy recognises that, as EU Member States have different potential for the production of renewable hydrogen, an open and competitive EU market with unhindered cross-border trade has important benefits for competition, affordability, and security of supply. Moreover, it stresses that moving towards a liquid market with commodity-based hydrogen trading would facilitate entry of new producers and be beneficial for deeper integration with other energy carriers. It would create viable price signals for investments and operational decisions, **including interconnections**. The rules laid down in this Regulation should thus be conducive for hydrogen markets and commodity-based hydrogen trading and liquid trading hubs to emerge. ~~and a~~Any undue barriers, **including disproportionate tariffs at interconnection points**, ~~in this regard~~ should be eliminated by Member States. Whilst recognising the inherent differences, existing rules that enabled efficient commercial operations developed for the electricity and gas markets and trading should be considered for a hydrogen market. **Whilst this Regulation sets out general principles according to which also a hydrogen market is to operate, it is appropriate to take account of the development stage of this market in their application.**
- (6) [Recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] provides for the possibility of a combined ~~transmission and distribution system~~ operator. The rules set out in this Regulation do not therefore require modification of the organisation of national ~~transmission and distribution~~ systems that are consistent with the relevant provisions of that Directive.

- (7) It is necessary to specify the criteria according to which tariffs for access to the network are determined, in order to ensure that they fully comply with the principle of non-discrimination and the needs of a well-functioning internal market and take fully into account the need for system integrity and reflect the actual costs incurred, insofar as such costs correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and are transparent, whilst including appropriate return on investments, and enabling the integration of renewable and low carbon gases . The rules on network access tariffs in this Regulation are complemented by further rules on network access tariffs, notably in the network codes and guidelines adopted on the basis of this Regulation, in [ TEN-E Regulation as proposed in COM(2020) 824 final], [Methane Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and [Energy Efficiency Directive as proposed in COM(2021) 558 final].

- (8) It is, generally, most efficient to finance infrastructure by revenues obtained from the users of that infrastructure and to avoid cross-subsidies. Moreover, such cross-subsidies would, in the case of regulated assets, be incompatible with the general principle of cost-reflective tariffs. In exceptional cases, such cross-subsidies could nonetheless bring societal benefits, in particular during earlier phases of network development where booked capacity is low compared to technical capacity and uncertainty as to when future capacity demand will materialise is significant. Cross-subsidies could therefore contribute to reasonable and predictable tariffs for early network users and de-risk investments for network operators. Cross-subsidies could thus contribute to an investment climate supportive to the Union's, decarbonisation objectives. Cross-subsidies should not be financed by network users in other Member States, ~~neither regardless as to whether~~ directly or indirectly. It is thus appropriate to collect financing for cross-subsidies only from exit points to final customers within the same Member State. Moreover, as cross-subsidies are exceptional, it should be ensured that they are proportional, transparent, limited in time and set under regulatory supervision. **It should be possible to set rules regarding cross-subsidies or financial transfers between regulated assets bases for individual or for categories of operators active within a given Member State. Reasonable and predictable financial conditions for early network users can also be achieved by means other than cross-subsidies, e.g. direct subsidies to network operators or users, provided they are compatible with Article 107 TFEU.**
- (9) The use of market-based arrangements, such as auctions, to determine tariffs has to be compatible with the provisions in recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx and Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/459.
- (10) A common minimum set of third-party access services is necessary to provide a common minimum standard of access in practice throughout the Union, to ensure that third-party access services are sufficiently compatible and to allow the benefits accruing from a well-functioning internal market in natural gas to be exploited.



- (11) Arrangements on third party access should be based on the principles laid down in this Regulation. The organisation of entry-exit systems, which enable a free allocation of gas on the basis of firm capacity, was welcomed by the XXIV. Madrid Forum already in October 2013. Therefore a definition of entry-exit system should be introduced ~~and the integration of the distribution system level in the balancing zone be ensured~~, which would help to achieve a level playing field for renewable and low carbon gases connected to either the transmission or distribution level. Tariff setting ~~of~~ **for** distribution system operators and the organisation of capacity allocation between the transmission and distribution system should be left to the regulatory authorities on the basis of the principles enshrined in [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx].
- (12) Access to the entry-exit system should be generally based on firm capacity. Network operators should be required to cooperate in a way that maximises the offer of firm capacity, which in turn enables network users to freely allocate the gas entering or exiting on the basis of firm capacity to any entry or exit point in the same entry-exit system.
- (12a) Member States should be able to establish full or partial regional integration where two or more adjacent entry-exit systems are merged. It should be possible for pPartial regional integration to may encompass various balancing zones areas as ~~It can be seen~~ as an important step towards integrating fragmented gas markets and improving the functioning of the internal gas market.**
- (12b) (ex recital 34 moved here and not changed)** Where a regional markets integration is undertaken, the relevant transmission system operators and regulatory authorities should address issues having a cross-border impact such as tariff structures, balancing regime, capacities at remaining cross-border points, investment plans and the fulfilment of transmissions system operators' and regulatory authorities' tasks

- (13) Conditional capacity should only be offered when network operators are not able to offer firm capacity. Network operators should define the conditions for conditional capacity on the basis of operational constraints in a transparent and clear manner. The regulatory authority should **approve the conditions and** ensure that the number of conditional capacity products is limited to avoid a fragmentation of the market and to ensure compliance with the principle of providing efficient third-party access.
- (14) A sufficient level of cross-border gas interconnection capacity should be achieved and market integration fostered in order to complete the internal market in natural gas.
- (15) Increased cooperation and coordination among transmission and, where relevant, distribution system operators is required to create network codes for providing and managing effective and transparent access to the transmission networks across borders, and to ensure coordinated and sufficiently forward looking planning and sound technical evolution of the natural gas system in the Union, including the creation of interconnection capacities, with due regard to the environment. The network codes should be in line with framework guidelines which are non-binding in nature (framework guidelines) and which are developed by the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) established in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/942 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>. ACER should have a role in reviewing, based on matters of fact, draft network codes, including their compliance with the framework guidelines, and it should be enabled to recommend them for adoption by the Commission. ACER should assess proposed amendments to the network codes and it should be enabled to recommend them for adoption by the Commission. Transmission system operators should operate their networks in accordance with those network codes.

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/942 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

- (16) In order to ensure optimal management of the gas transmission network in the Union, a European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (the ENTSO for Gas), should be provided for . The tasks of the ENTSO for Gas should be carried out in compliance with the Union's competition rules which are applicable to the decisions of the ENTSO for Gas. The tasks of the ENTSO for Gas should be well-defined and its working method should ensure efficiency, transparency and the representative nature of the ENTSO for Gas. The network codes prepared by the ENTSO for Gas are not intended to replace the necessary national network codes for non cross-border issues. Given that more effective progress may be achieved through an approach at regional level, transmission system operators should set up regional structures within the overall cooperation structure, whilst ensuring that results at regional level are compatible with network codes and non-binding ten-year network development plans at Union level. Cooperation within such regional structures presupposes effective unbundling of network activities from production and supply activities. In the absence of such unbundling, regional cooperation between transmission system operators gives rise to a risk of anti-competitive conduct. Member States should promote cooperation and monitor the effectiveness of the network operations at regional level. Cooperation at regional level should be compatible with progress towards a competitive and efficient internal market in gases.
- (17) In order to ensure greater transparency regarding the development of the gas transmission network in the Union, the ENTSO for Gas should draw up, publish and regularly update a non-binding Union-wide ten-year network development plan on the basis of a joint scenario and the interlinked model ( Union-wide network development plan). Viable gas transmission networks and necessary regional interconnections, relevant from a commercial or security of supply point of view, should be included in that network development plan.

- (18) To enhance competition through liquid wholesale markets for gas, it is vital that gas can be traded independently of its location in the system. The only way to do this is to give network users the freedom to book entry and exit capacity independently, thereby creating gas transport through zones instead of along contractual paths. To ensure the freedom of booking capacity independently at entry and exit points, tariffs set for one entry point should therefore not be related to the tariff set for one exit point, and **should be vice versa** offered for these points separately and the tariff should not bundle the entry and exit charge in a single price.
- (19) While Commission Regulation (EU) 312/2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks provides rules for setting up technical rules that build up a balancing regime, it leaves various design choices for each balancing regime that is applied in a specific entry-exit system. The combination of choices made lead to a specific balancing regime that is applicable in a specific entry-exit system, which are currently mostly reflecting Member States territories.
- (20) Network users are to bear the responsibility of balancing their inputs against their off-takes with trading platforms established to better facilitate gas trade between network users. In order to ~~better integrate~~ **ensure** renewable and low carbon gases **an equal access to the market within the entry-exit system**, the balancing zone should also cover, **to the extent possible**, the distribution system level. The virtual trading point should be used to exchange gas between balancing accounts of network users.
- (21) References to harmonised transport contracts in the context of non-discriminatory access to the network of transmission system operators do not mean that the terms and conditions of the transport contracts of a particular system operator in a Member State must be the same as those of another transmission system operator in that Member State or in another Member State, unless minimum requirements are set which must be met by all transport contracts.

- (22) Equal access to information on the physical status and efficiency of the system is necessary to enable all market participants to assess the overall demand and supply situation and to identify the reasons for movements in the wholesale price. This includes more precise information on supply and demand, network capacity, flows and maintenance, balancing and availability and usage of storage. The importance of that information for the functioning of the market requires alleviating existing limitations to publication for confidentiality reasons.
- (23) Confidentiality requirements for commercially sensitive information are, however, particularly relevant where data of a commercially strategic nature for the company are concerned, where there is only one single user for a storage facility, or where data are concerned regarding exit points within a system or subsystem that is not connected to another transmission or distribution system but to a single industrial final customer, where the publication of such data would reveal confidential information as to the production process of that customer.
- (24) To enhance trust in the market, its participants need to be sure that those engaging in abusive behaviour can be subjected to effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. The competent authorities should be given the competence to investigate effectively allegations of market abuse. To that end, it is necessary that competent authorities have access to data that provides information on operational decisions made by supply undertakings. In the gas market, all those decisions are communicated to the system operators in the form of capacity reservations, nominations and realised flows. System operators should keep information in relation thereto available to and easily accessible by the competent authorities for a fixed period of time. The competent authorities should, furthermore, regularly monitor the compliance of the transmission system operators with the rules.

- (25) Access to natural gas storage facilities and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities is insufficient in some Member States, and therefore the implementation of the existing rules needs to be improved, including ~~as regards~~ in the transparency area. Such improvement should take into account the potential and uptake of renewable and low-carbon gases for these facilities in the internal market. Monitoring by the European Regulators' Group for Electricity and Gas concluded that the voluntary guidelines for good third-party access practice for storage system operators, agreed by all stakeholders at the Madrid Forum, are being insufficiently applied and therefore need to be made binding.
- (26) Non-discriminatory and transparent balancing systems for natural gas, operated by transmission system operators, are important mechanisms, particularly for new market entrants which may have more difficulty balancing their overall sales portfolio than companies already established within a relevant market. It is therefore necessary to lay down rules to ensure that transmission system operators operate such mechanisms in a manner compatible with non-discriminatory, transparent and effective access conditions to the network.
- (27) Regulatory authorities should ensure compliance with the rules contained in this Regulation and the network codes and guidelines adopted pursuant thereto.
- (28) In the guidelines **laid down in Annex I** ~~annexed~~ to this Regulation, more detailed rules are defined . Where appropriate, those rules should evolve over time, taking into account the differences of national gas systems and their development.
- (29) When proposing to amend the Guidelines **laid down in Annex I** ~~annexed~~ to this Regulation, the Commission should ensure prior consultation of all relevant parties concerned with the **those** Guidelines, represented by the professional organisations, and of the Member States within the Madrid Forum.

- (30) The Member States and the competent national authorities should be required to provide relevant information to the Commission. Such information should be treated confidentially by the Commission.
- (31) This Regulation and the network codes and guidelines adopted in accordance with it are without prejudice to the application of the Union rules on competition.
- (32) Member States and the Energy Community Contracting Parties should closely cooperate on all matters concerning the development of an integrated gas trading region and should take no measures that endanger the further integration of natural gas markets or the security of supply of Member States and Contracting Parties.
- ~~(33) Transmission system operators or an entity designated by the Member State could be allowed to reserve storages for natural gas exclusively for carrying out their functions and for the purpose of security of supply. The filling of these strategic stocks could be done by means of joint purchasing using the trading platform as mentioned in Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 without prejudice to Union competition rules. Withdrawal of natural gas should only be possible for the transmission system operators to carry out their functions or in case of a declared emergency situation, as mentioned in Article 11 (1) of that Regulation, in order not to interfere with the regular functioning of the market.~~
- (34) **(recital not changed, only moved up after recital 12a)**

- (35) The energy transition and the continuing integration of the gas market will require further transparency on the allowed or target revenue of the transmission system operator. A number of decisions related to natural gas networks will be based on that information. For example, the transfer of transmission assets from a natural gas network **operator** to a hydrogen network **operator** or the implementation of an inter-TSO compensation mechanism (ITC) require more transparency than currently exists. In addition, the assessments of tariff evolutions on the long term requires clarity on both natural gas demand and cost projections. Transparency on allowed revenue should enable the latter. Regulatory authorities should, in particular, **regularly** provide information on the methodology used to calculate the revenues of transmission system operators, the value of their regulatory asset base and its depreciation over time, the value of operational expenditures, the cost of capital applied to transmission system operators and the incentives and premia applied, **as well as the long-term evolution of transmission tariffs based on the expected changes in their allowed or target revenues and in gas demand. In order to ensure the proper process of collecting and interpreting the data for the transparent and reproducible transmission system operator efficiency comparison study, ACER should coordinate with the transmission system operators and ENTSO for Gas.**
- (36) Transmission system operators' expenditures are predominantly fixed costs. Their business model and the current national regulatory frameworks rely on the assumption of a long-term utilisation of their networks entailing long depreciation periods (30 to 60 years). In the context of the energy transition, regulatory authorities should therefore be able to anticipate gas demand decrease to modify the regulatory arrangements in due time and prevent a situation where the cost recovery of transmission system operators through tariffs threatens the affordability for consumers due to an increasing ratio of fixed costs to gas demand. Where necessary, the depreciation profile or remuneration of transmission assets could, for example, be modified.



- (37) Transparency on transmission system operators' allowed or target revenue should be increased to enable benchmarking and an assessment by network users. Increased transparency should also facilitate cross-border cooperation and the setting up of ITC mechanisms between operators either for regional integration or for the implementation of tariff discounts for renewable and low carbon gases as set out in this Regulation.
- (38) In order to exploit the most economic locations for the production of renewable and low carbon gases, network users should benefit from discounts in capacity-based ~~transmission~~ tariffs. These should include a discount for injection from renewable and low carbon gases production facilities, a discount for tariffs at entry points from and exit points to storage facilities, and a discount on the cross-border tariffs **at interconnection points between Member States and entry points from LNG facilities. Regulatory authorities should be able to decide not to apply the discounts to these tariffs under certain circumstances.** In case of a change of the value of non-cross border discounts, the regulatory authority **should** ~~needs to~~ balance out the interest between networks users and network operators taking into account stable financial frameworks specifically for existing investments, in particular for renewable production facilities. Where possible, indicators or conditions for changing the discount should be provided sufficiently before any decision to change the discount is taken. This discount should not affect the general tariff setting methodology, but should be provided ex-post on the relevant tariff. In order to benefit from the discount, network users should present **to the transmission system operator** the required information ~~towards the transmission system operator~~ on the basis of a certificate which would be linked to the union database.

- (39) Revenue decreases from the application of discounts ~~should~~**all** be treated as general revenue decreases, e.g. from reduced capacity sales and **would** need to be recovered via tariffs in a timely manner, for instance by an increase of the specific tariffs following the general rules contained in ~~Article 15 of~~ this Regulation. The Commission should be empowered to **adopt delegated acts to amend this Regulation by change** the discount levels ~~via delegated acts~~ to mitigate structural imbalances of revenues for transmission system operators.
- (40) In order to increase efficiencies in the natural gas distribution networks in the Union and to ensure close cooperation with transmission system operators and the ENTSO for Gas, an entity of distribution system operators in the Union ('EU DSO entity') should be provided for which also includes natural gas distribution system operators. The tasks of the EU DSO entity should be well-defined and its working method should ensure efficiency, transparency and representativeness among Union distribution system operators. **The EU DSO entity should be free to establish its statutes and rules of procedures taking into account the differences between natural gas and electricity sectors.** The EU DSO entity should closely cooperate with the ENTSO for Gas on the preparation and implementation of the network codes where applicable and should work on providing guidance on the integration inter alia of distributed generation and other areas, which relate to the management of distribution networks.

- (41) Distribution system operators have an important role to play when it comes to the integration of renewable and low carbon gases into the system, as for example about half of the biomethane production capacity is connected to the distribution grid. In order to facilitate the participation of these gases in the wholesale market, production facilities connected to the distribution grid in all Member States should have access to the virtual trading point. Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, distribution system operators and transmission system operators should work together to enable reverse flows from the distribution to the transmission network or to ensure the integration of the distribution system through alternative means, equivalent in effect, to facilitate the market integration of renewable and low carbon gases.
- (42) The integration of growing volumes of renewable and low-carbon gases in the European natural gas system will change the quality of natural gas transported and consumed in Europe. To ensure unhindered cross-border flow of natural gas, maintain the interoperability of markets and enable market integration, it is necessary to increase transparency on gas quality and on the costs of its management, provide for a harmonised approach on the roles and responsibilities of regulatory authorities and system operators and reinforce cross-border coordination. While ensuring a harmonised approach on gas quality for cross-border interconnection points, Member States' flexibility as regards the application of gas quality standards in their domestic natural gas systems should be maintained.

- (43) The blending of hydrogen into the natural gas system is less efficient compared to using hydrogen in its pure form and diminishes the value of hydrogen. It also affects the operation of gas infrastructure, end-user applications, and the interoperability of cross-border systems. The Member States' decision on whether to apply blending hydrogen in their national natural gas systems should be preserved. At the same time, a harmonised approach on blending hydrogen into the natural gas system in the form of a Union-wide allowed cap at cross-border interconnection points between Union Member States, where transmission system operators have to accept natural gas with a blended hydrogen level below the cap, would limit the risk of market segmentation. Adjacent transmission systems should remain free to agree on higher hydrogen blending levels for cross-border interconnection points.

**When considering such agreements, Member States should consult the other Member States if they are likely to be affected by the measure and take into account the situation in these countries.**

- (44) A strong cross-border coordination and dispute settlement process between transmission system operators on gas quality, including on biomethane and hydrogen blends, is essential to facilitate efficient transport of natural gas across natural gas systems within the Union and thereby to move towards greater internal market integration. Enhanced transparency requirements on gas quality parameters, including on gross calorific value, Wobbe Index and oxygen content, and hydrogen blends and their development over time combined with monitoring and reporting obligations should contribute to the well-functioning of an open and efficient internal market in natural gas.

- (44a) Member States should remain able to resort to their original gas quality specifications in case their regulatory authorities fail to reach an agreement on removing a cross-border restriction caused by differences in hydrogen blending levels or practices. To ensure unhindered cross-border flows and preserve the integrity of the internal energy market, the relevant regulatory authorities should be empowered to restart the common dispute settlement process on a rolling basis, in order to reflect the developments occurred in gas markets and technologies.**
- (45) In order to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation and to supplement this Regulation in respect of non-essential elements of certain specific areas which are fundamental for market integration, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making<sup>5</sup>. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council should receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts should systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

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<sup>5</sup> OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1

- (46) ~~Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703<sup>6</sup> sets out i~~Interoperability and data exchange rules for the natural gas system **as also set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703 are essential<sup>7</sup>**, in particular with respect to interconnection agreements, including rules for flow control, measurement principles for gas quantity and quality, rules for the matching process and for the allocation of gas quantities, communication procedures in case of exceptional events; common set of units, gas quality, including rules on managing cross-border trade restrictions due to gas quality differences and due to differences in odourisation practices, short- and long-term gas quality monitoring and information provision; data exchange, and reporting on gas quality; transparency, communication, information provision and cooperation among relevant market participants.
- (47) In order to ensure optimal management of the Union hydrogen network and to allow trading and supplying hydrogen across borders in the Union, a European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen ('ENNOH') should be established. The tasks of the ENNOH should be carried out in compliance with Union competition rules. The tasks of the ENNOH should be well-defined and its working method should ensure efficiency, transparency and the representative nature of the ENNOH. ~~The network codes prepared by ENNOH should not replace the necessary national network codes for non cross-border issues.~~

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<sup>6</sup> ~~Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703 of 30 April 2015 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules (OJ L 113, 1.5.2015, p. 13).~~

<sup>7</sup> **Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703 of 30 April 2015 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules (OJ L 113, 1.5.2015, p. 13).**

- (48) Until the ENNOH is established, a temporary platform should be set up under the lead of the Commission with the involvement of ACER and all relevant market participants, including the ENTSO for Gas, the ENTSO for Electricity and the EU DSO entity. This platform should support early work on scoping and developing issues relevant for the building up of the hydrogen network and markets without formal decision-making powers. The platform should be dissolved once ENNOH is established. Until the ENNOH is established, the ENTSO for Gas will be responsible for the development of Union-wide network development plans, including hydrogen networks.
- (49) In order to ensure transparency regarding the development of the hydrogen network in the Union, the ENNOH should establish, publish and regularly update a non-binding Union-wide ten-year network development plan for hydrogen targeted at the needs of the developing hydrogen markets. Viable hydrogen transportation networks and necessary interconnections, relevant from a commercial point of view, should be included in that network development plan. The ENNOH should participate in the development of the energy system wide cost-benefit analysis – including the interlinked energy market and network model including electricity, gas and hydrogen transport infrastructure as well as storage, LNG and electrolyzers –, the scenarios for the ten-year network development plans and the infrastructure gaps identification report as set out in Articles 11, 12 and 13 of **Regulation (EU) 2022/869 [the TEN-E Regulation as proposed in COM(2020) 824 final]** for the development of the lists of projects of common interest. For that purpose, the ENNOH should closely cooperate with the ENTSO for Electricity and the ENTSO for Gas to facilitate system integration. The ENNOH should undertake those tasks for the first time for the development of the 8th list of projects of common interest, provided it is operational and in the position to deliver the necessary input to the ten-year network development plan by 2026.

- (50) All market participants have an interest in the work expected of the ENNOH. An effective consultation process is therefore essential. Overall, ENNOH should seek, build on and integrate in its work experience with infrastructure planning, development and operation in cooperation with other relevant market participants and their associations.
- (51) Given that more effective progress may be achieved through an approach at regional level, hydrogen network operators should set up regional structures within the overall cooperation structure, while ensuring that results at regional level are compatible with network codes and Union-wide non-binding ten-year network development plans. Member States should promote cooperation and monitor the effectiveness of the network at regional level.
- (52) Transparency requirements are necessary to ensure that trust in the emerging hydrogen markets in the Union can develop among market participants. Equal access to information on the physical status and functioning of the hydrogen system is necessary to enable all market participants to assess the overall demand and supply situation and to identify the reasons for market price developments. Information should be always disclosed in a meaningful and easily accessible manner and on a non-discriminatory basis.
- (53) The ENNOH **should** ~~will~~ establish a central, web-based platform for making available all data relevant for market participants to gain effective access to the network.
- (54) The conditions for access to hydrogen networks in the early phase of market development should ensure efficient operation, non-discrimination and transparency for network users while preserving sufficient flexibility for operators. Limiting the maximum duration of capacity contracts should reduce the risk of contractual congestion and capacity hoarding.
- (55) General conditions for granting third-party access to hydrogen storage facilities and hydrogen terminals should be set out in order to ensure non-discriminatory access and transparency for network users.



- (56) Hydrogen network operators should cooperate to create network codes for providing and managing transparent and non-discriminatory access to the networks across borders and to ensure coordinated development of the network in the Union, including the creation of interconnection capacities. **The Commission should establish the first priority list for the identification of areas to be included in the development of network codes for hydrogen one year after the establishment of the ENNOH.** The network codes should be in line with non-binding framework guidelines developed by ACER. ACER should have a role in reviewing, based on matters of fact, draft network codes, including their compliance with the framework guidelines, and it should be enabled to recommend them for adoption by the Commission. ACER should assess proposed amendments to the network codes and it should be enabled to recommend them for adoption by the Commission. Hydrogen network operators should operate their networks in accordance with those network codes.
- (57) The network codes prepared by ~~the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen~~ **ENNOH** are not intended to replace the necessary national rules for non-cross-border issues.
- (58) The quality of hydrogen transported and consumed in Europe can vary depending on its production technology and transportation specificities. Therefore, a harmonised approach at Union level to hydrogen quality management at cross-border interconnectors should lead to the cross-border flow of hydrogen and to market integration.
- (59) ~~Where the regulatory authority considers it necessary, hydrogen network operators could become responsible for managing hydrogen quality in their networks, within the framework of applicable hydrogen quality standards, ensuring reliable and stable hydrogen quality for end consumers.~~

- (60) A strong cross-border coordination and dispute settlement process between hydrogen ~~system-network~~ operators is essential to facilitate the transport of hydrogen across hydrogen networks within the Union and thereby to move towards greater internal market integration. Enhanced transparency requirements on hydrogen quality parameters and on their development over time combined with monitoring and reporting obligations should contribute to the well-functioning of an open and efficient internal market in hydrogen.
- (61) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers in accordance with Article 291 of TFEU should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.<sup>8</sup>
- (62) To ensure the efficient operation of the European hydrogen networks, hydrogen network operators should be responsible for the operation, maintenance and development of the hydrogen transport network in close cooperation with other hydrogen network operators as well as with other system operators their networks are connected with, including to facilitate energy system integration.

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<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

- (63) It is in the interest of the functioning of the internal market to have standards which have been harmonised at Union level. Once the reference to such a standard has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union, compliance with it should raise a presumption of conformity with the corresponding requirements set out in the implementing measure adopted on the basis of this Regulation, although other means of demonstrating such conformity should be permitted. In line with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012, the European Commission can request European standardisation organisations to develop technical specifications, European standards and harmonised European standards. One of the main roles of harmonised standards should be to help operators in applying the implementing measures adopted under this Regulation and recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx.

**(63a) The current EU standardisation framework which is based on the New Approach principles and on Regulation (EU) No.1025/2012 represents the framework by default to elaborate standards that provide presumption of conformity with the relevant requirements of this Regulation or set out in specific implementing or delegated acts adopted on the basis of this Regulation. European standards should be market driven and take into account the public interest, as well as the policy objectives clearly stated in the Commission’s request to one or more European standardisation organisations to draft harmonised standards, within a set deadline and be based on consensus. However, in the absence of relevant references to harmonised standards, or when the standardisation process is blocked or there are delays in the establishment of appropriate harmonised standards, the Commission should be able to establish, via implementing or delegate acts, common specifications for the requirements of this Regulation, provided that in doing so it duly respects the standardisation organisations’ role and functions. This option should be understood as an exceptional fallback solution to facilitate operators in applying relevant measures under implementing or delegated acts adopted under this Regulation and recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx. If a delay in establishing harmonised standards is due to the technical complexity of the standard in question, this should be considered by the Commission before contemplating the establishment of common specifications.**

- (64) In order to fully take into account the quality requirements of hydrogen end-users, technical specifications and standards for the quality of hydrogen in the hydrogen network **should take into account** ~~will have to consider~~ already existing standards setting such end-user requirements (for instance, the standard EN 17124).
- (65) Hydrogen ~~system-network~~ operators should build sufficient cross-border capacity for the transportation of hydrogen accommodating all economically reasonable and technically feasible demands for such capacity, thereby enabling market integration.
- (66) ACER should publish a monitoring report on the status of congestion.
- (67) In view of the potential of hydrogen as energy carrier and the possibility that Member States will engage in trade in hydrogen with third countries, it is necessary to clarify that intergovernmental agreements ~~relating to energy~~ in the field of energy relating to gas subject to notification obligations in accordance with Decision (EU) 2017/684 include intergovernmental agreements relating to hydrogen, including hydrogen compounds such as ammonia and liquid organic hydrogen carriers.

**(67a) Investments in major new infrastructure should be strongly promoted while ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market of gases in natural gas. In order to enhance the positive effect of exempted infrastructure projects on competition and security of supply, market interest during the project planning phase should be tested and congestion management rules should be implemented. Where an infrastructure is located in the territory of more than one Member State, ACER should handle as a last resort the exemption request in order to take better account of its cross-border implications and to facilitate its administrative handling. Moreover, given the exceptional risk profile of constructing those exempted major infrastructure projects, it should be possible temporarily to grant partial or full derogations to undertakings with supply and production interests in respect of the unbundling rules for the projects concerned. The possibility of temporary derogations should apply, for security of supply reasons, in particular, to new pipelines within the Union transporting gas from third countries into the Union. Exemptions and derogations granted under Directives 2003/55/EC and 2009/73/EC with amendments should continue to apply until the scheduled expiry date as decided in the granted exemption decision or derogation.**

- (68) In reaction to the significant and EU-wide energy price increases evidenced in autumn 2021 and their negative impacts, the Communication of the Commission of 13 October 2021 entitled ‘Tackling rising energy prices: a toolbox for action and support’ highlighted the importance of an effective and well-functioning internal energy market and of the effective use of gas storages in Europe across the Single market. The Communication also emphasised that a better coordination of security of supply across borders is crucial for the resilience against future shocks. On 20/21 October 2021, the European Council adopted conclusions inviting the Commission to swiftly consider measures that increase the resilience of the EU’s energy system and the internal energy market, including measures which enhance security of supply. To contribute to a consistent and timely response to this crisis and possible new crisis at Union level, specific rules to improve cooperation and resilience, notably concerning better-coordinated storage and solidarity rules, should be introduced in this Regulation and in Regulation (EU) 2017/1938.

- (69) ~~The analysis of the functioning of the storage capacities in the regional common risk assessments should be based on objective assessments of the needs for the security of supply, duly taking into account cross-border cooperation and the solidarity obligations under this Regulation. It should also take into account the importance of avoiding stranded assets in the clean energy transition and the goal of reducing the dependency of the Union to external fossil fuels providers. The analysis should include an assessment of the risks linked to the control of storage infrastructure by third country entities. The analysis should take into account the possibility to use storage facilities in other Member States and for transmission system operators to set up joint procurement of strategic stocks for emergency situations provided that the conditions of this Regulation are respected. The regional common risk assessments and national risk assessments should be consistent with each other in order to identify the measures of the national preventive and emergency plans in compliance with this Regulation ensuring that any measures taken do not harm the security of supply of other Member States and do not unduly hinder the effective functioning of the gas market. For instance they should not block or restrict the use of cross-border transport capacities.~~
- (70) ~~Cooperation of Member States with the Contracting Parties to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community<sup>9</sup> that have large available storage capacities could support actions where storage in the Union is not feasible or cost effective. This can include the possibility to consider to use these storage capacities located outside the Union in the relevant common risk assessment. Member States **could may** request the relevant regional risk groups to invite experts from the third country to ad-hoc sessions of the regional risk groups without creating a precedent of regular and full participation.~~

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<sup>9</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ *OJ L 198, 20.7.2006, p. 18*



**(70a) The escalation of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine since February 2022 has led to declining gas supplies from that country. Notably, pipeline flows of gas from Russia through Belarus and the Nord Stream 1 pipeline have stopped and gas supplies through Ukraine have steadily decreased, seriously jeopardising the security of energy supply in the Union as a whole. Those weaponised reductions of natural gas supplies and manipulation of the markets through intentional disruptions of gas flows have laid bare vulnerabilities and dependencies in the Union and its Member States with the clear potential of a direct and serious impact on their essential international security interests. Past evidence has also shown that gas may be used to weaponise and manipulate energy markets, for instance by hoarding capacities in gas infrastructure, to the detriment of the Union's essential international security interests. In order to mitigate the impact of such events, both in the current context and for the future, Member States should exceptionally be able to take proportionate measures to limit temporarily up-front bidding for capacity by any single network user at entry points and at LNG terminals for deliveries from the Russian Federation and Belarus, where necessary to protect their essential security interests and those of the Union. This possibility should apply only in respect of the Russian Federation and Belarus, with a view to enabling Member States to respond with adequate measures to any threat to their essential security interests and those of the Union arising from the situation, including by reducing their dependency on Russian fossil fuels, in line with the REPowerEU objectives. Any such limitations should not run counter to international obligations of the Union or the Member States and should be in accordance with Article XXI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Before applying any such limitations, Member States should consult the Commission and, in so far as they are likely to be affected by the limitation, other Member States, the Energy Community Contracting Parties, the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and take into account the situation in those Member States and third countries, notably in terms of security of supply. Member States should take due account of potential effects of their measure on other Member States and notably respect the principle of energy solidarity, including with a view to ensuring security of supply, when assessing the appropriateness and scope of any envisaged limitation.**

- (71) ~~Joint procurement of strategic stocks by several transmission operators of different Member States should be designed in a way so that they can be used in case of Union-wide or regional emergency as part of the actions coordinated by the Commission pursuant to Article 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938. Transmission system operators which engage in joint procurement of strategic stocks should~~**all ensure that any joint purchasing agreement complies with the EU competition rules, and in particular with the requirements of Article 101 TFEU. The notification done to assess the compliance with this Regulation is without prejudice to the notification of aids granted by States, where applicable, under Article 108(3) TFEU.**
- (72) The European energy sector is undergoing an important change towards a decarbonised economy, while ensuring security of supply and competitiveness. While cybersecurity in the electricity sub-sector is already advancing with a network code on cross-border electricity flow, sector-specific mandatory rules for the gas sub-sector **which are in line with the general cybersecurity framework created by the Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS 2.0)** are needed to ensure security of the European energy system. **Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council lays down measures to achieve a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, while specific rules on cybersecurity need to be developed through a delegated act as laid down in this Regulation. This delegated act should complement Directive (EU) 2022/2555 by ensuring a continuous and comprehensive approach to carry out all sector specific steps from the risk assessment to the risk treatment and defining clear roles and instructions to carry out such steps by different stakeholders and authorities in the gas and hydrogen sector. The delegated act should define sector-specific rules for cyber security aspects of cross-border gas flows, including rules on common minimum requirements, planning, monitoring, reporting and crisis management, ensuring alignment with provisions laid down in Directive (EU) 2022/2555.**

- (73) As demonstrated in the Union wide simulation of 2017, ~~and 2021~~ **and 2022**, regional cooperation and solidarity measures are essential to ensure the resilience of the Union in case of serious deterioration of the supply situation. Solidarity measures should ensure the supply of protected solidarity customers such as households across borders in all situations. Member States should adopt the necessary measures for the implementation of the provisions concerning the solidarity mechanism, including by the Member States concerned agreeing on technical, legal and financial arrangements. Member States should describe the details of those arrangements in their emergency plans. For Member States who have not agreed the necessary bilateral agreement, the default template of this Regulation should apply in order to ensure such effective solidarity.
- (74) Such measures may therefore give rise to an obligation for a Member State to pay compensation to those affected by its measures. To ensure that the compensation paid by the Member State requesting solidarity to the Member State providing solidarity is fair and reasonable, the national energy regulator authority for energy or the national competition authority should have, as independent authority, the power to audit the amount of compensation requested and paid and if necessary request a rectification.
- ~~(74a) — Weaponized reduction of natural gas supplies and manipulation of the markets through intentional disruptions of gas flows have proven to lead to skyrocketing energy prices in the Union, endangering not only the economy of the Union, but also seriously undermining security of supply of the Union and its Member States. To ensure the security of supply, Member States may decide to take proportionate measures to temporarily limit up-front bidding for capacity by any single network user at entry points from third countries and at LNG terminals. When considering to take such decision, Member States should consult the Member States or Energy Community Contracting Parties which are likely to be affected by the measure and take into account the situation in these countries. The measures should also be assessed taking into account the principle of energy solidarity.~~

(75) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely the setting of fair rules for access conditions to natural gas transmission networks, storage and LNG facilities, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of such an action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

# Chapter I

## Subject matter, scope and definitions

### *Article 1*

#### **Subject matter and scope**

This Regulation :

- (a) sets non-discriminatory rules for access conditions to natural gas and hydrogen systems taking into account the special characteristics of national and regional markets with a view to ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market in gases ; and

~~(b)~~

- ~~(e)~~**(b)** facilitates the emergence **and operation** of a well-functioning and transparent wholesale market **in gases** with a high level of security of supply ~~in gases~~ and provides mechanisms to harmonise the network access rules for cross-border exchanges in gases .

The objectives referred to in the first subparagraph shall include the setting of harmonised principles for tariffs, or the methodologies underlying their calculation, for access to the natural gas network, but not to storage facilities, the establishment of third-party access services and harmonised principles for capacity-allocation and congestion-management, the determination of transparency requirements, balancing rules and imbalance charges, and the facilitation of capacity trading.

This Regulation, with the exception of Article 31(5), shall apply only to natural gas and hydrogen storage facilities falling under Article 29(3) or (4) of recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx.

The Member States may establish an entity or body set up in compliance with Recast Gas Directive as presented in COM xxx for the purpose of carrying out one or more functions typically attributed to the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator, which shall be subject to the requirements of this Regulation. That entity or body shall be subject to certification in accordance with Article 13 of this Regulation and shall be subject to designation in accordance with Article 65 of recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx.

## *Article 2*

### **Definitions**

1. For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:
  - (1) ‘regulatory asset base’ means all network assets of a **transmission system operator, distribution system operator and hydrogen** network operator used for the provision of regulated network services that are taken into account when calculating network related services revenue.
  - (2) ‘transmission’ means the transport of natural gas through a network, which mainly contains high-pressure pipelines, other than an upstream pipeline network and other than the part of high-pressure pipelines primarily used in the context of local distribution of natural gas, with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply;

- (3) 'transport contract' means a contract which the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator has concluded with a network user with a view to carrying out transport services for gases ;
- (4) 'capacity' means the maximum flow, expressed in normal cubic meters per time unit or in energy unit per time unit, to which the network user is entitled in accordance with the provisions of the transport contract;
- (5) 'unused capacity' means firm capacity which a network user has acquired under a transport contract but which that user has not nominated by the deadline specified in the contract;
- (6) 'congestion management' means management of the capacity portfolio of the transmission system operator with a view to optimal and maximum use of the technical capacity and the timely detection of future congestion and saturation points;
- (7) 'secondary market' means the market of the capacity traded otherwise than on the primary market;
- (8) 'nomination' means the prior reporting by the network user to the transmission system operator of the actual flow that the network user wishes to inject into or withdraw from the system;
- (9) 're-nomination' means the subsequent reporting of a corrected nomination;
- (10) 'system integrity' means any situation in which the pressure and the quality of the natural gas or hydrogen remain within the minimum and maximum limits, so that the transport of natural gas or hydrogen is guaranteed from a technical standpoint;
- (11) 'balancing period' means the period within which the off-take of an amount of gases, expressed in units of energy, must be offset by every network user by means of the injection of the same amount of gases in accordance with the network code;

- (12) 'network user' means a customer or a potential customer of a system operator, and system operators themselves in so far as it is necessary for them to carry out their functions in relation to transport of natural gas and hydrogen ;
- (13) 'interruptible services' means services offered by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator in relation to interruptible capacity;
- (14) 'interruptible capacity' means gas transmission capacity that may be interrupted by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the transport contract;
- (15) 'long-term services' means services offered by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator with a duration of one year or more;
- (16) 'short-term services' means services offered by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator with a duration of less than one year;
- (17) 'firm capacity' means gas transmission, **distribution and hydrogen transport** capacity contractually guaranteed as uninterruptible by the transmission **or distribution** system operator or hydrogen network operator;
- (18) 'firm services' mean services offered by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator in relation to firm capacity;
- (19) 'technical capacity' means the maximum firm capacity that can be offered to the network users, taking account of system integrity and the operational requirements of the transmission system or hydrogen network;
- (20) 'contracted capacity' means capacity that has been allocated to a network user by means of a transport contract;
- (21) 'available capacity' means the part of the technical capacity that is not allocated and is still available to the system at that moment;



- (22) 'contractual congestion' means a situation where the level of firm capacity demand exceeds the technical capacity;
- (23) 'primary market' means the market of the capacity traded directly by the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator;
- (24) 'physical congestion' means a situation where the level of demand for actual deliveries exceeds the technical capacity at some point in time;
- (25) 'LNG facility capacity' means capacity at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal for the liquefaction of natural gas or the importation, offloading, ancillary services, temporary storage and re-gasification of LNG;
- (26) 'space' means the volume of gases which a user of a storage facility is entitled to use for the storage of gases;
- (27) 'deliverability' means the rate at which the storage facility user is entitled to withdraw gases from the storage facility;
- (28) 'injectability' means the rate at which the storage facility user is entitled to inject gases into the storage facility;
- (29) 'storage capacity' means any combination of space, injectability and deliverability;;

- (30) ‘entry-exit system’ means ~~the aggregation of all transmission and distribution systems or all hydrogen networks to which one specific balancing regime applies an access model for natural gas transmission and distribution systems~~ where system users book capacity rights independently on entry- and exit points. The entry-exit system includes the transmission system and may include the distribution system or parts of a distribution system. ~~while only the tariffs for transmission level are set in accordance with the principles set out in Article 15 and the transmission capacity is allocated based on Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/459 [CAM Network Code];~~
- (31) ‘balancing zone’ means ~~an entry-exit~~ a system to which a specific balancing regime is applicable ~~and which may includes the transmission system and may include the transmission and distribution systems or parts of such a distribution systems;~~
- (32) ‘virtual trading point’ means a non-physical commercial point within an entry-exit system where gases are exchanged between a seller and a buyer without the need to book ~~transmission or distribution~~ capacity;
- (33) ‘entry point’ means a point subject to booking procedures by network users ~~or producers~~ providing access to an entry-exit system;
- (34) ‘exit point’ means a point subject to booking procedures by network users ~~or final customers~~ enabling gas flows out of the entry exit system;
- (35) ‘conditional capacity’ means firm capacity that entails transparent and predefined conditions for either providing access from and to the virtual trading point or limited allocability;
- (36) ‘allocability’ means the discretionary combination of any entry capacity with any exit capacity or vice versa;

- (37) ‘allowed revenue’ means the sum of transmission services revenue and non-transmission services revenue for the provision of services by the transmission system operator for a specific time period within a given regulatory period which such transmission system operator is entitled to obtain under a non-price cap regime and which is set in accordance with Article 72(7), point a, of [the Recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM (2021) xxx803; 75(6)(a) of Directive 2009/73/EC];
- (38) ‘target revenue’ means the sum of expected transmission services revenue calculated in accordance with the principles set out in Article 15(1) and expected non-transmission services revenue for the provision of services by the transmission system operator for a specific time period within a given regulatory period under a price cap regime;
- (398) ‘new infrastructure’ means an infrastructure not completed by 4 August 2003.
2. Without prejudice to the definitions in paragraph 1, the definitions contained in Article 2 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], which are relevant for the application of this Regulation, **shall** also apply.

The definitions in points 4 to 24 of paragraph 1 in relation to transmission **shall** apply by analogy in relation to storage and LNG facilities.

## CHAPTER II

# GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO THE NATURAL GAS AND HYDROGEN SYSTEMS

### SECTION 1

#### GENERAL RULES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS

##### *Article 3*

##### **General principles**

Member States, regulatory authorities, ~~transmission system operators, distribution system operators, storage operators, LNG operators,~~ natural gas system operators and hydrogen system operators, and delegated operators such as market area ~~operators~~ managers or booking platform operators shall ensure that ~~gases~~ markets **for gases** are operated in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) prices for gases shall be formed on the basis of demand and supply;
- (b) transmission and distribution system operators shall cooperate with each other to provide network users with the freedom to book entry and exit capacity independently. Gas shall be transported through the entry-exit system instead of along contractual paths;

- (c) tariffs charged at the entry and exit points shall be structured in such a way as to contribute to market integration, enhancing security of supply and promoting the interconnection between gas networks;
- (d) undertakings active in the same entry-exit system shall exchange ~~gas~~ **gases** at the virtual trading point, **or physically at interconnection points. Producers of renewable and low-carbon gases shall have equal access to the virtual trading point, irrespective of whether they are connected to the distribution or transmission system;**
- (e) network users shall be responsible to balance their balancing portfolios in order to minimise the need for transmission system operators to undertake balancing actions;
- (f) balancing actions shall be performed on the basis of standardized products **in line with the ~~Balancing Network Code~~ network code on balancing [COM Regulation 312/2014] or established pursuant to Article 6(11) of Regulation 715/2009 53(1) point (d) and** conducted on a trading platform **and or by the use of balancing services in line with thate ~~Balancing Network Code~~ network code [COM Regulation 312/2014];**
- (g) market rules shall avoid actions which prevent price formation on the basis of demand and supply for gases;
- (h) market rules shall foster the emergence and functioning of liquid trading for gases, fostering price formation and price transparency;
- (i) market rules shall enable the decarbonisation of the natural gas and hydrogen systems, including by enabling the integration into the market of gases ~~of gas~~ from renewable energy sources and by providing incentives for energy efficiency , **demand reduction, and-demand flexibility and energy system integration;**

- (j) market rules shall deliver appropriate investment incentives, in particular for long-term investments in a decarbonised and sustainable ~~gas~~-system **for gases**, for energy storage, energy efficiency, **demand reduction** and demand response to meet market needs **and system integration needs**, and shall facilitate fair competition and security of supply;
- (k) barriers to cross-border gas flows, if existing, between entry-exit systems shall be removed;
- (l) market rules shall facilitate regional cooperation and integration.

#### *Article 4*

#### **Separation of ~~regulated~~ regulatory asset bases**

1. Where a transmission **or distribution system operator** or a **hydrogen** network operator provides regulated services for **natural** gas, hydrogen and/or electricity, it shall comply with the requirement for unbundling of accounts as laid down in Article 69 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] and Article 56 of Directive (EU) 2019/944 and it shall have a ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base separately for **natural** gas, electricity or hydrogen assets. A separate ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base shall ensure that:
  - (a) services revenues obtained from the provision of specific regulated services can only be used to recover the capital and operational expenditures related **to** the assets included in the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** assets base on which the regulated services were provided;
  - (b) when assets are transferred to a different ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base, their value ~~will be~~ **is** established. The value set for the transferred asset is subject to an audit and approval by the competent regulatory authority. The value **established is** ~~will be~~ such that cross-subsidies do not occur.

2. A Member State may allow financial transfers between regulated services that are separate ~~as meant in~~ **within the meaning of in the first** paragraph 1, provided that:
- (a) all revenues needed for the financial transfer are collected as a dedicated charge;
  - (b) the dedicated charge is collected only from exit points to final customers located within the same Member States as the beneficiary of the financial transfer;
  - (c) the dedicated charge and financial transfer or the methodologies underlying their calculation are approved prior to their entry into force by the regulatory authority referred to in Article 70 of **[recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx]**;
  - (d) the approved dedicated charge and financial transfer and the methodologies, where methodologies are approved, are published. ~~They will be published no later than~~ **thirty days before their date of implementation.**
3. The regulatory authority may only approve a financial transfer and dedicated charge referred to in paragraph 2, provided that:
- (a) network access tariffs are charged to users of the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base that benefits from a financial transfer;
  - (b) the sum of financial transfers and service revenues collected through network access tariffs ~~are cannot be~~ larger than the allowed **and target** revenues;
  - (c) a financial transfer is approved for a limited period in time and, **in no event, for a longer period** ~~can never be longer~~ than one third of the **remaining** depreciation period of the infrastructure concerned.

4. By [date of adoption +=1 year] ACER shall issue recommendations to transmission, **distribution system ~~or~~ and hydrogen** network operators and regulatory authorities on the methodologies for:
- (a) the determination of the value of the assets that are transferred to another ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base and the destination of any profits and losses that may occur as a result;
  - (b) the calculation of the size and maximum duration of the financial transfer and dedicated charge;
  - (c) the criteria to allocate contributions to the dedicated charge among final consumers connected **to** the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base.

ACER shall update the recommendations at least once every two years

#### *Article 5*

#### **Third-party access services concerning transmission system operators**

1. Transmission system operators shall:
- (a) ~~ensure that they~~ offer capacity and services on a non-discriminatory basis to all network users;
  - (b) provide both firm and interruptible capacity. The price of interruptible capacity shall reflect the probability of interruption;
  - (c) offer to network users both long and short-term capacity .



In regard to point (a) of the first subparagraph, where a transmission system operator offers the same service to different customers, it shall do so under equivalent contractual terms and conditions, either using harmonised transport contracts or a common network code approved by the competent authority in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 72 or 73 of recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx.

2. Transport contracts signed with non-standard start dates or with a shorter duration than a standard annual transport contract shall not result in arbitrarily higher or lower tariffs that do not reflect the market value of the service, in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 15(1).
3. Where two or more interconnection points connect the same two adjacent entry-exit systems, the adjacent transmission system operators concerned shall offer the available capacities at the interconnection points at one virtual interconnection point. Any contracted capacity at the interconnection points, regardless of the date of its conclusion, shall be transferred to the virtual interconnection point.

A virtual interconnection point shall be established only if the following conditions are met:

- (a) the total technical capacity at the virtual interconnection points shall be equal to or higher than the sum of the technical capacities at each of the interconnection points contributing to the virtual interconnection points;
- (b) the virtual interconnection point facilitates the economic and efficient use of the system including but not limited to rules set out in Article 9 and 10 of this Regulation.

4. Where appropriate, third-party access services may be granted subject to appropriate guarantees from network users with respect to the creditworthiness of such users. Such guarantees shall not constitute undue market-entry barriers and shall be non-discriminatory, transparent and proportionate.
5. Transmission system operators shall, if necessary for the purpose of carrying out their functions including in relation to cross-border transmission, have access to the network of other transmission system operators.
6. **Paragraphs 1 to 5 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for Member States to take proportionate measures to temporarily limit, for a fixed term, up-front bidding for capacity by any single network user at entry points from the Russian Federation or Belarus, where this is necessary to protect their essential security interests and those of the Union, and provided that such measures:**
  - i. **do not unduly disrupt the proper functioning of the internal gas market, and cross-border flows of natural gas between Member States, and do not undermine the security of supply of the Union or a Member state**
  - ii. **respect for the principle of energy solidarity,**
  - iii. **are taken in compliance with the rights and obligations of the Member States and of the Union with respect to third countries.**

**Before deciding on a measure referred in the first subparagraph, the Member State concerned shall consult the Commission and, in so far as they are likely to be affected by the measure, other Member States, the Energy Community Contracting Parties, third countries that are Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The relevant Member States shall take the utmost account of the situation in those Member States and third countries and any concerns raised in that respect by those Member States, third countries or the Commission.**

## Article 6

### Third-party access services concerning hydrogen network operators

1. Hydrogen network operators shall offer their services on a non-discriminatory basis to all network users. Where the same service is offered to different customers, it shall be offered under equivalent contractual terms and conditions. Hydrogen network operators shall publish contractual terms and tariffs charged for network access and, if applicable, balancing charges, on their website.
2. The maximum capacity of a hydrogen network shall be made available to market participants, taking into account system integrity and efficient **and safe** network operation.
3. The maximum duration for capacity contracts shall be 20 years for infrastructure completed by ~~[date of entry into force]~~ **1 January 2031** and 15 years for infrastructure completed after ~~that~~**is** date. Regulatory authorities shall have the right to impose shorter maximum durations if necessary to ensure market functioning, to safeguard competition and to ensure future cross-border integration.
4. Hydrogen network operators shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent congestion-management procedures, which also facilitate cross-border exchanges in hydrogen on a non-discriminatory basis.
5. Hydrogen network operators shall regularly assess market demand for new investment, taking into account security of supply and the efficiency of the final hydrogen uses.
6. As of 1 January ~~[2031]~~**16**, hydrogen networks shall be organised as entry-exit systems.
- 6a. **Member States may decide not to apply paragraph 6 to hydrogen networks which benefit from a derogation pursuant to Article 48 [Recast Gas Directive] and are not connected to another hydrogen network .**

7. As of 1 ~~J~~January [203~~16~~], Article 15 shall apply also to tariffs for access to hydrogen networks **and the obligations on transmission system operators set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 15 shall apply to hydrogen network operators** ~~mutandis mutandis.~~  
~~mutatis mutandis.~~

**Articles 16 and 17 shall not apply to hydrogen networks, but only to the natural gas system. No tariffs shall be charged pursuant to Article 15 for access to hydrogen networks** ~~a~~At interconnection points between Member States, **when capacity is allocated via auctions, competent national authorities may decide to apply zero reserve price.**

Where a Member State decides to apply regulated third party access to hydrogen networks in accordance with Article 31 of [recast Gas Directive] before 1 January [203~~16~~], paragraph 1 of Article 15 shall be applicable to access tariff to hydrogen networks in that Member State.

8. As of 1 January [203~~16~~], hydrogen network operators shall comply with the requirements on transmission system operators pursuant to Articles 5, 9 and 12 when offering their services, and **shall** publish tariffs for each network point on an online platform operated by the ENNOH. Until a network code on capacity allocation for hydrogen networks has been adopted pursuant to Article 54(2), point (d) and has entered into force, such publication **may** ~~can~~ occur via links to the publication of tariffs on websites of hydrogen network operators.

## *Article 7*

### **Third-party access services concerning natural gas storage , hydrogen terminals and LNG facilities and hydrogen storage facilities**

1. Operators of LNG facilities and hydrogen terminals, hydrogen storage facility operators as well as natural gas storage system operators shall:
  - (a) offer services on a non-discriminatory basis to all network users that accommodate market demand; in particular, where an operator of LNG facilities or a hydrogen terminals, hydrogen storage facility or natural gas storage system operator offers the same service to different customers, it shall do so under equivalent contractual terms and conditions;
  - (b) offer services that are compatible with the use of the interconnected natural gas and hydrogen transport systems and facilitate access through cooperation with the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator; and
  - (c) make relevant information public, in particular data on the use and availability of services, in a time-frame compatible with ~~the LNG or storage facility users'~~ reasonable commercial needs of users of LNG or storage facilities, hydrogen terminals or hydrogen storage facilities, subject to the monitoring of such publication by the regulatory authority.

2. Each storage system operator shall:
  - (a) provide both firm and interruptible third-party access services; the price of interruptible capacity shall reflect the probability of interruption;
  - (b) offer to storage facility users both long and short-term services;
  - (c) offer to storage facility users both bundled and unbundled services of storage ~~space~~ **capacity, injectability and deliverability.**
3. Each LNG system operator shall offer to LNG facility users both bundled and unbundled services, within the LNG facility depending on the needs expressed by LNG facility users.
4. LNG and natural gas storage facility contracts shall not result in arbitrarily higher tariffs in cases in which they are signed:
  - (a) outside a natural gas year with non-standard start dates; or
  - (b) with a shorter duration than a standard LNG and storage facility contract on an annual basis.

Hydrogen storage facility and hydrogen terminal contracts with a shorter duration than a standard LNG and storage facility contract on an annual basis shall not result in arbitrarily higher tariffs.

5. Where appropriate, third-party access services may be granted subject to appropriate guarantees from network users with respect to the creditworthiness of such users. Such guarantees shall not constitute undue market-entry barriers and shall be non-discriminatory, transparent and proportionate.

- 6 Contractual limits on the required minimum size of LNG facility or hydrogen terminal capacity and natural gas or hydrogen storage capacity shall be justified on the basis of technical constraints and shall permit smaller storage users to gain access to storage services.
7. **Paragraphs 1-6 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for Member States to take proportionate measures to temporarily limit, for a fixed term, up-front bidding for capacity by any single network user at LNG terminals for deliveries from the Russian Federation or Belarus, where this is necessary to protect their essential security interests and those of the Union, and provided that such measures:**
- i. **do not unduly disrupt the proper functioning of the internal gas market, and cross-border flows of natural gas between Member States, and do not undermine the security of supply of the Union or a Member State**
  - ii. **respect for the principle of energy solidarity,**
  - iii. **are taken in compliance with the rights and obligations of the Member States and of the Union with respect to third countries.**

**Before deciding on a measure referred in the first subparagraph, the Member State concerned shall consult the Commission and, in so far as they are likely to be affected by the measure, other Member States, the Energy Community Contracting Parties, third countries that are Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The relevant Member States shall take the utmost account of the situation in those Member States and third countries and any concerns raised in that respect by those Member States, third countries or the Commission.**

## *Article 8*

### **Market assessment for renewable and low carbon gases by LNG and storage system operators**

LNG and storage system operators shall, at least every two years, assess market demand for new investment allowing the use of renewable and low carbon gases, **including hydrogen compounds such as liquid ammonia and liquid organic hydrogen carriers**, in the facilities. When planning new investments, LNG and storage system operators shall assess market demand and take into account security of supply. LNG and storage system operators shall make publicly available any plans regarding new investments allowing the usage of renewable and low carbon gases in their facilities.

## *Article 9*

### **Principles of capacity-allocation mechanisms and congestion-management procedures concerning transmission system operators**

1. The maximum capacity at all relevant points referred to in Article 30 (3) shall be made available to market participants, taking into account system integrity and efficient network operation.
2. The transmission system operator shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent capacity-allocation mechanisms, which shall:
  - (a) provide appropriate economic signals for the efficient and maximum use of technical capacity, facilitate investment in new infrastructure and facilitate cross-border exchanges in natural gas;



- (b) be compatible with the market mechanisms including spot markets and trading hubs, while being flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances; and
  - (c) be compatible with the network access systems of the Member States.
- 3. The transmission system operator shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent congestion-management procedures which facilitate cross-border exchanges in natural gas on a non-discriminatory basis and which shall be based on the following principles:
  - (a) in the event of contractual congestion, the transmission system operator shall offer unused capacity on the primary market at least on a day-ahead and interruptible basis; and
  - (b) network users who wish to re-sell or sublet their unused contracted capacity on the secondary market shall be entitled to do so.

As regards the first subparagraph, point (a), ~~point (a)~~, a Member State may require notification or information of the transmission system operator by network users.

- 4. Transmission system operators shall regularly assess market demand for new investment taking into account the joint scenario as developed for the integrated network development plan based on Article 51 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] as well as security of supply.

## *Article 10*

### **Principles of capacity-allocation mechanisms and congestion-management procedures concerning natural gas storage , hydrogen terminals, hydrogen storage facilities and LNG facilities**

1. The maximum capacity of a natural gas storage **facility**~~and~~, LNG **facility** or hydrogen storage facility as well as of hydrogen terminals shall be made available to market participants, taking into account system integrity and operation.
2. **Operators of** LNG and hydrogen storage facilities as well as hydrogen terminal and natural gas storage system operators shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent capacity-allocation mechanisms which shall:
  - (a) provide appropriate economic signals for the efficient and maximum use of capacity and facilitate investment in new infrastructure;
  - (b) be compatible with the market mechanisms including spot markets and trading hubs, while being flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances;
  - (c) be compatible with the connected network access systems.

3. Contracts for LNG terminals, hydrogen terminals, and hydrogen and natural gas storage facilities shall include measures to prevent capacity-hoarding, by taking into account the following principles, which shall apply in cases of contractual congestion:
- (a) the system operator shall offer unused ~~LNG facility, hydrogen terminal, hydrogen and natural gas storage~~ capacity on the primary market without delay; for **natural gas** storage facilities this shall be at least on a day-ahead and interruptible basis;
  - (b) ~~LNG facility, hydrogen terminal, hydrogen storage facility and natural gas storage facility~~ Users who wish to re-sell their contracted capacity on the secondary market shall be entitled to do so; LNG facility, hydrogen terminal, **hydrogen storage** and **natural gas** storage system operators, individually or regionally, shall ensure **the availability of** a transparent and non-discriminatory booking platform for LNG facility, hydrogen terminal, **hydrogen storage facility** and **natural gas** storage facility users to re-sell their contracted capacity on the secondary market no later than 18 months after [date of entry into force of this Regulation].

## *Article 11*

### **Trading of capacity rights**

Each transmission, storage, LNG and hydrogen system operator shall take reasonable steps to allow capacity rights to be freely tradable and to facilitate such trade in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. Every such operator shall develop harmonised contracts and procedures for transport, LNG facilities, hydrogen terminals and natural gas and hydrogen storage facilities on the primary market to facilitate secondary trade of capacity and shall recognise the transfer of primary capacity rights where notified by system users.

The harmonised contracts and procedures shall be notified to the regulatory authorities.

**Balancing rules and imbalance charges**

1. Balancing rules shall be designed in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent manner and shall be based on objective criteria. Balancing rules shall reflect genuine system needs taking into account the resources available to the transmission system operator. Balancing rules shall be market-based.
2. In order to enable network users to take timely corrective action, the transmission system operator shall provide sufficient, well-timed and reliable on-line based information on the balancing status of network users.

The information provided shall reflect the level of information available to the transmission system operator and the settlement period for which imbalance charges are calculated.

No charge shall be made for the provision of information under this paragraph.

3. Imbalance charges shall be cost-reflective to the extent possible, whilst providing appropriate incentives on network users to balance their input and off-take of gas. They shall avoid cross-subsidisation between network users and shall not hamper the entry of new market entrants.

Any calculation methodology for imbalance charges as well as the final values shall be made public by the competent authorities or the transmission system operator, as appropriate.

4. Member States shall ensure that transmission system operators endeavour to harmonise balancing regimes and streamline structures and levels of balancing charges in order to facilitate gas trade carried out at the virtual trading point.

**Certification of transmission system operators and hydrogen network operators**

1. The Commission shall examine any notification of a decision on the certification of a transmission system operator or a hydrogen network operator as laid down in Article 65(6) of [the recast gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021)xxx] as soon as it is received. Within two months of the day of receipt of such notification, the Commission shall deliver its opinion to the relevant regulatory authority in regard to its compatibility with Article 65(2) or Article 66, and Article 54 of Recast Gas Directive for transmission system operators, and Article ~~65~~**62** of that Directive for hydrogen network operators.

When preparing the opinion referred to in the first subparagraph, the Commission may request ACER to provide its opinion on the regulatory authority's decision. In such a case, the two-month period referred to in the first subparagraph shall be extended by two further months.

In the absence of an opinion by the Commission within the periods referred to in the first and second subparagraphs, the Commission shall be deemed not to raise objections against the regulatory authority's decision.

2. Within two months of receiving an opinion of the Commission, the regulatory authority shall adopt its final decision regarding the certification of the transmission system operator or hydrogen network operator, taking the utmost account of that opinion. The regulatory authority's decision and the Commission's opinion shall be published together.
3. At any time during the procedure regulatory authorities or the Commission may request from a transmission system operator, a hydrogen network operator and/or an undertaking performing any of the functions of production or supply any information relevant to the fulfilment of their tasks under this Article.

4. Regulatory authorities and the Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
5. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to supplementing this Regulation by** ~~to providing~~ guidelines setting out the details of the procedure to be followed for the application of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.
6. Where the Commission has received notification of the certification of a transmission system operator under Article 54(10) of recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx, the Commission shall take a decision relating to certification. The regulatory authority shall comply with the Commission decision.

## Article 13b<sup>10</sup>

### Certification of storage system operators

1. **Member States shall ensure that each storage system operator, including any storage system operator controlled by a transmission system operator, is certified in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Article, either by the national regulatory authority or by another competent authority designated by the Member State concerned pursuant to Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>11</sup> (in either case, “certifying authority”).**  
  
**This Article also applies to storage system operators controlled by transmission system operators which have already been certified under the unbundling rules laid down in Articles 9, 10 and 11 of Directive 2009/73/EC.**

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<sup>10</sup> **The whole article incorporates in the text the provision of Article 3a as introduced in the 2009 Gas regulation by Regulation (EU) 2022/1032. [Cross referencing will be adapted at a later stage].**

<sup>11</sup> **Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 (OJ L 280, 28.10.2017, p. 1).’.”**

2. The certifying authority shall issue a draft certification decision in respect of storage system operators that operate underground gas storage facilities with a capacity of over 3,5 TWh where, regardless of the number of storage system operators, total storage facilities were filled on 31 March 2021 and on 31 March 2022 at a level which, on average, was less than 30 % of their maximum capacity by 1 February 2023 or within 150 working days of the date of receipt of a notification pursuant to paragraph 9.

In respect of storage system operators as referred to in the first subparagraph, the certifying authority shall make its best efforts to issue a draft certification decision by 1 November 2022.

In respect of all other storage system operators, the certifying authority shall issue a draft certification decision by 2 January 2024 or within 18 months of the date of receipt of a notification pursuant to paragraph 8 or 9.

3. In considering the risk to the security of energy supply in the Union, the certifying authority shall take into account any security of gas supply risk at national, regional or Union-wide level as well as any mitigation of such risk, resulting, inter alia, from:
- (a) ownership, supply or other commercial relationships that could negatively affect the incentives and the ability of the storage system operator to fill the underground gas storage facility;
  - (b) the rights and obligations of the Union with respect to a third country arising under international law, including any agreement concluded with one or more third countries to which the Union is a party and which addresses the issue of the security of energy supply;

(c) the rights and obligations of the Member States concerned with respect to a third country arising under agreements concluded by the Member States concerned with one or more third countries, in so far as those agreements comply with Union law; or

(d) any other specific facts and circumstances of the case.

4. If the certifying authority concludes that a person who directly or indirectly controls, or exercises any right over, the storage system operator within the meaning of Article 9 of [recast Directive] ~~2009/73/EC~~ could endanger the security of energy supply or the essential security interests of the Union or of any Member State, the certifying authority shall refuse the certification. Alternatively, the certifying authority may issue a certification decision subject to conditions to ensure the sufficient mitigation of the risks which could negatively influence the filling of the underground gas storage facilities, provided that the practicability of the conditions can be fully ensured by effective implementation and monitoring. Such conditions may include, in particular, a requirement that the storage system owner or storage system operator transfer management of the storage system.
5. Where the certifying authority concludes that the gas supply risks cannot be mitigated by conditions pursuant to paragraph 4, including by requiring the storage system owner or storage system operator to transfer management of the storage system, and therefore refuses the certification, it shall:



- (a) require the storage system owner or storage system operator or any person that it considers could endanger the security of energy supply or the essential security interests of the Union or of any Member State to dispose of the shareholding or rights they have over the storage system ownership or storage system operator ownership, and set a time limit for such disposal;**
- (b) order, where appropriate, interim measures, to ensure that such a person is not able to exercise any control or right over that storage system owner or storage system operator until the disposal of the shareholding or rights; and**
- (c) provide for appropriate compensatory measures in accordance with national law.**

**6. The certifying authority shall notify its draft certification decision to the Commission without delay, together with all relevant information.**

**The Commission shall deliver an opinion on the draft certification decision to the certifying authority within 25 working days of such notification. The certifying authority shall take the utmost account of the Commission's opinion.**

**7. The certifying authority shall issue the certification decision within 25 working days of receipt of the Commission's opinion.**

**8. Before a newly built underground gas storage facility is put into operation, the storage system operator shall be certified in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 7. The storage system operator shall notify the certifying authority of its intention to put the storage facility into operation.**

**9. Storage system operators shall notify the relevant certifying authority of any planned transaction which would require a reassessment of their compliance with the certification requirements set out in paragraphs 1 to 4.**

- 10. Certifying authorities shall continuously monitor storage system operators as regards compliance with the certification requirements set out in paragraphs 1 to 4. They shall open a certification procedure to reassess compliance in any of the following circumstances:**
- (a) upon receipt of a notification by the storage system operator pursuant to paragraph 8 or 9;**
  - (b) on their own initiative where they have knowledge that a planned change in rights or in influence over a storage system operator could lead to non-compliance with the requirements of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3;**
  - (c) upon a reasoned request from the Commission.**
- 11. Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure the continuous operation of the underground gas storage facilities on their respective territories. Those underground gas storage facilities may cease operations only where technical and safety requirements are not met or where the certifying authority concludes, after having conducted an assessment and having taken into account the opinion of the ENTSO for Gas, that such a cessation would not weaken the security of gas supply at Union or national level.**
- Appropriate compensatory measures shall be taken, where appropriate, if cessation of operations is not allowed.**
- 12. The Commission may issue guidance on the application of this Article.**
- 13. This Article shall not apply to parts of LNG facilities that are used for storage.**

## *Article 14*

### **Cooperation of transmission system operators**

1. Transmission system operators shall cooperate with other transmission system and infrastructure operators in coordinating the maintenance of their respective networks in order to minimise any disruption of transmission services to network users and transmission system operators in other areas.
2. Transmission system operators shall cooperate with each other as well as with other infrastructure operators with the objective to maximise technical capacity within the entry-exit system and minimize the use of fuel gas to the extent possible.

## SECTION 2

### NETWORK ACCESS

#### *Article 15*

##### **Tariffs for access to networks**

1. Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, applied by the transmission system operators and approved by the regulatory authorities pursuant to Article 72(7) of Recast Gas Directive, as well as tariffs published pursuant to Article 27(1) of that Directive, shall be transparent, take into account the need for system integrity and its improvement and reflect the actual costs incurred, insofar as such costs correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and are transparent, whilst including an appropriate return on investments. Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, shall be applied in a non discriminatory manner.

Tariffs may also be determined through market-based arrangements, such as auctions, provided that such arrangements and the revenues arising therefrom are approved by the regulatory authority.

Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, shall facilitate efficient gas trade and competition, while at the same time avoiding cross-subsidies between network users and providing incentives for investment and maintaining or creating interoperability for transmission networks.

Tariffs for network users shall be non-discriminatory and set separately for every entry point into or exit point out of the transmission system. Cost-allocation mechanisms and rate setting methodology regarding entry points and exit points shall be approved by the regulatory authorities. Member States shall ensure that network charges shall not be calculated on the basis of contract paths.

2. Tariffs for network access shall neither restrict market liquidity nor distort trade across borders of different transmission systems. Where differences in tariff structures would hamper trade across transmission systems, and notwithstanding Article 72(7) of Recast Gas Directive, transmission system operators shall, in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities, actively pursue convergence of tariff structures and charging principles.
- 3.<sup>12</sup> **The national regulatory authority may apply a discount of up to 100 % to capacity-based transmission and distribution tariffs at entry points from, and exit points to, underground gas storage facilities and LNG facilities, unless and to the extent that such a facility which is connected to more than one transmission or distribution network is used to compete with an interconnection point. This paragraph shall apply until 31 December 2025.**
4. **Regulatory authorities may merge adjacent entry-exit systems with a view to enable a full or partial regional integration where tariffs can be abolished at the interconnection points between the concerning entry-exit systems. Following the public consultation by the regulatory authorities or the transmission system operators, the regulatory authorities may approve a common tariff and an effective ~~Inter-TSO~~ compensation mechanism between transmission system operators for the redistribution of costs on account of the abolished ~~IPs~~ interconnection points and based on the proposal of an agreement between the transmission system operators.**

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<sup>12</sup> From Regulation (EU) 2022/1032

## Article 16

### Tariff discounts for renewable and low carbon gases

1. When setting tariffs, a discount for renewable and low carbon gases shall be applied to:
  - (a) entry points from renewable and low carbon production facilities. A discount of ~~75~~**[100]**% shall be applied to the respective capacity-based tariffs for the purposes of scaling-up the injection of renewable **gases** and **a discount of [75]% to** low-carbon gases;
  - (b) capacity-based transmission tariffs at entry points from and exit points to storage facilities, unless a storage facility is connected to more than one transmission or distribution network and used to compete with an interconnection point. Such a discount shall be set at a level of ~~75~~ **[100]**% in the Member States where the renewable and low carbon gas was first injected into **the** system.

(paragraph moved to the end of the article and modified)

- ~~2. Regulatory authorities may decide not to apply discounts or to set discount rates lower than those set in paragraph 1 of this Article provided that the discount is in line with the general tariff principles as set out in Article 15 and in particular the principle of cost-reflectiveness, taking into account a need for stable financial frameworks for existing investments where appropriate, and the advancement of the roll-out of renewable and low carbon gases in the Member State concerned.~~
3. Details on the discounts granted in accordance with paragraph 1 may be set in the network code on tariff structures as referred to in Article 53~~2~~(1), point (e).

4. The Commission shall re-examine the tariff reductions pursuant to paragraph 1 **and 5** [5 years after entry into force of the Regulation]. It shall issue a report providing an overview of their implementation and assess whether the level of the reductions set in paragraph 1 **and 5** is still adequate in view of the latest market developments. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to amend this Regulation by in-order-to-changing** the discount levels as set in paragraph 1 **and 5**.
5. As of 1 January in [~~the~~ year after the adoption], network users shall receive a discount of [100]% on the ~~regulated capacity-based~~ tariff from the transmission system operator at all interconnection points ~~between Member States, including entry points from and exit points to third countries as well as entry points from LNG terminals~~ for renewable gases and [75]% for low-carbon gases, after providing the respective transmission system operator with a proof of sustainability, based on a valid sustainability certificate pursuant to Articles 29 and 30 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 ~~2001~~ of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>13</sup> and registered in the Union database.

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<sup>13</sup> Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (*OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82*).

With regard to the ~~is~~-discount **referred to in the first subparagraph**:

- (a) Transmission system operators shall be required to provide the discount only for the shortest possible route in terms of border crossings between the location of where the specific proof of sustainability declaration, based on the sustainability certificate, was first recorded in the Union database and where it has been cancelled as considered consumed. Any potential auction premium shall not be covered by the discount.
- (b) Transmission system operators shall provide information on actual and expected volumes of renewable and low carbon gases and the effect of applying the tariff discount on their revenues towards the respective regulatory authority. Regulatory authorities shall monitor and assess the impact of the discount on tariff stability.
- (c) Once the revenue of a transmission system operator from these specific tariffs is reduced by 10% as a result of applying the discount, the affected and all neighbouring transmission system operators ~~shall be required to~~ negotiate an inter transmission system operator compensation mechanism. The **transmission** system operators concerned shall agree within 3 years. Where within that time period no agreement is reached, the involved regulatory authorities shall decide jointly on an appropriate inter transmission system operator compensation mechanism within 2 years. In absence of agreement among the regulatory authorities, Article 6 of ACER Regulation shall apply. Where the regulatory authorities have not been able to reach agreement within 2 years, or upon their joint request, ACER shall decide, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.



- (d) Further details required to implement the discount for renewable and low carbon gases, such as the calculation of the eligible capacity for which the discount applies and the required processes, shall be set in a network code established on the basis of Article 53 of this Regulation.

**26. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 and 5, ~~Regulatory authorities may decide not to apply discounts or to~~ set discount rates lower than those set in paragraph 1 and 5 of ~~this Article~~ provided that ~~the discount~~ it is in line with the general tariff principles as set out in Article 15 and in particular the principle of cost-reflectiveness, taking into account ~~the~~ a need for stable financial frameworks for existing investments, ~~where appropriate, and~~ the advancement of the roll-out of renewable and low-carbon gases in the Member State concerned **and the existence of alternative support mechanisms for scaling up the use of renewable and or low carbon gases, where appropriate.****

## *Article 17*

### **Revenues of ~~gas~~ transmission system operators**

1. As of [1 year after **adoption transposition**], the relevant regulatory authority shall ensure transparency on the methodologies, parameters and values used to determine allowed or target revenues of transmission system operators. The regulatory authority shall publish the information referred to in Annex I, or shall require the publication by the relevant transmission system operator ~~provided its publication complies with~~ **subject to the protection of commercially sensitive data**. This information shall be made available in a **freely accessible, downloadable and read only format user-friendly format**, and to the extent possible, in one or more commonly understood languages.

2. The costs of the transmission system operator shall be subject to an efficiency comparison between Union transmission system operators, **to** be appropriately defined by ACER. ACER shall publish on [3 years after **adoption transposition**] and every four years thereafter a study comparing the efficiency of Union transmission system operators' costs **and publish the main results, provided this publication complies with subject to the protection of commercially sensitive data.** The relevant regulatory authorities and the transmission system operators shall provide ACER with all the data necessary for this comparison. The results of such comparison shall be taken into account by the relevant regulatory authorities, together with national circumstances, when periodically setting the allowed or target revenues of transmission system operators.
3. The relevant regulatory authorities shall assess the long-term evolution of transmission tariffs based on the expected changes in their allowed or target revenues and in gas demand ~~until 2050~~. To perform this assessment the regulatory authority shall include the information of the strategy described in the national energy and climate plans of the respective Member State and the scenarios underpinning the integrated network development plan as developed in accordance with Article 51 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021)xxx].

## SECTION 3

### TRANSMISSION, STORAGE, LNG AND HYDROGEN TERMINAL SYSTEM OPERATION

#### *Article 18*

##### **Firm capacity for renewable and low carbon gases to the transmission system**

1. Transmission system operators shall ensure firm capacity for the access of production facilities of renewable and low carbon gases connected to their grid. For this purpose, transmission system operators shall develop in cooperation with the distribution system operators procedures and arrangements, including investments, to ensure reverse flow from distribution to transmission network.
2. Paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for transmission system operators to develop alternatives to reverse flow investments, such as smart grid solutions or connection to other network operators, **including direct transmission network connection of production facilities of renewable and low carbon gases**. Firm access may only be limited to offer capacities subject to operational limitations, in order to ensure economic efficiency. The regulatory authority shall **be responsible to review and approve the TSO's transmission system operator's conditions for conditional capacity and** ensure that any limitations in firm capacity or operational limitations are introduced on the basis of transparent and non-discriminatory procedures and do not create undue barriers to market entry. Where the production facility bears the costs related to ensuring firm capacity, no limitation shall apply.

**Cross-border coordination of gas quality in the natural gas system**

1. Transmission system operators shall cooperate to avoid restrictions to cross-border flows due to gas quality differences ~~at~~ ~~on~~ interconnection points between Union Member States.

**This Article shall ~~only~~ not apply to hydrogen blends, where the hydrogen content blended into the natural gas system, ~~does not exceed~~ exceeds [2 %] by volume.**

- 1a. **Member States shall ensure that diverging technical specifications, including gas quality parameters such as oxygen content, and hydrogen blending in the natural gas system are not used to restrict cross-border gas flows. In addition, Member States shall ensure that ~~gas quality~~ hydrogen blends in the natural gas system are ~~is~~ within the technical specifications acceptable to customers, ~~in particular industry, and to the natural gas system, in particular storage facilities.~~**
2. Where a restriction to cross-border flows s due to gas quality differences cannot be avoided by the concerned transmission system operators in their standard operations, they shall inform the concerned regulatory authorities without delay. The information shall include a description and justified reasoning for any steps already taken by the transmission system operators.
3. The concerned regulatory authorities shall jointly agree within six months whether to recognise the restriction.

- 3a. For restrictions to cross-border flows caused by differences in hydrogen blending in the natural gas system and recognized pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article, transmission system operators shall be able to not accept gas flows with hydrogen content at interconnection points before the completion of the procedure described in paragraphs 4 to 10 of this Article.**
4. Where the concerned regulatory authorities recognise the restriction, they shall request the concerned transmission system operators to perform, within 12 months from the recognition, the following actions in sequence:
- (a) cooperate and develop technically feasible options, without changing the gas quality specifications, which may include flow commitments and gas treatment, in order to remove the recognised restriction;
  - (b) jointly carry out a cost-benefit analysis on the technically feasible options to define economically efficient solutions which shall specify the breakdown of costs and benefits among the categories of affected parties;
  - (c) produce an estimate of the implementation time for each potential option;
  - (d) conduct a public consultation on identified feasible solutions and take into consideration the results of the consultation;
  - (e) submit a joint proposal, based on the cost-benefit analysis and results of the public consultation, for a solution removing the recognised restriction, including the timeframe for its implementation, to their respective regulatory authorities for approval and to the other competent national authorities of each involved Member State for information.

5. Where the concerned transmission system operators do not reach an agreement on a solution, each transmission system operator shall inform its regulatory authority without delay.
6. The concerned regulatory authorities shall take a joint coordinated decision for removing the recognised restriction, ~~or for stating that no further action should be pursued,~~ taking into account the cost-benefit analysis prepared by the concerned transmission system operators and the results of the public consultation within six months as set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.

**6a** By way of derogation from paragraph 6, for restrictions to cross-border flows caused by differences in hydrogen blending in the natural gas system, the concerned regulatory authorities may jointly state that no further action should be pursued to remove such restrictions. The joint coordinated decision shall be taken within six months as set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942 and shall take into account the cost benefit analysis and the results of the public consultation prepared pursuant paragraph 4 by the concerned transmission system operators. ~~Where a the restriction to cross-border flows is due to hydrogen blending in the natural gas system that does not exceed up to [2 %] by volume the percentage set out in Article 20(1), the concerned regulatory authorities or transmission system operator may, through with a joint coordinated decision taken within six months as set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942, state that no further action should be pursued, taking into account the cost benefit analysis prepared by the concerned transmission system operators and the results of the public consultation within six months as set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942. If the concerned regulatory authorities do not reach a joint coordinated decision for removing a recognised restriction arising due to different practices for blending hydrogen not exceeding [2 %] by volume into the natural gas system within six months from the submission of a joint solution by the concerned transmission system operators regulatory authorities, or if the concerned regulatory authorities transmission system operators do not reach an agreement on a solution pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Aarticle, the technical specifications existing at the date of the submission shall continue to apply. When the concerned regulatory authorities do not reach a joint coordinated agreement, they may individually request, every two years, the concerned transmission system operators to perform the process established in paragraph 4 following the coordinated decision pursuant to paragraph 3.~~

7. The joint coordinated decision of the concerned regulatory authorities **referred to in paragraph 6** shall include a decision on the allocation of the investment costs to be borne by each transmission system operator for implementing the agreed solution, as well as their inclusion in ~~tariffs~~ **the allowed or target revenue of transmission system operators**, taking into account the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the solution in the concerned Member States **and its consequences for tariffs**.
8. ACER may make recommendations to the regulatory authorities on the details of such cost allocation decisions as referred to in paragraph 7.
9. Where the concerned regulatory authorities cannot reach an agreement as referred to in paragraph 3, ACER shall decide on the restriction, following the process set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942. Where ACER recognises the restriction it shall request the concerned transmission system operators to perform, within 12 months, the actions referred to in paragraph 4 points (a) to (e) in sequence.
10. Where the relevant regulatory authorities cannot take a joint coordinated decisions as referred to in paragraphs 6, **6a** and 7, ACER shall decide on the solution to remove the recognised restriction and on the allocation of the investment costs to be borne by each transmission system operator for implementing the agreed solution **or for stating that no further action should be pursued pursuant to paragraph 6a of this Article**, following the process set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.



- 10a. ~~Where a restriction to cross-border flows is due to hydrogen blending in the natural gas system, and by way of derogation from Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, the concerned transmission system operators shall continue to apply the technical specifications existing at the time of the recognition pursuant to paragraph 3 if the concerned regulatory authorities do not reach a joint coordinated decision pursuant to paragraph 6 or 6a. In such case, the concerned regulatory authorities may individually request, every two years following the joint agreement pursuant to paragraph 3, the concerned transmission system operators to perform the process established in paragraph 4.~~**
11. Further details required to implement elements of this Article, including details on the cost benefit analysis, shall be set in a network code established on the basis of Article 53(1) of this Regulation.

## **Article 20**

### **~~Hydrogen blends at interconnection points between Union Member States in the natural gas system~~**

- 1. ~~Transmission system operators shall accept gas flows with a hydrogen content of up to 5[2]% by volume at interconnection points between Union Member States in the natural gas system from 1 October 2025. In case hydrogen blending of up to 5[2]% is recognised as a restriction to cross-border flows pursuant to Article 19 of this Regulation, transmission system operators shall be subject to the obligations set in paragraph 1 only after subject to the completion of the procedure described in Article 19 of this Regulation.~~**

- ~~2. When the hydrogen content blended in the natural gas system exceeds 5[2]% by volume, the process described in Article 19 of this Regulation shall not apply.~~
- ~~3. Member States shall not use hydrogen blending in the natural gas system to restrict cross-border gas flows.~~

## Article 20a

### Presumption of conformity of practices with harmonised standards

- ~~1. Practices which are in conformity with Hharmonised standards or parts thereof the references of which have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union shall be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements referred to in implementing acts delegated acts adopted pursuant to issued under Article 53(1), point (b) of this Regulation or implementing acts issued in accordance with Article 20b.~~
- ~~2. The Commission shall inform the European standardisation body concerned and, if necessary, issue a new mandate with a view to revising the harmonised standards concerned.~~

## Article 20b

### Common specifications for biomethane

The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts laying down common specifications for facilitating the cost effective integration of large volumes of biomethane in the existing natural gas system, including at cross-border interconnection points, or may set those specifications in a network code pursuant to Article 53 (1), point (b), of this Regulation, where:

- (a) those requirements are not covered by harmonised standards or parts thereof, the references of which have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union; or
- (b) ~~the Commission observes undue delays in the adoption of requested harmonised standards, or considers that relevant harmonised standards are not sufficient; or~~ the Commission has requested one or more European standardisation organisation to draft a harmonised standard for those requirements and at least one of the following conditions has also been fulfilled:
  - i. the request has not been accepted by any of the European standardisation organisations;
  - ii. the Commission observes undue delays in the adoption of requested harmonised standards;
  - iii. a European standardisation organisation has delivered a standard that does not entirely correspond with the request of the Commission; or

- (c) the Commission has decided in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to maintain with restriction or to withdraw the references to the harmonised standards or parts thereof by which those requirements are covered.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 61(3).

In the early preparation of the draft implementing act establishing the common specification, the Commission shall gather the views of relevant bodies or expert groups established under relevant sectorial Union law, and shall duly consult all relevant stakeholders. Based on that consultation, the Commission shall prepare the draft implementing act.

2. Practices which are in conformity with common specifications or parts thereof shall be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements set out in the implementing acts adopted pursuant to Article 53(1), point (b) of this Regulation to the extent that those requirements are covered by those common specifications or parts thereof.
3. Where a harmonised standard is adopted by a European standardisation organisation and proposed to the Commission for the publication of its reference in the Official Journal of the European Union, the Commission shall assess the harmonised standard in accordance with Regulation 1025/2012. When reference of a harmonised standard is published in the Official Journal of the European Union the Commission shall repeal implementing acts referred to in paragraph 1, or parts thereof which cover the same requirements or tests referred to in paragraph 1.
4. In setting the specifications pursuant to this Article, the Commission shall take the utmost account of the safety requirements necessary for the safe operation of natural gas system, in particular of the safe operation of the natural gas storages across the Union.

## *Article 21*

### **European network of transmission system operators for gas**

All transmission system operators shall cooperate at Union level through the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (the ENTSO for Gas), in order to promote the completion and functioning of the internal market in natural gas and cross-border trade and to ensure the optimal management, coordinated operation and sound technical evolution of the natural gas transmission network.

## *Article 22*

### **Organisation of the ENTSO for Gas**

1. The **ENTSO for Gas** shall submit to the Commission and to ACER the draft statutes, a list of members and draft rules of procedure, including the rules of procedures on the consultation of other stakeholders, of the ENTSO for Gas in case of changes of those documents or upon a reasoned request of the Commission or ACER.
2. Within four months of the day of the receipt, ACER , after formally consulting the organisations representing all stakeholders, in particular the system users including customers, shall provide an opinion to the Commission on the draft statutes, list of members and draft rules of procedure.
3. The Commission shall deliver an opinion on the draft statutes, list of members and draft rules of procedures taking into account the opinion of ACER referred to in paragraph 2 and within three months of the day of the receipt of the opinion of ACER .

4. Within three months of the day of receipt of the Commission's **favourable** opinion the ENTSO for Gas shall adopt and publish the revised statutes and rules of procedure of the ENTSO for Gas.

### *Article 23*

#### **Tasks of the ENTSO for Gas**

1. The ENTSO for Gas shall elaborate network codes in the areas referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article upon a request addressed to it by the Commission in accordance with Article 53(9).
2. The ENTSO for Gas may elaborate network codes in the areas set out in paragraph 6 with a view to achieving the objectives set out in Article 21 where those network codes do not relate to areas covered by a request addressed to it by the Commission. Those network codes shall be submitted to ACER for an opinion. That opinion shall be duly taken into account by the ENTSO for Gas.

3. The ENTSO for Gas shall adopt:

- (a) common network operation tools to ensure coordination of network operation in normal and emergency conditions, including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans;
- (b) a non-binding **and to be made public** Union-wide ten-year network development plan ( Union-wide network development plan), including a European supply adequacy outlook, every two years;
- (c) recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between Union and third-country transmission system operators;
- (d) an annual work programme;
- (e) an annual report;
- (f) annual summer and winter supply outlooks;;~~and~~
- (g) a gas quality monitoring report by 15 May 2024 at the latest and every two years afterwards, including developments of gas quality parameters, developments of the level and volume of hydrogen blended into the natural gas system, forecasts for the expected development of gas quality parameters and of the volume of hydrogen blended into the natural gas system, the impact of blending hydrogen on cross-border flows as well as information on cases related to differences in gas quality specifications or in specifications of blending levels and how such cases were settled;

~~(g) (h)~~ The gas quality monitoring report shall also cover the development for the areas listed in point (g) where as far as relevant for the distribution network, based on information provided by the entity of distribution system operators in the Union ('EU DSO entity').

(i) ~~An~~ **an annual report including the quantity of renewable and low carbon gases injected into the natural gas network.**

4. The European supply adequacy outlook referred to in paragraph 3, point (b), shall cover the overall adequacy of the gas system to supply current and projected demands for gas for the next five-year period as well as for the period between five and 10 years from the date of that outlook. The European supply adequacy outlook shall build on national supply outlooks prepared by each individual transmission system operator.

**(paragraph moved to Article 29)** ~~The Union-wide network development plan referred to in paragraph 3, point (b), shall include the modelling of the integrated network, including hydrogen networks, scenario development, a European supply adequacy outlook and an assessment of the resilience of the system.~~

5. The annual work programme referred to in paragraph 3, point (d), shall contain a list and description of the network codes to be prepared, a plan on coordination of operation of the network, and research and development activities, to be realised in that year, and an indicative calendar.



6. The network codes referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall cover the following areas, taking into account, if appropriate, regional special characteristics:
- (a) network security and reliability rules;
  - (b) network connection rules;
  - (c) third-party access rules;
  - (d) data exchange and settlement rules;
  - (e) interoperability rules;
  - (f) operational procedures in an emergency;
  - (g) capacity-allocation and congestion-management rules;
  - (h) rules for trading related to technical and operational provision of network access services and system balancing;
  - (i) transparency rules;
  - (j) balancing rules including network-related rules on nominations procedure, rules for imbalance charges and rules for operational balancing between transmission system operators' systems;
  - (k) rules regarding harmonised transmission tariff structures;
  - (l) energy efficiency regarding gas networks;
  - (m) cyber security regarding gas networks.

7. The network codes shall be developed for cross-border network issues and market integration issues and shall be without prejudice to the Member States' right to establish national network codes which do not affect cross-border trade.
8. The ENTSO for Gas shall monitor and analyse the implementation of the network codes and the guidelines adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 53(13) or 56, and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration. The ENTSO for Gas shall report its findings to ~~the Agency~~ **ACER** and shall include the results of the analysis in the annual report referred to in paragraph 3, point (e), of this Article.
9. The ENTSO for Gas shall make available all information required by ACER to fulfil its tasks under Article 24(1).
10. ACER shall review national ten-year network development plans to assess their consistency with the Union-wide network development plan. If ACER identifies inconsistencies between a national ten-year network development plan and the Union-wide network development plan, it shall recommend amending the national ten-year network development plan or the Union-wide network development plan as appropriate. If such national ten-year network development plan is elaborated in accordance with Article 51 of [recast Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], ACER shall recommend that the competent regulatory authority amend the national ten-year network development plan in accordance with Article 51(5) of that Directive and inform the Commission thereof.
11. Upon request of the Commission, the ENTSO for Gas shall give its views to the Commission on the adoption of the guidelines as laid down in Article 56.
12. **The ENTSO for Gas shall cooperate with the ENTSO for Electricity and with the ENNOH.**

### **Monitoring by ACER**

1. ACER shall monitor the execution of the tasks referred to in Article 23(1), (2) and (3) of the ENTSO for Gas and report to the Commission.

ACER shall monitor the implementation by the ENTSO for Gas of network codes elaborated under Article 23(2) and network codes which have been developed in accordance with Article 53 (1) to (12) but which have not been adopted by the Commission under Article 53(13). Where the ENTSO for Gas has failed to implement such network codes, ACER shall request the ENTSO for Gas to provide a duly reasoned explanation as to why it has failed to do so. ACER shall inform the Commission of that explanation and provide its opinion thereon.

ACER shall monitor and analyse the implementation of the network codes and the guidelines adopted by the Commission as laid down in Articles 52), 53, 55 and 56, and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration as well as on non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, and report to the Commission.

2. The ENTSO for Gas shall submit the draft Union-wide network development plan, the draft annual work programme, including the information regarding the consultation process and the other documents referred to in Article 23 (3), to ACER for its opinion.

Within two months from the day of receipt, ACER shall provide a duly reasoned opinion as well as recommendations to the ENTSO for Gas and to the Commission where it considers that the draft annual work programme or the draft Union-wide network development plan submitted by the ENTSO for Gas do not contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition, the efficient functioning of the market or a sufficient level of cross-border interconnection open to third-party access.

## *Article 25*

### **Regulatory authorities**

When carrying out their responsibilities under this Regulation, the regulatory authorities shall ensure compliance with this Regulation, the network codes and the guidelines adopted pursuant to Article 52 to 56.

Where appropriate, they shall cooperate with each other, with the Commission and ACER in compliance with Chapter V of Recast Gas Directive.

## *Article 26*

### **Consultations**

1. While preparing the network codes, the draft Union-wide network development plan and the annual work programme referred to in Article 23(1), (2) and (3), the ENTSO for Gas shall conduct an extensive consultation process, at an early stage and in an open and transparent manner, involving all relevant market participants, and, in particular, the organisations representing all stakeholders, in accordance with the rules of procedure referred to in Article 22(1). That consultation shall also involve regulatory authorities and other national authorities, supply and production undertakings, network users including customers, distribution system operators, including relevant industry associations, technical bodies and stakeholder platforms. It shall aim at identifying the views and proposals of all relevant parties during the decision-making process.
2. All documents and minutes of meetings related to the consultations referred to in paragraph 1 shall be made public.

3. Before adopting the annual work programme and the network codes referred to in Article 23 (1), (2) and (3), the ENTSO for Gas shall indicate how the observations received during the consultation have been taken into consideration. It shall provide reasons where observations have not been taken into account.

## *Article 27*

### **Costs**

The costs related to the activities of the ENTSO for Gas referred to in Articles 21 to 23, 52 and 53 of this Regulation, and in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No ~~347/2013~~ **2022/869** of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>14</sup> shall be borne by the transmission system operators and shall be taken into account in the calculation of tariffs. Regulatory authorities shall approve those costs only if they are reasonable and appropriate.

## *Article 28*

### **Regional cooperation of transmission system operators**

1. Transmission system operators shall establish regional cooperation within the ENTSO for Gas to contribute to the tasks referred to in Article 23 (1), (2) and (3).

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<sup>14</sup> **[Add correct reference to TEN-E Regulation 2022/869]** Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (OJ L 115, 25.4.2013, p. 39).

2. Transmission system operators shall promote operational arrangements in order to ensure the optimum management of the network and shall promote the development of energy exchanges, the coordinated allocation of cross-border capacity through non-discriminatory market-based solutions, paying due attention to the specific merits of implicit auctions for short-term allocations and the integration of balancing mechanisms.
3. For the purposes of achieving the goals set in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to supplement this Regulation** concerning the definition of the geographical area covered by each regional cooperation structure ~~may be defined by the Commission~~, taking into account existing regional cooperation structures. Each Member State shall be allowed to promote cooperation in more than one geographical area.

For that purpose, the Commission shall consult ACER and the ENTSO for Gas.

#### *Article 29*

#### **Ten-years network development plan for natural gas**

The ENTSO for Gas shall adopt and publish the Union-wide network development plan referred to in Article 23 paragraph 3, point (b), every two years. The Union-wide network development plan shall include the modelling of the integrated network, scenario development, a European supply adequacy outlook and an assessment of the resilience of the system, **including infrastructure to be decommissioned**.

The Union-wide network development plan shall, in particular:

- (a) build on national investment plans and Chapter IV of Regulation (EU) ~~347/2013~~ **2022/869**;
- (b) regarding cross-border interconnections, also build on the reasonable needs of different network users and integrate long-term commitments from investors referred to in Articles 56 and 52 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021)xxx]; and
- (c) identify investment gaps, notably with respect to cross-border capacities.
- (d) (moved from Article 23 and modified) ~~The Union-wide network development plan referred to in paragraph 3, point (b), shall~~ include the modelling of the integrated network, including hydrogen networks based on ENNOH's modelling of the integrated hydrogen network and scenario development pursuant to Article 43. ~~scenario development, a European supply adequacy outlook and an assessment of the resilience of the system.~~**

In regard to the second subparagraph, point (c), a review of barriers to the increase of cross-border capacity of the network arising from different approval procedures or practices may be annexed to the Union-wide network development plan.

**Transparency requirements concerning transmission system operators**

1. The transmission system operator shall make public detailed information regarding the capacity and services it offers and the relevant conditions applied, together with the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective network access.
2. In order to ensure transparent, objective and non-discriminatory tariffs and facilitate efficient utilisation of the gas network, transmission system operators or relevant national authorities shall publish reasonably and sufficiently detailed information on tariff derivation, methodology and structure.
3. For the services provided, each transmission system operator shall make public information on technical, contracted and available capacities on a numerical basis for all relevant points including entry and exit points on a regular and rolling basis and in a user-friendly and standardised manner as detailed in Annex I.
4. The relevant points of a transmission system on which the information is to be made public shall be approved by the competent authorities after consultation with network users.
5. The transmission system operator shall always disclose the information required by this Regulation in a quantifiably clear and easily accessible manner and on a non-discriminatory basis.



6. The transmission system operator shall make public ex-ante and ex-post supply and demand information, based on nominations and allocations, forecasts and realised flows in and out of the system. The regulatory authority shall ensure that all such information is made public. The level of detail of the information that is made public shall reflect the information available to the transmission system operator.

The transmission system operator shall make public measures taken as well as costs incurred and revenue generated to balance the system.

The market participants concerned shall provide the transmission system operator with the data referred to in this Article.

7. The transmission system operators shall make public detailed information regarding the quality of the gases transported in ~~its~~**their** networks, which might affect network users, based on Articles 16 and 17 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703.

### *Article 31*

#### **Transparency requirements concerning natural gas and hydrogen storage facilities, LNG facilities and hydrogen terminals**

1. LNG and hydrogen storage facilities as well as ~~(natural gas)~~ storage system operators and hydrogen terminal operators shall make public detailed information regarding all services they offer and the relevant conditions applied, together with the technical information necessary for LNG **and natural gas** and hydrogen storage facility and hydrogen terminal users to gain effective access to the LNG and hydrogen **and natural gas** storage facilities and hydrogen terminals. Regulatory authorities may request those operators to make public any additional relevant information for system users.

2. LNG system operators shall provide user-friendly instruments for calculating tariffs for the services available.
3. . For the services provided, LNG and hydrogen storage **and hydrogen terminal** facilities, as well as natural gas storage system operators shall make public information on contracted and available storage and LNG and hydrogen storage facility as well as hydrogen terminal capacities on a numerical basis on a regular and rolling basis and in a user-friendly standardised manner.
4. **LNG and hydrogen terminals** and hydrogen storage facilities, as well as natural gas storage system operators shall always disclose the information required by this Regulation in a meaningful, quantifiably clear and easily accessible way and on a non-discriminatory basis.
5. LNG and storage system operators and operators of hydrogen storage facilities and hydrogen terminals shall make public the amount of gas in each storage or LNG facility and hydrogen terminal, or group of storage facilities if that corresponds to the way in which the access is offered to system users, inflows and outflows, and the available natural gas and hydrogen storage, and LNG facility and hydrogen terminal capacities, including for those facilities exempted from third-party access. That information shall also be communicated to the transmission system operator or to the hydrogen network operator for hydrogen storage and terminals, which shall make it public on an aggregated level per system or subsystem defined by the relevant points. The information shall be updated at least daily.

In cases in which a natural gas or hydrogen storage system user is the only user of a natural gas or hydrogen storage facility, the natural gas or hydrogen storage system user may submit to the regulatory authority a reasoned request for confidential treatment of the data referred to in the first subparagraph. Where the regulatory authority comes to the conclusion that such a request is justified, taking into account, in particular, the need to balance the interest of legitimate protection of business secrets, the disclosure of which would negatively affect the overall commercial strategy of the storage user, with the objective of creating a competitive internal gas market, it may allow the storage system operator not to make public the data referred to in the first subparagraph, for a duration of up to one year.

The second subparagraph shall apply without prejudice to the obligations of communication to and publication by the transmission system operator referred to in the first subparagraph, unless the aggregated data are identical to the individual natural gas or hydrogen storage system data for which the regulatory authority has approved non-publication.

6. In order to ensure transparent, objective and non-discriminatory tariffs and facilitate efficient utilisation of the infrastructures, the LNG and natural gas or hydrogen storage facility operators or relevant regulatory authorities shall make public sufficiently detailed information on tariff derivation, the methodologies and the structure of tariffs for infrastructure under regulated third-party access; LNG facilities that have been granted an exemption, pursuant to Article 22 of Directive 2003/55/EC and Article 36 of Directive 2009/73/EC as well as Article 60 of this Regulation, and natural gas storage operators under the negotiated third party access regime shall make public tariffs for infrastructure in order to ensure a sufficient degree of transparency.

LNG and storage system operators shall ~~establish respectively one single European platform within 18 months from [date of entry into force of the Regulation]~~ to publish in a transparent and user-friendly manner the information required in this Article **on an European platform. The Commission may issue a non-binding guidance facilitating the establishment of the platforms.**

## *Article 32*

### **Record keeping by system operators**

Transmission system operators, storage system operators and LNG system operators shall keep at the disposal of the national authorities, including the regulatory authority, the national competition authority and the Commission, all information referred to in Articles 30 and 31, and in Part 3 of Annex I for a period of five years.

## SECTION 4

### DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATION

#### *Article 33*

##### **Firm capacity for renewable and low carbon gases to the distribution system**

1. Distribution system operators shall ensure firm capacity for the access of the production facilities **of** renewable and low carbon gases connected to their grid. To this **effect extent**, distribution system operators shall develop in cooperation with the transmission system operators procedures and arrangements, including investments, to ensure reverse flow from distribution to transmission network.
2. Paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for distribution system operators to develop alternatives to reverse flow investments, such as smart grid solutions or connection to other network operators, **including direct transmission network connection of production facilities of renewable and low carbon gases**. Firm access may only be limited to offer capacities subject to operational limitations, in order to ensure economic efficiency. The regulatory authority shall ensure that any limitations in firm capacity or operational limitations are introduced on the basis of transparent and non-discriminatory procedures and do not create undue barriers to market entry. Where the production facility bears the costs related to ensuring firm capacity, no limitation shall apply.

## *Article 34*

### **Cooperation between distribution system operators and transmission system operators**

Distribution system operators shall cooperate with other distribution system operators and transmission system operators to coordinate maintenance, system development, new connections and the operation of the system to ensure system integrity and with a view to maximise capacity and minimise the use of fuel gas.

## *Article 35*

### **Transparency requirements concerning distribution system operators**

Where distribution system operators are responsible for gas quality management in their networks, they shall make public detailed information regarding the quality of the gases transported in their networks, which might affect network users, based on Articles 16 and 17 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703.

**European entity for distribution system operators**

1. Distribution system operators operating a natural gas system shall cooperate at Union level through the European entity for distribution system operators ('EU DSO entity') set up in accordance with Articles 52 to 57 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>15</sup>, in order to promote the completion and functioning of the internal market for natural gas and to promote optimal management and a coordinated operation of distribution and transmission systems.
2. Registered members may participate in the EU DSO entity directly or be represented by a national association designated by a Member State or by a Union-level association.
3. The costs related to the activities of the EU DSO entity shall be borne by the distribution system operators that are registered members and shall be taken into account in the calculation of tariffs. Regulatory authorities shall only approve costs that are reasonable and proportionate.

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<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (*OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, p. 54*).

**Change to the principal rules and procedures for the EU DSO entity**

1. The rules and procedures on the participation of distribution system operators in the EU DSO entity pursuant to Article 54 of Regulation (EU) 2019/942~~23~~ shall also apply to distribution system operators operating a natural gas system.
2. The Strategic Advisory Group pursuant to Article 54(2), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2019/942~~23~~ shall also consist of representatives of associations representing European distribution system operators solely operating a natural gas system.
3. By [one year after entry into force] the EU DSO entity shall submit to the Commission and to ACER draft updated statutes, including a code of conduct, a list of registered members, draft updated rules of procedure, including rules of procedures on the consultation with the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas and other stakeholders, and draft updated financing rules.

The draft updated rules of procedure of the EU DSO entity shall ensure balanced representation of all participating distribution system operators, including those solely owning or operating natural gas systems.

4. Within four months of receipt of the documents pursuant to paragraph 3, ACER shall provide the Commission with its opinion, after consulting organisations representing all stakeholders, in particular distribution system users.



5. Within three months of receipt of ACER's opinion, the Commission shall deliver an opinion on documents provided pursuant to paragraph 3, taking into account ACER's opinion as provided for in paragraph 34.
6. Within three months of receipt of the Commission's positive opinion, the distribution system operators shall adopt and publish its updated statutes, rules of procedure and financing rules.
7. The documents referred to in paragraph 3 shall be submitted to the Commission and to ACER where there are changes thereto or upon the reasoned request of either of them. The Commission and ACER may deliver an opinion in accordance with the process set out in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

#### *Article 38*

#### **Additional tasks of the EU DSO entity**

1. The EU DSO entity shall exercise the tasks listed in Article 55(1) points (a) to (e) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and undertake the activities listed in Article 55(2) points (c) to (e) of that Regulation also as regards those distribution networks which are part of the natural gas system.
2. In addition to the tasks listed in Article 55(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 the EU DSO entity shall participate in the development of network codes which are relevant to the operation and planning of distribution grids and the coordinated operation of the transmission networks and distribution networks pursuant to this Regulation and contribute to mitigating fugitive methane emissions from the natural gas system.

When participating in the development of new network codes pursuant to Article 53, the EU DSO entity shall comply with the consultation requirements as laid down in Article 56 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.

3. In addition to the activities listed in Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 the EU DSO entity shall:
- (a) cooperate with the ENTSO for Gas on the monitoring of the implementation of the network codes and guidelines adopted pursuant to this Regulation which are relevant to the operation and planning of distribution grids and the coordinated operation of the transmission networks and distribution networks;
  - (b) cooperate with the ENTSO for Gas and adopt best practices on the coordinated operation and planning of transmission and distribution systems including issues such as exchange of data between operators and coordination of distributed energy resources;
  - (c) work on identifying best practices for the implementation of the results of the assessments pursuant to Article 23(1a) [proposal for REDIII] and Article 23 [proposal for revised EED] and for the cooperation between operators of electricity distribution networks, of natural gas distribution networks and of district heating and cooling systems including for the purpose of the assessment pursuant to Article 24(8) [proposal for REDIII].
4. The EU DSO entity shall provide input to the ENTSO for Gas for its reporting on gas quality, with regard to the distribution networks where distribution system operators are responsible for gas quality management, as referred to in Article 23(3).

## **Chapter III**

# **RULES APPLICABLE TO THE DEDICATED HYDROGEN NETWORKS**

### *Article 39*

#### **Cross-border coordination on hydrogen quality**

1. Hydrogen network operators shall cooperate to avoid restrictions to cross-border flows of hydrogen due to hydrogen quality differences.
2. Where a restriction to cross-border flows due to differences in hydrogen quality cannot be avoided by the concerned hydrogen network operators in their standard operations, they shall inform the concerned regulatory authorities without delay. The information shall include a description and justified reasoning for any steps already taken by the hydrogen network operators.
3. The concerned regulatory authorities shall jointly agree within six months whether to recognise the restriction.
4. Where the concerned regulatory authorities recognise the restriction, they shall request the concerned hydrogen network operators to perform, within 12 months, the following actions in sequence:

- (a) cooperate and develop technically feasible options in order to remove the recognised restriction;
  - (b) jointly carry out a cost-benefit analysis on the technically feasible options to define economically efficient solutions which shall specify the breakdown of costs and benefits among the categories of affected parties;
  - (c) produce an estimate of the implementation time for each potential option;
  - (d) conduct a public consultation on identified feasible solutions and take into consideration the results of the consultation;
  - (e) submit a joint proposal for a solution based on the cost benefit analysis and results of the public consultation removing the recognised restriction, including the timeframe for implementation, to their respective regulatory authorities for approval and to the other competent national authorities of each involved Member State for information.
5. Where the concerned hydrogen network operators do not reach an agreement on a solution within 12 months, each hydrogen ~~system~~ **network** operator shall inform its regulatory authority without delay.
6. The concerned regulatory authorities shall take a joint coordinated decision for removing the recognised restriction taking into account the cost-benefit analysis prepared by the concerned ~~transmission-system~~ **hydrogen network** operators and the results of the public consultation within six months as set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.

7. The joint coordinated decision of the concerned regulatory authorities shall include a decision on the allocation of the investment costs to be borne by each hydrogen network operator for implementing the agreed solution, as well as their inclusion in tariffs after 1 January [20346], taking into account the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the solution in the concerned Member States.
8. ACER may make recommendations to the regulatory authorities on the details of such cost allocation decisions as referred to in paragraph 7.
9. Where the concerned regulatory authorities cannot reach an agreement as referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, ACER shall decide on the restriction, following the process set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942. Where ACER recognises the restriction it shall request the concerned hydrogen network operators to perform, within 12 months, the actions referred to in paragraph 4, points (a) to (e), in sequence.
10. Where the relevant regulatory authorities cannot take a joint coordinated decisions as referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Article, ACER shall decide on the solution to remove the recognised restriction and on the allocation of the investment costs to be borne by each **hydrogen system network** operator for implementing the agreed solution, following the process set out in Article 6(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.
11. Further details required to implement this Article, including details on a common binding hydrogen quality specification for cross-border hydrogen interconnectors, cost benefit analyses for removing cross-border flow restrictions due to hydrogen quality differences, interoperability rules for cross-border hydrogen infrastructure, including addressing interconnection agreements, units, data exchange, communication and information provision among relevant market participants, shall be set in a network code established in accordance with Article 54(2), point (b).

### European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen

1. Hydrogen network operators shall cooperate at Union level through the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen (ENNOH), in order to promote the development and functioning of the internal market in hydrogen and cross-border trade and to ensure the optimal management, coordinated operation and sound technical evolution of the European hydrogen network.
  - 1a. **The ENNOH shall consist of certified hydrogen network operators of EU Member States. Hydrogen network operators are eligible to join the ENNOH from the start of the certification procedure by the regulatory authority, subject to subsequent positive certification in line with Art. 65 of [the recast gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021)xxx803] and Article 13 of this Regulation [the recast gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021)xxx] within 18 months of joining ENNOH and subject to at least developing hydrogen infrastructure project(s) with a final investment decision within 3 years of joining the ENNOH. ~~Shall~~ If the final certification decision has not ~~be~~ been taken within 18 months of joining ENNOH or if the final investment decision has not been taken within three years of joining ENNOH, the ENNOH membership of the hydrogen network operator expires.**
2. In performing its functions under Union law, the ENNOH shall act with a view to establishing a well-functioning and integrated internal market for hydrogen and shall contribute to the efficient and sustainable achievement of the objectives set out in the policy framework for climate and energy, in particular by contributing to the efficient integration of hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources and to increases in energy efficiency while maintaining system security. The ENNOH shall be equipped with adequate human and financial resources to carry out its duties.

3. By 1 September 2024, the hydrogen network operators shall submit to the Commission and to ACER the draft statutes, a list of members and draft rules of procedure, including the rules of procedures on the consultation of stakeholders, of the ENNOH to be established.
4. The hydrogen network operators shall submit to the Commission and to ACER any draft amendments to the statutes, list of members or rules of procedure of the ENNOH.
5. Within four months of receipt of the drafts and the draft amendments to the statutes, list of members or rules of procedure, ACER, after consulting the organisations representing all stakeholders, in particular the system users, including customers, shall provide an opinion to the Commission on these drafts or draft amendments to the statutes, list of members or rules of procedure.
6. The Commission shall deliver an opinion on the drafts and draft amendments to the statutes, list of members or rules of procedure taking into account ACER's opinion as provided for in paragraph 5 and within three months of receipt of ACER's opinion.
7. Within three months of receipt of the Commission's favourable opinion, the hydrogen network operators shall adopt and publish the statutes, list of members and rules of procedure.
8. The documents referred to in paragraph 3 shall be submitted to the Commission and ACER where there are changes thereto or upon the reasoned request of either of them. The Commission and ACER shall deliver an opinion in accordance with paragraphs 5, 6 and 7.

## *Article 41*

### **Transition to the ENNOH**

1. Until the ENNOH is established in line with Article 40, the Commission ~~will~~**shall** set up a temporary platform involving ACER and all relevant market participants, including the ENTSO for Gas, the ENTSO for Electricity and the EU DSO entity and ensure its administrative support. This platform ~~will~~**shall** promote work on scoping and developing issues relevant for the building up of the hydrogen network and markets. The platform ~~will~~**shall** cease to exist once ENNOH is established.
2. Until the ENNOH is established, the ENTSO for Gas ~~will be~~**shall be** responsible for the development of Union-wide network development plans for gas and hydrogen networks **referred to in Articles 29 and 43**. In carrying out this task ENTSO for Gas shall ensure the effective consultation and inclusion of all market participants, including hydrogen market participants **and the members of the temporary platform under paragraph 1**.

## *Article 42*

### **Tasks of the ENNOH**

1. The ENNOH shall:
  - (a) develop network codes in the areas set out in Article 54 with a view to achieving the objectives set out in Article 40;
  - (b) adopt and publish biannually a non-binding Union-wide ten-year network development plan **referred to in Article 43**, including a European supply adequacy outlook;



- (c) cooperate with the ENTSO for Electricity ~~and with the ENTSO for Gas~~ **and with the EU DSO entity**;
- (d) develop recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between ~~gas~~ transmission and distribution system operators on one hand, and hydrogen network operators on the other hand in the Union;
- (e) develop recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between Union and third-party network operators;
- (f) adopt an annual work programme;
- (g) adopt an annual report;
- (h) adopt an annual outlook for the supply of hydrogen covering Member States where hydrogen is used in electricity generation or for supplying ~~industries or households~~;
- (i) adopt a hydrogen quality monitoring report by 15 May 2026 at the latest and every two years afterwards, including developments and forecasts for the expected developments of hydrogen quality parameters, as well as information on cases related to differences in hydrogen quality specifications and how such cases were settled;
- (j) promote cyber security and data protection in cooperation with relevant authorities and regulated entities.
- (k) **develop and promote best practices in the detection, monitoring and reduction of hydrogen leaks.**

2. The ENNOH shall monitor and analyse the implementation of the network codes and the guidelines adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 54, 55 and 56, and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market development and integration. The ~~European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen~~ ENNOH shall report its findings to ACER and shall include the results of the analysis in the annual report referred to in paragraph 1, point f) of this Article.
3. The ENNOH shall publish the minutes of its assembly meetings, board meetings and committee meetings and provide the public with regular information on its decision-making and activities.
4. The annual work programme referred to in paragraph 1, point (f) shall contain a list and description of the network codes to be prepared, a plan on the coordination of the operation of the network, a list of research and development activities, to be realised in that year, and an indicative calendar.
5. The ENNOH shall provide ACER with the information ACER requires to fulfil its tasks pursuant to Article 46. In order to enable the ENNOH to meet that requirement, hydrogen network operators shall provide the ENNOH with the requested information.
6. Upon request of the Commission, the ENNOH shall give its views to the Commission on the adoption of the guidelines as laid down in Article 56.

**Ten-year network development plan for hydrogen**

1. The Union-wide ten-year network development plan **for hydrogen referred to in Article 42** shall include the modelling of the integrated network, scenario development and an assessment of the resilience of the system.

The Union-wide ten-year network development plan shall in particular:

- (a) build on the national hydrogen network development reporting as set out in Article 52 of recast Gas Directive where available and Chapter IV of Regulation (EU) xxx [TEN-E Regulation];
- (b) regarding cross-border interconnections, also build on the reasonable needs of different network users and integrate long-term commitments from investors referred to in Articles 55 and Chapter IX Section 3 of recast Gas Directive;
- (c) identify investment gaps, notably with respect to cross-border capacities.

With regard to the second subparagraph, point (c), a review of barriers to the increase of cross-border capacity of the network arising from different approval procedures or practices may be annexed to the Union-wide network development plan.

2. ACER shall provide an opinion on the national hydrogen network development reports where relevant to assess their consistency with the Union-wide network development plan. If ACER identifies inconsistencies between a national hydrogen network development report and the Union-wide network development plan, it shall recommend amending the national hydrogen network development report or the Union-wide network development plan as appropriate.

3. When developing the Union-wide ten-year network development plan as referred to in Article 42, the ENNOH shall cooperate with the ENTSO for Electricity and with the ENTSO for Gas, in particular on the development of the energy system wide cost-benefit analysis and the interlinked energy market and network model including electricity, gas and hydrogen transport infrastructure as well as storage, LNG and hydrogen terminals and electrolyzers referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2022/869 [TEN-E revision], the scenarios for the ~~Tten-Yyear Nnetwork Ddevelopment Pplans~~ referred to in Article 12 of that Regulation [TEN-E revision] and the infrastructure gaps identification referred to in Article 13 of that Regulation [TEN-E revision].

#### *Article 44*

##### **Costs**

The costs related to the activities of the ENNOH ~~for Hydrogen~~ referred to in Articles 42 of this Regulation shall be borne by the hydrogen network operators and shall be taken into account in the calculation of tariffs. Regulatory authorities shall approve those costs only if they are reasonable and appropriate.

#### *Article 45*

##### **Consultation**

1. While preparing the proposals pursuant to the tasks referred to in Article 42, the ENNOH shall conduct an extensive consultation process at an early stage and in an open and transparent manner, involving all relevant market participants, and in particular the organisations representing all stakeholders, in accordance with the rules of procedure referred to in Article 40 of this Regulation. The consultation process shall accommodate stakeholder comments before the final adoption of the proposal, aiming at identifying the views and proposals of all relevant parties during the decision-making process. The consultation shall also involve regulatory authorities and other national authorities, producers, network users including customers, technical bodies and stakeholder platforms.

2. All documents and minutes of meetings related to the consultation shall be made public.
3. Before adopting the proposals referred to in Article 42 the ENNOH shall indicate how the observations received during the consultation have been taken into consideration. It shall provide reasons where observations have not been taken into account.

#### *Article 46*

#### **Monitoring by ACER**

1. ACER shall monitor the execution of the tasks of the ENNOH referred to in Article 42 and report its findings to the Commission.
2. ACER shall monitor the implementation by the ENNOH of network codes and guidelines adopted by the Commission as laid down in Articles 54, 55, and 56. Where the ENNOH has failed to implement such network codes or guidelines, ACER shall request the ENNOH to provide a duly reasoned explanation as to why it has failed to do so. ACER shall inform the Commission of that explanation and provide its opinion thereon.
3. The ENNOH shall submit the draft Union-wide network development plan, the draft annual work programme, including the information regarding the consultation process, and the other documents referred to in Article 42 to ACER for its opinion.

Where it considers that the draft annual work programme or the draft Union-wide network development plan submitted by the ENNOH does not contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition, the efficient functioning of the market or a sufficient level of cross-border interconnection, ACER shall provide a duly reasoned opinion as well as recommendations to the ENNOH and to the Commission within two months of the submission of the programme or the plan.

## *Article 47*

### **Regional cooperation of hydrogen network operators**

1. Hydrogen network operators shall establish regional cooperation within the ENNOH to contribute to the tasks referred to in Article 42.
2. Hydrogen network operators shall promote operational arrangements in order to ensure the optimum management of the network and shall ensure interoperability of the interconnected Union hydrogen system for facilitating commercial and operational cooperation between adjacent hydrogen network operators.

## *Article 48*

### **Transparency requirements concerning hydrogen network operators**

1. The hydrogen network operators shall make public detailed information regarding the services they offer and the relevant conditions applied, together with the technical information necessary for hydrogen network users to gain effective network access.
2. In order to ensure transparent, objective and non-discriminatory tariffs and facilitate efficient utilisation of the hydrogen network, from 1 January 2031 hydrogen network operators or relevant authorities shall publish complete information on tariff derivation, methodology and structure.
3. The hydrogen network operators shall make public detailed information regarding the quality of hydrogen transported in their networks, which might affect network users.

4. The relevant points of a hydrogen network on which the information is to be made public shall be approved by the competent authorities after consultation with hydrogen network users.
5. The hydrogen network operators shall always disclose the information required by this Regulation in a meaningful, quantifiably clear and easily accessible manner and on a non-discriminatory basis.
6. The hydrogen network operators shall make public ex-ante and ex-post supply and demand information, including a periodic forecast and the recorded information. The regulatory authority shall ensure that all such information is made public. The level of detail of the information that is made public shall reflect the information available to the hydrogen network operators.
7. The market participants concerned shall provide the hydrogen network operator with the data referred to in this Article.
8. Further details required to implement the transparency requirements for hydrogen network operators, including further details on the content, frequency and form of information provision by hydrogen network operators, shall be set in a network code established in accordance with Article 54(1) of this Regulation.

## *Article 49*

### **Record keeping in the hydrogen system**

Hydrogen network operators, hydrogen storage operators and hydrogen terminal operators shall keep at the disposal of the national authorities, including the regulatory authority, the national competition authority and the Commission, all information referred to in Articles 31 and 48 and in Part 4 of Annex I for a period of five years.

## *Article 50*

### **Presumption of conformity of practices with harmonised standards**

1. **Practices which are in conformity with h**Harmonised standards or parts thereof the references of which have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union shall be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements referred to in delegated acts **adopted pursuant to** ~~issued under~~ Article 54(2), point (b) of this Regulation ~~or implementing acts issued in accordance with Article 51.~~
2. ~~The Commission shall inform the European standardisation body concerned and, if necessary, issue a new mandate with a view to revising the harmonised standards concerned.~~



### Common specifications

The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts laying down common specifications for the requirements set out in Article 46 of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] or may set those specifications in a network code pursuant to Article 54 (2), point (b), of this Regulation, where:

- (a) those requirements are not covered by harmonised standards or parts thereof, the references of which have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union; or
- (b) ~~the Commission observes undue delays in the adoption of requested harmonised standards, or considers that relevant harmonised standards are not sufficient; or~~ **the Commission has requested one or more European standardisation organisation to draft a harmonised standard for those requirements and at least one of the following conditions has also been fulfilled:**
  - (i) **the request has not been accepted by any of the European standardisation organisations;**
  - (ii) **the Commission observes undue delays in the adoption of requested harmonised standards;**
  - (iii) **a European standardisation organisation has delivered a standard that does not entirely correspond with the request of the Commission; or**

- (c) the Commission has decided in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to maintain with restriction or to withdraw the references to the harmonised standards or parts thereof by which those requirements are covered.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 61(3).

**In the early preparation of the draft implementing act establishing the common specification, the Commission shall gather the views of relevant bodies or expert groups established under relevant sectorial Union law, and shall duly consult all relevant stakeholders. Based on that consultation, the Commission shall prepare the draft implementing act.**

- 2. Practices which are in conformity with common specifications or parts thereof shall be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements set out in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 54(2), point (b) of this Regulation to the extent that those requirements are covered by those common specifications or parts thereof.**
- 3. Where a harmonised standard is adopted by a European standardisation organisation and proposed to the Commission for the publication of its reference in the Official Journal of the European Union, the Commission shall assess the harmonised standard in accordance with Regulation 1025/2012. When reference of a harmonised standard is published in the Official Journal of the European Union the Commission shall repeal implementing acts referred to in paragraph 1, or parts thereof which cover the same requirements referred to in paragraph 1.**

## Chapter IV

### NETWORK CODES AND GUIDELINES

#### *Article 52*

##### **Adoption of network codes and guidelines**

1. The Commission may, subject to the empowerments in Articles 53 to 56, adopt implementing or delegated acts. Such acts may either be adopted as network codes on the basis of text proposals developed by the ENTSO for Gas or the ENNOH or, where so provided for in the priority list pursuant to Article 53(3), by the EU DSO entity ~~, where relevant in cooperation with the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENNOH and ACER,~~ pursuant to the procedure laid down in Articles ~~52~~ 53 to 55, or as guidelines pursuant to the procedure laid down in Article 56.
2. The network codes and guidelines shall:
  - (a) ~~ensure that they~~ provide the minimum degree of harmonisation required to achieve the aims of this Regulation;
  - (b) take into account regional specificities, where appropriate; **and**
  - (c) not go beyond what is necessary for the purposes of point (a); **and**
  - ~~(d) — apply to all interconnection points within the Union and to entry points from and exit points to third countries.~~

**Establishment of network codes for natural gas**

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts establishing network codes in the following areas:
  - (a) data exchange and settlement rules implementing Articles 21 and 22 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] regarding interoperability and data exchange as well as harmonised rules for the operation of gas transmission systems, capacity booking platforms, and IT processes relevant for the functioning of the internal market
  - (b) interoperability rules for the natural gas system, implementing Articles 9, **35 and 40 46** of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] including addressing interconnection agreements, rules on flow control and measurement principles for gas quantity and quality, allocation and matching rules, common sets of units, data exchange, gas quality, including rules on managing cross-border restrictions due to gas quality differences or due to differences in odourisation practices or due to differences in the volume of hydrogen blended in the natural gas system, cost-benefit analyses for removing cross-border flow restrictions, Wobbe Index classification, mitigating measures, minimum acceptance levels for gas quality parameters relevant for ensuring the unhindered cross-border flow of biomethane (e.g. oxygen content), short- and long-term gas quality monitoring, information provision and cooperation among relevant market participants, reporting on gas quality, transparency, communication procedures including in case of exceptional events;

- (c) capacity-allocation and congestion-management rules implementing Article 27~~9~~ of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] and Article 7 to 10 of this Regulation, including rules on cooperation of maintenance procedures and capacity calculation affecting capacity allocation, the standardization of capacity products and units including bundling, the allocation methodology including auction algorithms, sequence and procedure for existing, incremental, firm and interruptible capacity, capacity booking platforms, oversubscription and buy back schemes, short and long-term use-it-or-lose it schemes or and any other congestion-management scheme that prevents the hoarding of capacity
- (d) balancing rules including network-related rules on nominations procedure, rules for imbalance charges and rules for operational balancing between transmission system operators' systems implementing Article 35(5) of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] and Article 7 to 10 of this Regulation including network-related rules on nomination procedures, imbalance charges, settlement processes associated with the daily imbalance charge and operational balancing between transmission system operators' networks.
- (e) rules on harmonised transmission tariff structures implementing Article 72(7) of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] and Article 15 to 16 of this Regulation ~~rules on harmonised transmission tariff structures for gas~~, including rules on the application of a reference price methodology, the associated consultation and publication requirements **including for the allowed and target revenues** as well as the calculation of reserve prices for standard capacity products, discounts for LNG and storages, **allowed revenue**, procedures for the implementation of providing a discount for renewable and low carbon gases, ~~including common principles for inter-transmission system operator compensation mechanisms;~~

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 61(3).

2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to supplement this Regulation** concerning the establishment of network codes in the following areas:
- (a) network security and reliability rules including rules for operational network security as well as reliability rules ensuring the quality of service of the network
  - (b) network connection rules including rules on the connection of renewable and low carbon gas production facilities, procedures for connection requests;
  - (c) operational procedures in an emergency including system defence plans, restoration plans, market interactions, information exchange and communication ~~and~~ tools and facilities;
  - (d) rules for trading related to technical and operational provision of network access services and system balancing;
  - (e) energy efficiency of gas networks and components as well as energy efficiency with regard to network planning and investments enabling the most energy efficient solution from a system perspective;
  - (f) cyber security aspects of cross-border natural gas flows, including rules on common minimum requirements, planning, monitoring, reporting and crisis management.
3. The Commission shall, after consulting ACER, the ENTSO for Gas, the ENNOH, the EU DSO entity and the other relevant stakeholders, establish every three years a priority list, identifying the areas set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 to be included in the development of network codes. If the subject matter of the network code is directly related to the operation of the distribution system and not primarily relevant to the transmission system, the Commission may require the EU DSO entity, in cooperation with the ENTSO for Gas, to convene a drafting committee and submit a proposal for a network code to ACER.

4. The Commission shall request ACER to submit to it within a reasonable period not exceeding six months of receipt of the Commission's request non-binding framework guidelines setting out clear and objective principles for the development of network codes relating to the areas identified in the priority list. The request of the Commission may include conditions which the framework guidelines shall address. Each framework guideline shall contribute to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition, and the efficient functioning of the market. Upon a reasoned request from ACER, the Commission may extend the period for submitting the guidelines.
5. ACER shall consult the ENTSO for Gas, ~~the ENNOH~~, the EU DSO entity, and the other relevant stakeholders in regard to the framework guidelines, during a period of no less than two months, in an open and transparent manner.
6. ACER shall submit a non-binding framework guideline to the Commission where requested to do so under paragraph 4.
7. If the Commission considers that the framework guideline does not contribute to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, it may request ACER to review the framework guideline within a reasonable period and resubmit it to the Commission.
8. If ACER fails to submit or resubmit a framework guideline within the period set by the Commission under paragraph 4 or 7, the Commission shall develop the framework guideline in question.
9. The Commission shall request the ENTSO for Gas or, where provided for in the priority list referred to in paragraph 3, the EU DSO entity in cooperation with the ENTSO for Gas, to submit to ACER, within a reasonable period, not exceeding 12 months, of receipt of the Commission's request, a proposal for a network code in accordance with the relevant framework guideline.

10. The ENTSO for Gas, or where provided for in the priority list referred to in paragraph 3 the EU DSO entity, in cooperation with the ENTSO for Gas, shall convene a drafting committee to support it in the network code development process. The drafting committee shall consist of representatives of ACER, the ENTSO for Gas, ~~the ENNOH~~, where appropriate the EU DSO entity, and a limited number of the main affected stakeholders. The ENTSO for Gas or where provided for in the priority list pursuant to paragraph 3 the EU DSO entity, in cooperation with the ENTSO for Gas, shall develop proposals for network codes in the areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 where so requested by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 9.
11. ACER shall revise the proposed network code to ensure that it complies with the relevant framework guidelines and contributes to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition, and the efficient functioning of the market, and shall submit the revised network code to the Commission within six months of receipt of the proposal. In the proposal submitted to the Commission, ACER shall take into account the views provided by all involved parties during the drafting of the proposal led by the ENTSO for Gas or the EU DSO entity and shall consult the relevant stakeholders on the version of the network code to be submitted to the Commission.
12. Where the ENTSO for Gas or the EU DSO entity have failed to develop a network code within the period set by the Commission under paragraph 9, the Commission may request ACER to prepare a draft network code on the basis of the relevant framework guideline. ACER may launch a further consultation. ACER shall submit a draft network code prepared under this paragraph to the Commission and may recommend that it be adopted.
13. Where the ENTSO for Gas or the EU DSO entity have failed to develop a network code, or ACER has failed to develop such a draft as referred to in paragraph 12, or upon the proposal of ACER under paragraph 11, the Commission may adopt, on its own initiative, one or more network codes in the areas listed in paragraphs 1 and 2.



14. Where the Commission proposes to adopt a network code on its own initiative, the Commission shall consult ACER, the ENTSO for Gas and all relevant stakeholders in regard to the draft network code during a period of at least two months.
15. This Article shall be without prejudice to the Commission's right to adopt and amend the guidelines as laid down in Article 56. It shall be without prejudice to the possibility for the ENTSO for Gas to develop non-binding guidance in the areas set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 where such guidance does not relate to areas covered by a request addressed to the ENTSO for Gas by the Commission. The ENTSO for Gas shall submit any such guidance to ACER for an opinion and shall duly take that opinion into account.

#### *Article 54*

#### **Establishment of network codes for hydrogen**

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation by establishing network codes in the area of transparency rules implementing Article 48 of this Regulation, including further details on the content, frequency and form of information provision by hydrogen network operators and implementing Annex I, point 4 of this Regulation, including details on the format and content of the information necessary for network users for effective access to the network, information to be published at relevant points, details on time schedules.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 61(2).

2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to supplementing** this Regulation with regard to the establishment of network codes in the following areas
- (a) energy efficiency regarding hydrogen networks and components as well as energy efficiency with regard to network planning and investments enabling the most energy efficient solution from a system perspective;
  - (b) interoperability rules for the hydrogen network, including addressing interconnection agreements, units, data exchange, transparency, communication, information provisions and cooperation among relevant market participants as well as hydrogen quality, including common specifications **at interconnection points** and standardisation, odourisation, cost benefit analyses for removing cross-border flow restrictions due to hydrogen quality differences and reporting on hydrogen quality;
  - (c) rules for the system of financial compensation for cross-border hydrogen infrastructure;

- (d) capacity-allocation and congestion-management rules, including rules on cooperation of maintenance procedures and capacity calculation affecting capacity allocation, the standardisation of capacity products and units including bundling, the allocation methodology including auction algorithms, sequence and procedure for existing, incremental, firm and interruptible capacity, capacity booking platforms, oversubscription and buy back schemes, short and long-term use-it-or-lose it schemes or and any other congestion-management scheme that prevents the hoarding of capacity;
- (e) rules regarding harmonised tariff structures for hydrogen network access, including **tariff at interconnection points**, rules on the application of a reference price methodology, the associated consultation and publication requirements **including for the allowed and target revenues** as well as the calculation of reserve prices for standard capacity products and allowed revenue;
- (f) rules for determining the value of transferred assets and the dedicated charge;
- (g) balancing rules including network-related rules on nominations procedure, rules for imbalance charges and rules for operational balancing between hydrogen network operators' networks, including network-related rules on nomination procedures, imbalance charges, settlement processes associated with the daily imbalance charge and operational balancing between transmission system operators' networks.
- (h) cyber security aspects of cross-border hydrogen flows, including rules on common minimum requirements, planning, monitoring, reporting and crisis management.

3. The Commission shall, after consulting ACER, the ENNOH, ~~the ENTSO for Gas, the EU DSO entity~~ and the other relevant stakeholders, establish a priority list every three years, identifying the areas set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 to be included in the development of network codes. **The Commission shall establish the first priority list for the development of hydrogen network codes one year after the establishment of the ENNOH as set out in Article 40 of this Regulation.**
4. The Commission shall request ACER to submit to it within a reasonable period not exceeding six months of receipt of the Commission's request non-binding framework guidelines setting out clear and objective principles for the development of network codes relating to the areas identified in the priority list. The request of the Commission may include conditions which the framework guideline shall address. Each framework guideline shall contribute to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition, and the efficient functioning of the market. Upon a reasoned request from ACER, the Commission may extend the period for submitting the guidelines.
5. ACER shall consult the ENNOH, ~~the ENTSO for Gas~~ and the other relevant stakeholders in regard to the framework guideline, during a period of at least two months, in an open and transparent manner.
6. ACER shall submit a non-binding framework guideline to the Commission where requested to do so under paragraph 4.
7. If the Commission considers that the framework guideline does not contribute to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, it may request ACER to review the framework guideline within a reasonable period and resubmit it to the Commission.

8. If ACER fails to submit or resubmit a framework guideline within the period set by the Commission under paragraph 4 or 6, the Commission shall develop the framework guideline in question.
9. The Commission shall request the ENNOH to submit, within a reasonable period not exceeding 12 months of the receipt of the Commission's request, a proposal for a network code in accordance with the relevant framework guideline to ACER.
10. The ENNOH shall convene a drafting committee to support it in the network code development process. The drafting committee shall consist of representatives of ACER, ~~the ENTSO for Gas, the ENTSO for Electricity and where appropriate the EU DSO entity,~~ and a limited number of the main affected stakeholders. The ~~European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen~~ ENNOH shall develop proposals for network codes in the areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.
11. ACER shall revise the proposed network code to ensure that it complies with the relevant framework guidelines and contributes to market integration, non-discrimination, effective competition, and the efficient functioning of the market and, shall submit the revised network code to the Commission within six months of receipt of the proposal. In the revised network code, ACER shall take into account the views provided by all involved parties during the drafting of the proposal led by the ~~European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen~~ ENNOH and shall consult the relevant stakeholders on the revised version to be submitted to the Commission.

12. Where the ENNOH has failed to develop a network code within the period set by the Commission under paragraph 9, the Commission may request ACER to prepare a draft network code on the basis of the relevant framework guideline. ACER may launch a further consultation in the course of preparing a draft network code under this paragraph. ACER shall submit a draft network code prepared under this paragraph to the Commission and may recommend that it be adopted.
13. Where the ~~European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen~~ ENNOH has failed to develop a network code, or ACER has failed to develop a draft network code as referred to in paragraph 12, the Commission may adopt, on its own initiative, or upon the proposal of ACER under paragraph 11, one or more network codes in the areas listed in paragraphs 1 and 2.
14. Where the Commission proposes to adopt a network code on its own initiative, it shall consult ACER, the ENNOH, ~~the ENTSOG for Gas~~ and all relevant stakeholders in regard to the draft network code during a period of no less than two months.
15. This Article shall be without prejudice to the Commission's right to adopt and amend the guidelines as laid down in Article 56. It shall be without prejudice to the possibility for the ENNOH to develop non-binding guidance in the areas set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 where such guidance does not relate to areas covered by a request addressed to the ENNOH by the Commission. The ENNOH shall submit any such guidance to ACER for an opinion and shall duly take that opinion into account.

**Amendments to network codes**

1. The Commission is empowered to amend the network codes within the areas listed in Article 53 (1) and (2) and in Article 54(1) and (2) in accordance with the relevant procedure set out in those Articles.
2. Persons who are likely to have an interest in any network code adopted under Articles 52 to 55, including the ENTSO for Gas, the ~~European Network of Network Operators for~~ **Hydrogen ENNOH**, the EU DSO entity, regulatory authorities, transmission system operators, distribution system operators, system users and consumers, may propose draft amendments to that network code to ACER. ACER may also propose amendments on its own initiative.
3. ACER may make reasoned proposals to the Commission for amendments, explaining how such proposals are consistent with the objectives of the network codes set out in Article 52 of this Regulation. Where it considers an amendment proposal to be admissible and where it proposes amendments on its own initiative, ACER shall consult all stakeholders in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2019/942.

### **Guidelines**

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt binding guidelines in the areas listed in this Article.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt guidelines in the areas where such acts could also be developed under the network code procedure pursuant to Articles 53 and 54. Those guidelines shall be adopted in the form of delegated or implementing acts, depending on the relevant empowerment provided for in this Regulation.
3. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 **to supplementing** this Regulation with regard to the establishment of guidelines in the following areas:
  - (a) details of third-party access services, including the character, duration and other requirements of those services, in accordance with Articles 5 to 7;
  - (b) details of the principles underlying capacity-allocation mechanisms and on the application of congestion-management procedures in the event of contractual congestion, in accordance with Articles 9 and 10;
  - (c) details of the provision of information, definition of the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the system and the definition of all relevant points for transparency requirements, including the information to be published at all relevant points and the time schedule for the publication of that information, in accordance with Articles 30 and 31;



- (d) details of tariff methodology related to cross-border trade of natural gas, in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 of this Regulation;
  - (e) details relating to the areas listed in Article 23(6).
4. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 in order to amend the guidelines laid down in Annex I to this Regulation **with a view to specifying:**
- a) details of information to be published on the methodology used to set the regulated revenue of the transmission system operator, in accordance with Articles 30 and 31.
  - b) details of principles of capacity-allocation mechanisms and congestion-management procedures implementing Article 9 and 10.
  - c) details of technical information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the natural gas system implementing Article 30(1).
  - d) details of definition of all relevant points, information to be published and time schedule for transparency requirements implementing Article 30.
  - e) details on the format and content of technical information on network access to be published by hydrogen network operators implementing Article 48.
5. When ~~adopting or~~ amending guidelines, the Commission shall consult:
- (a) ACER, the ENTSO for Gas, ~~the ENNOH~~, the EU DSO entity and, where relevant, other stakeholders **for guidelines that concern natural gas;**
  - (b) **ACER, the ENNOH and, where relevant, other stakeholders for guidelines that concern hydrogen.**

## Article 57

### Right of Member States to provide for more detailed measures

This Regulation shall be without prejudice to the rights of Member States to maintain or introduce measures that contain more detailed provisions than those set out in this Regulation, in the guidelines referred to in Article 56 or in the network codes referred to in Article 52 to 55, provided that those measures are compatible with Union law .

## Article ~~58~~58<sup>25</sup>

### Provision of information and confidentiality

1. Member States and the regulatory authorities shall, on request, provide the Commission with the information necessary for the purposes of enforcing this Regulation, including the guidelines and the network codes adopted under this Regulation.
2. The Commission shall set a reasonable time limit within which the information is to be provided, taking into account the complexity and urgency of the information required.
3. If the Member State or the regulatory authority concerned does not provide the information within the time limit set by the Commission, the Commission may request all the information necessary for the purpose of enforcing this Regulation directly from the undertakings concerned.

When sending a request for information to an undertaking, the Commission shall, at the same time, forward a copy of the request to the **Member State and the** regulatory ~~authorities~~ **authority** of the Member State in whose territory the seat of the undertaking is situated.

4. In its request for information, the Commission shall state the legal basis of the request, the time limit within which the information is to be provided, the purpose of the request, **including justified reasons demonstrating how the information requested is necessary for the purposes set out in paragraph 1**, and the penalties provided for in Article 59(2) for supplying incorrect, incomplete or misleading information.
5. The owners of the undertakings or their representatives and, in the case of legal persons, the natural persons authorised to represent the undertaking by law or by their instrument of incorporation, shall supply the information requested. Where lawyers are authorised to supply the information on behalf of their client, the client shall remain fully responsible in the event that the information supplied is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
6. Where an undertaking does not provide the information requested within the time limit set by the Commission or supplies incomplete information, the Commission may by decision require the information to be provided. That decision shall specify what information is required and set an appropriate time limit within which it is to be supplied. It shall indicate the penalties provided for in Article 59(2). It shall also indicate the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The Commission shall, at the same time, send a copy of its decision to the **Member State and the regulatory authorities authority** of the Member State within the territory of which the person is resident or the seat of the undertaking is situated.

7. The information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be used only for the purposes of enforcing this Regulation.

The Commission shall not disclose information acquired pursuant to this Regulation where that information is covered by the obligation of professional secrecy.

## *Article 59*

### **Penalties**

1. Member States shall lay down the rules on penalties applicable to infringements of this Regulation, the network codes and guidelines adopted pursuant to Articles 52 to 56 and the guidelines laid down in Annex I of this Regulation and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Member States shall, without delay, notify the Commission of those rules and of those measures and shall notify it without delay of any subsequent amendment affecting them.
2. The Commission may, by decision, impose on undertakings fines not exceeding 1 % of the total turnover in the preceding business year where, intentionally or negligently, those undertakings supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information in response to a request made pursuant to Article 58(4) or fail to supply information within the time-limit set in a decision adopted pursuant to Article 58(6), first subparagraph. In setting the amount of a fine, the Commission shall have regard to the gravity of the failure to comply with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. The penalties provided for pursuant to paragraph 1 and any decisions taken pursuant to paragraph 2 shall not be of a criminal law nature.

# Chapter V

## Final provisions

### *Article 60*

#### **New natural gas and hydrogen infrastructure**

1. Major new natural gas infrastructure, that is to say interconnectors, LNG and storage facilities, may, upon request, be exempted, for a defined period of time, from the provisions of this Regulation as well as from Articles, 28, 27 (1), 29, 54 and Article 72(7), (9) and 73(1) of [recast Gas Directive]. Major new hydrogen infrastructure, that is to say interconnectors, hydrogen terminals and underground hydrogen storages may, upon request, be exempted, for a defined period of time, from the **application of provisions of** Articles 62, 31, 32, 33 of [recast Gas Directive] and Article 15 of this Regulation. The following conditions apply:
  - (a) the investment enhances competition in gas supply or hydrogen supply and enhance security of supply;
  - (b) the investment contributes to decarbonisation;
  - (c) the level of risk attached to the investment is such that the investment would not take place unless an exemption was granted;
  - (d) the infrastructure is owned by a natural or legal person which is separate at least in terms of its legal form from the system operators in whose systems that infrastructure will be built;

- (e) charges are levied on users of that infrastructure; and
- (f) the exemption is not detrimental to competition in the relevant markets which are likely to be affected by the investment, to the effective functioning of the internal market in gas, to the efficient functioning of the regulated systems concerned, to decarbonisation or to security of supply in the Union.

These conditions ~~shall~~ ~~ould~~ be assessed taking into account the principle of energy solidarity. ~~Competent n~~National authorities ~~shall~~ ~~ould~~ take into account the situation in other affected Member State and balance possible negative effects with the beneficial effects on its territory.

- 2. The exemption in paragraph 1 shall also apply to significant increases of capacity in existing infrastructure and to modifications of such infrastructure which enable the development of new sources of renewable and low carbon gases supply.
- 3. The regulatory authority may, on a case-by-case basis, decide on the exemption referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Before the adoption of the decision on the exemption, the regulatory authority, or where appropriate another competent authority of that Member State, shall consult:

- (a) the regulatory authorities of the Member States the markets of which are likely to be affected by the new infrastructure; and
- (b) the relevant authorities of the third countries, where the infrastructure in question is connected with the Union network under the jurisdiction of a Member State, and originates from or ends in one or more third countries.

Where the third-country authorities consulted do not respond to the consultation within a reasonable time frame or within a set deadline not exceeding three months, the regulatory authority concerned may adopt the necessary decision.

4. Where the infrastructure in question is located in the territory of more than one Member State, ACER may submit an advisory opinion to the regulatory authorities of the Member States concerned within two months from the date on which the request for exemption was received by the last of those regulatory authorities. That opinion may be used as a basis for their decision.

Where all the regulatory authorities concerned agree on the request for exemption within six months of the date on which it was received by the last of the regulatory authorities, they shall inform the ACER of their decision. Where the infrastructure concerned is a transmission line between a Member State and a third country, the regulatory authority, or where appropriate another competent authority of the Member State where the first interconnection point with the Member States' network is located, may consult before the adoption of the decision on the exemption the relevant authority of that third country with a view to ensuring, as regards the infrastructure concerned, that this Regulation is applied consistently in the territory and, where applicable, in the territorial sea of that Member State. Where the third country authority consulted does not respond to the consultation within a reasonable time or within a set deadline not exceeding three months, the regulatory authority concerned may adopt the necessary decision.

ACER shall exercise the tasks conferred on the regulatory authorities of the Member States concerned by this Article:

- (a) where all regulatory authorities concerned have not been able to reach an agreement within a period of six months from the date on which the request for exemption was received by the last of those regulatory authorities; or
- (b) upon a joint request from the regulatory authorities concerned.

All regulatory authorities concerned may, jointly, request that the period referred to in the third subparagraph, point (a), is extended by up to three months.

- 5. Before taking a decision, the ACER shall consult the relevant regulatory authorities and the applicants.
- 6. An exemption may cover all or part of the capacity of the new infrastructure, or of the existing infrastructure with significantly increased capacity.

In deciding to grant an exemption, consideration shall be given, on a case-by-case basis, to the need to impose conditions regarding the duration of the exemption and non-discriminatory access to the infrastructure. When deciding on those conditions, account shall, in particular, be taken of the additional capacity to be built or the modification of existing capacity, the time horizon of the project and national circumstances.



Before granting an exemption, the regulatory authority shall decide upon the rules and mechanisms for management and allocation of capacity. The rules shall require that all potential users of the infrastructure are invited to indicate their interest in contracting capacity before capacity allocation in the new infrastructure, including for own use, takes place. The regulatory authority shall require congestion management rules to include the obligation to offer unused capacity on the market, and shall require users of the infrastructure to be entitled to trade their contracted capacities on the secondary market. In its assessment of the criteria referred to in paragraph 1, points (a), ~~(bc)~~ and ~~(ef)~~, the regulatory authority shall take into account the results of that capacity allocation procedure.

The exemption decision, including any conditions referred to in the second subparagraph of this paragraph, shall be duly reasoned and published.

7. When analysing whether a major new infrastructure is expected to enhance the security of supply pursuant to paragraph 1, point (a), the relevant authority shall consider to what extent the new infrastructure is expected to improve Member States' compliance with their obligations under Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>16</sup>, both at regional and national level.
8. Member States may provide that their regulatory authority or ACER, as the case may be, shall submit, for the purposes of the formal decision, to the relevant body in the Member State its opinion on the request for an exemption. That opinion shall be published together with the decision.

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<sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 (*OJ L 280, 28.10.2017, p. 1*).

9. The regulatory authority shall transmit to the Commission, without delay, a copy of every request for exemption as of its receipt. The ~~draft~~ exemption decision shall be notified, without delay, by the competent authority to the Commission, together with all the relevant information. That information may be submitted to the Commission in aggregate form, enabling the Commission to assess the ~~draft~~ exemption decision. In particular, the information shall contain:
- (a) the detailed reasons on the basis of which the regulatory authority, or Member State, ~~envisages to granted or refused~~ **granted or refused** the exemption together with a reference to the relevant point or points of paragraph 1 on which that ~~draft~~ decision is based, including the financial information justifying the need for the exemption;
  - (b) the analysis undertaken of the effect on competition and the effective functioning of the internal market resulting from the grant of the exemption;
  - (c) the reasons for the duration of the exemption and the share of the total capacity of the infrastructure for which the ~~envisaged~~ exemption is granted;
  - (d) where the ~~envisaged~~ exemption relates to an interconnector, the result of the consultation with the regulatory authorities concerned;
  - (e) the contribution of the infrastructure to the diversification of supply.
10. Within 50 working days of the day following that of receipt of the notification under paragraph ~~79~~, the Commission may take a decision requesting the notifying bodies to amend or withdraw the ~~notification decision~~ to grant an exemption. That period may be extended by an additional 50 working days where further information is requested by the Commission. The additional period shall begin on the day following receipt of the complete information. The initial period may also be extended by consent of both the Commission and the notifying bodies.

Where the requested information is not provided within the period set out in the request, the notification shall be deemed to be withdrawn unless, before the expiry of that period, either the period has been extended with the consent of both the Commission and the regulatory authority, or the regulatory authority, in a duly reasoned statement, has informed the Commission that it considers the notification to be complete.

The regulatory authority shall comply with the Commission decision to amend or withdraw the ~~draft~~ exemption decision within a period of one month and shall inform the Commission accordingly.

The Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.

When the Commission approves a ~~draft~~ exemption decision, that approval shall lose its effect:

- (a) after two years from its adoption where the construction of the infrastructure has not yet started,
- (b) after five years from its adoption where the infrastructure has not become operational within that period, unless the Commission decides that any delay is due to major obstacles beyond control of the person to whom the exemption has been granted.

11. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 63 in order to **supplement this Regulation by setting** guidelines for the application of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 of this Article and for the procedure to be followed for the application of paragraphs 3, 6, 8 and 9 of this Article.

## *Article 61*

### **Committee procedure**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the [name of the committee] established by Article 84 of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) 803 final]. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.
3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

## *Article 62*

### **Derogations**

This Regulation shall not apply to natural gas transmission systems situated in Member States for the duration of derogations granted under Article 80 of [new Gas Directive] ;

## *Article 63*

### **Exercise of the delegation**

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 13, 16, 28, 53, 54, 56 and 60 shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from [date of entry into force].

3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles **13**, 16, 28, 53, 54, 56 and 60 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of power specified in that decision. It shall take effect on the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.
4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.
5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.
6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles **13**, 16, 28, 53, 54, 56 and 60 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

## **Article 63a**

### **Review and reporting**

**By 31 December 2030 the Commission shall review this Regulation and shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council, accompanied, if necessary by appropriate legislative proposals.**

## *Article 64*

### **Amendment to Decision (EU) 2017/684**

The notification obligations for intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy relating to gas as laid down in Decision (EU) 2017/684 shall be construed as including intergovernmental agreements relating to hydrogen, including hydrogen compounds such as ammonia and liquid organic hydrogen carriers.

## *Article 65*

### **Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2019/942**

Regulation (EU) 2019/942 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 2, point (a) is replaced by the following:

‘(a) issue opinions and recommendations addressed to transmission system operators, the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, **the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen (‘ENNOH’)**, the EU DSO Entity, regional coordination centres, nominated electricity market operators, **and entities established by transmission system operators for gas, LNG system operators, gas or hydrogen storage system operators or operators of networks for hydrogen;**’

(2) Article 3(2), 1<sup>st</sup> subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘At ACER's request, the regulatory authorities, the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, **the ENNOH**, the regional coordination centres, the EU DSO entity, the transmission system operators, **hydrogen network operators**, the nominated electricity market operators, **and entities established by transmission system operators for gas, LNG system operators, gas or hydrogen storage system operators or hydrogen terminal operators** shall provide to ACER the information in the same level of detail necessary for the purpose of carrying out ACER's tasks under this Regulation, unless ACER has already requested and received such information.’

(3) Articles 4(1), 4(2), 4(3)(a) and (b) are replaced by the following:

‘1. ACER shall provide an opinion to the Commission on the draft statutes, list of members and draft rules of procedure of the ENTSO for Electricity in accordance with Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and on those of the ENTSO for Gas in accordance with Article 22(2) of [Gas Regulation] **and on those of the ENNOH in accordance with Article 40(5) of Regulation [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]** and on those of the EU DSO entity in accordance with Article 53(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 **and Article 37(4) of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804].**’

‘2. ACER shall monitor the execution of the tasks of the ENTSO for Electricity in accordance with Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, of the ENTSO for Gas in accordance with Article 24 of [**the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]** **and of the ENNOH in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]** and of the EU DSO entity as set out in Article 55 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and Article 38 of [**the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]**.’

‘3. ACER may provide an opinion:

(a) to the ENTSO for Electricity in accordance with point (a) of Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and to the ENTSO for Gas in accordance with Article 23(2) of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] and to the ENNOH in accordance with Article XX of Regulation [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804] on the network codes;’

‘(b) to the ENTSO for Electricity in accordance with Article 32(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, to the ENTSO for Gas in accordance with the Article 24(2) of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], and to the ENNOH in accordance with Article 43(2) of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] on the draft Union-wide network development plan and on other relevant documents referred to in Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 Articles 23(3) and 42(1) of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], taking into account the objectives of non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient and secure functioning of the internal markets for electricity and natural gas;’

(4) Articles 4(6), 4(7) and 4(8) are replaced by the following:

‘6. The relevant regulatory authorities shall coordinate in order to jointly identify whether there is non-compliance of ~~the EU-DSO entity~~, the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, the ENNOH, the EU DSO entity** or regional coordination centres with their obligations under Union law, and shall take appropriate action in accordance with Article 59(1) point (c) and Article 62(1) point (f) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 **or with Article 72(1) point (e) of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx803].**



At the request of one or more regulatory authorities or at its own initiative, ACER shall issue a reasoned opinion as well as a recommendation to the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen**, the EU DSO entity or the regional coordination centres with regard to compliance with their obligations.’;

‘7. Where a reasoned opinion of ACER identifies a case of potential non-compliance of the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen**, the EU DSO entity or a regional coordination centre with their respective obligations, the regulatory authorities concerned shall unanimously take coordinated decisions establishing whether there is non-compliance with the relevant obligations and, where applicable, determining the measures to be taken by the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, ENNOH**, the EU DSO entity or the regional coordination centre to remedy that non-compliance. Where the regulatory authorities fail to take such coordinated decisions unanimously within four months of the date of receipt of ACER's reasoned opinion, the matter shall be referred to ACER for a decision pursuant to Article 6(10).’

‘8. Where the non-compliance by the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, the ENNOH**, the EU DSO entity or a regional coordination centre that was identified pursuant to paragraph 6 or 7 of this Article has not been remedied within three months, or where the regulatory authority in the Member State in which the entity has its seat has not taken action to ensure compliance, ACER shall issue a recommendation to the regulatory authority to take action in accordance with Article 59(1) point (c) and Article 62(1) point (f) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 or with Article 74(1) point (d) of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx, in order to ensure that the ENTSO for Electricity, **the ENTSO for Gas, the ENNOH**, the EU DSO entity or the regional coordination centre comply with their obligations, and shall inform the Commission.’;

(5) Article 5(1) is replaced by the following:

1. ACER shall participate in the development of network codes in accordance with Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and Articles **53 and 54** 6 of **[the recast Gas DirectiveRegulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804]Regulation (EC) No 715/2009** and of guidelines in accordance with Article 61(6) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 **and Article 56(5) of [the recast Gas DirectiveRegulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804]**. It shall in particular:

- (a) submit non-binding framework guidelines to the Commission where it is requested to do so under Article 59(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles **53(4) or 54(4)6(2)** of **[the recast Gas DirectiveRegulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804]Regulation (EC) No 715/2009**. ACER shall review the framework guidelines and re-submit them to the Commission where requested to do so under Article 59(7) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles **53(7) or 54(7) 6(4)** of **[the recast Gas DirectiveRegulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804]Regulation (EC) No 715/2009**;
- ~~(b) —provide a reasoned opinion to the ENTSO for Gas on the network code in accordance with Article 6(7) of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009;~~

(be) revise the network code in accordance with Article 59(11) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 ~~or and~~ Articles 53(11) or 54(11) ~~6(9)~~ of [the recast Gas ~~Directive~~ Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] ~~Regulation (EC) No 715/2009~~. In its revision, ACER shall take account of the views provided by the parties involved during the drafting of that revised network code led by the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, ~~the ENNOH~~ or the EU DSO entity, and shall consult the relevant stakeholders on the version to be submitted to the Commission. For this purpose, ACER may use the committee established under the network codes where appropriate. ACER shall report to the Commission on the outcome of the consultations. Subsequently, ACER shall submit the revised network code to the Commission in accordance with Article 59(11) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 ~~or and~~ Articles 53(11) or 54(11) ~~6(9)~~ of [the recast Gas ~~Directive~~ Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] ~~Regulation (EC) No 715/2009~~. Where the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, ~~the ENNOH~~ or the EU DSO entity have failed to develop a network code, ACER shall prepare and submit a draft network code to the Commission where it is requested to do so under Article 59(12) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles 53(12) or 54(12) ~~6(10)~~ of [the recast Gas ~~Directive~~ Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] ~~Regulation (EC) No 715/2009~~;

- (c~~d~~) provide a duly reasoned opinion to the Commission, in accordance with Article 32(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles **24(1) or 46(2) 9(1)** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] Regulation (EC) No 715/2009**, where the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, **the ENNOH** or the EU DSO entity has failed to implement a network code elaborated under **point (a)** of Article 30(1), **point (a)** of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles **23(1) or 42(1), point (a) 8(2)** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] Regulation (EC) No 715/2009** or a network code which has been established in accordance with Article 59(3) to (12) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 **or** Articles **53(3) to (12) or 54(3) to (12) 6(1) to (10)** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] Regulation (EC) No 715/2009** but which has not been adopted by the Commission under Article 59(13) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 **or** under Articles **53(13) or 54(13) 6(11)** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] Regulation (EC) No 715/2009**.
- (d~~e~~) monitor and analyse the implementation of the network codes adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and Articles **53 and 54 6** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804] Regulation (EC) No 715/2009** and the guidelines adopted in accordance with Article 61 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 **and Article 56** of **[the recast Gas Directive Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx804]**, and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration as well as on non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, and report to the Commission

(6) Article 6(3), first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘3. By 5 July 2022, and every four years thereafter the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the independence of regulatory authorities pursuant to Article 57(7) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 and **Article 70(6) of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021)-xxx803].**’

(7) In Article 6 the following paragraphs (9a), (9b), (9c) and (9d) are inserted:

(9a) ACER shall issue recommendations to regulatory authorities and network operators related to ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset bases pursuant to Article 4(4) of **[the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]**.

(9b) ACER may issue recommendations to regulatory authorities on the allocation of costs of solutions for restrictions to cross-border flows due to gas quality differences pursuant to Article 19(8) of **[the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]**.

(9c) ACER may issue recommendations to regulatory authorities on the allocation of costs of solutions for restrictions to cross-border flows due to hydrogen quality differences pursuant to Article 39(8) of **[the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]**.

(9d) ACER shall publish monitoring reports on congestion at interconnection points pursuant to Annex I, section 2.2.1, point 2 of **[the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804]**.

(8) Article 6(10), first subparagraph, points (b) and (c) are replaced by the following:

‘(b) network codes and guidelines **referred to in Articles 59 to 61 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943** adopted before 4 July 2019 and subsequent revisions of those network codes and guidelines; ~~or~~<sup>2</sup>

‘(c) network codes and guidelines **referred to in Articles 59 to 61 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943** adopted as implementing acts pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011; **or**’

- (9) In Article 6(10), first subparagraph, the following points are added:
- (d) guidelines pursuant to Annex I to [Gas Regulation]; or
  - (e) network codes and guidelines referred to in Article 53 to 56 of [Gas Regulation].
- (10) In Article 6(10), second subparagraph, point (a) is replaced by the following:
- (a) where the competent regulatory authorities have not been able to reach an agreement within six months of referral of the case to the last of those regulatory authorities, or within four months in cases under Article 4(7) of this Regulation or under point (c) of Article 59(1) or point (f) of Article 62(1) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 **or Article 72(1) point (e) of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx803;**
- (11) Article 6(10), third subparagraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘The competent regulatory authorities may jointly request that the period referred to in point (a) of the second subparagraph of this paragraph be extended by a period of up to six months, except in cases under Article 4(7) of this Regulation or under point (c) of Article 59(1) or point (f) of Article 62(1) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 **or Article 72(1) point (e) of the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx803’;**
- (12) Article 6(10), fourth subparagraph, is replaced by the following:
- ‘Where the competences to decide on cross-border issues referred to in the first subparagraph have been conferred on the regulatory authorities in new network codes or guidelines **referred to in Articles 59 to 61 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943**, adopted as delegated acts after 4 July 2019, ACER shall only be competent on a voluntary basis pursuant to point (b) of the second subparagraph of this paragraph, upon a request from at least 60 % of the competent regulatory authorities. Where only two regulatory authorities are involved, either one may refer the case to ACER.’;

(13) Article 6(12), point (a) is replaced by the following:

(a) shall issue a decision within six months of the date of referral, or within four months thereof in cases pursuant to Article 4(7) of this Regulation or point (c) of Article (59)(1) or point (f) of Article 62(1) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 **or Article 72(1) point (e) of [the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) ~~xxx~~803]**; and

(14) Article 14(1) is replaced by the following:

‘In carrying out its tasks, in particular in the process of developing framework guidelines in accordance with Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Articles 53 and 54 of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx], and in the process of proposing amendments of network codes under Article 60 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or Article 55 of [the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] ACER shall, extensively consult at an early stage market participants, transmission system operators, **hydrogen network operators**, consumers, end-users and, where relevant, competition authorities, without prejudice to their respective competence, in an open and transparent manner, in particular when its tasks concern transmission system operators **and hydrogen network operators**’

(15) In Article 15 the following paragraphs (6) and (7) are added:

‘(6) ACER shall issue studies comparing the efficiency of EU transmission system operators’ costs pursuant to Article 17(2) of [**the recast Gas Regulation as proposed in COM(2021) 804**].’

‘(7) ACER shall submit opinions providing a harmonised format for the publication of technical information on access to hydrogen networks pursuant to Annex I to this Regulation.’

(16) Article 15(1) is replaced by the following:

‘ACER, in close cooperation with the Commission, the Member States and the relevant national authorities, including the regulatory authorities, and without prejudice to the competences of competition authorities, shall monitor the wholesale and retail markets in electricity and natural gas, in particular the retail prices of electricity and natural gas, compliance with the consumer rights laid down in Directive (EU) 2019/944 and **[the recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) 803]**, the impact of market developments on household customers, access to the networks including access of electricity produced from renewable energy sources, the progress made with regard to interconnectors, potential barriers to cross-border trade, **including the impact of blending hydrogen into the natural gas system and barriers to the cross-border flow of biomethane**, regulatory barriers for new market entrants and smaller actors, including citizen energy communities, state interventions preventing prices from reflecting actual scarcity, such as those set out in Article 10(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, the performance of the Member States in the area of security of supply of electricity based on the results of the European resource adequacy assessment as referred to in Article 23 of that Regulation, taking into account, in particular, the ex-post evaluation referred to in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2019/941.’

(17) In Article 15~~(2)~~ (1) the following subparagraph 2 is added:

‘ACER, in close cooperation with the Commission, the Member States and the relevant national authorities, including the regulatory authorities, and without prejudice to the competences of competition authorities, shall monitor the hydrogen markets, in particular the impact of market developments on hydrogen customers, access to the hydrogen network, including access to the network of hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources, the progress made with regard to interconnectors, potential barriers to cross-border trade.’



(18) Article 15(2) is replaced by the following:

‘ACER shall publish annually a report on the results of the monitoring referred to in paragraph 1. In that report, it shall identify any barriers to the completion of the internal markets for electricity, ~~and natural natural gas and hydrogen.~~’

#### *Article 66*

#### **Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011**

Regulation No 1227/2011 is amended as follows:

- (a) In Article 2, Article 3(3) and (4), Article 4(1), Article 8(5) the term ‘electricity or natural gas’ is replaced by the term “**electricity, hydrogen or natural gas**”;
- (b) In Article 6(2) the term ‘electricity and gas markets’ is replaced by the term ‘**electricity, hydrogen and natural gas markets**’.

### Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2017/1938

Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 is amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 1, the first sentence is replaced by the following:

‘This Regulation establishes provisions aiming to safeguard the security of gas supply in the Union by ensuring the proper and continuous functioning of the internal market in natural gas and renewable and low carbon gases (‘gas’), by allowing for exceptional measures to be implemented when the market can no longer deliver the gas supplies required, including solidarity measure of a last resort, and by providing for the clear definition and attribution of responsibilities among natural gas undertakings, the Member States and the Union regarding both preventive action and the reaction to concrete disruptions of gas supply.’;

- (2) In Article 2, the following definitions are added:

‘~~(2732)~~‘gas’ – means natural gas as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx];’

~~(28) ‘strategic stock’ means gas purchased, managed and stored by transmission system operators exclusively for carrying out their functions as transmission system operators and for the purpose of security of supply. Gas stored as part of a strategic stock shall be dispatched only where required to keep the system in operation under secure and reliable conditions in line with Article 35 [recast Gas Directive as proposed in COM(2021) xxx] or in case of a declared emergency under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council and can otherwise not be sold on wholesale gas markets;’~~

(2933) ‘storage user’ means a customer or a potential customer of a storage system operator.’

(3) In Article 2, the following subparagraph is added:

‘References to natural gas shall be construed as references to gas as defined in point (2732).’

(4) Article 7 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

**‘1. By 1 November 2017, ENTSOG shall carry out a Union-wide simulation of gas supply and infrastructure disruption scenarios. The simulation shall include the identification and assessment of emergency gas supply corridors and shall also identify which Member States can address identified risks, including in relation to storage and LNG. <sup>2</sup> The gas supply and infrastructure disruption scenarios and the methodology for the simulation shall be defined by ENTSOG in cooperation with the GCG. ENTSOG shall ensure an appropriate level of transparency and access to the modelling assumptions used in its scenarios. The Union-wide simulation of gas supply and infrastructure disruption scenarios shall be repeated every four years unless circumstances warrant more frequent updates.’**

(5) In paragraph 4, point (e) is replaced by the following:

‘(e) taking into account risks relating to the control of infrastructure relevant to the security of gas supply to the extent that they may involve, inter alia, risks of underinvestment, undermining diversification, misuse of existing infrastructure, **including hoarding of storage capacities**, or an infringement of Union law;’

~~(6) — The following new Articles 7a and 7b is are inserted:~~

## **Article 7a**

### **Preventive and emergency measures**

~~Member States shall take appropriate preventive and emergency measures. These measures have to take into account the results of the most recent Union wide simulation of disruption scenarios foreseen in Article 7 and need to be appropriate to address the risks identified in the common and national risk assessments.<sup>2</sup>~~

~~(7) — Articles 8(1) and 9(3) to 9(10) shall be moved to become Article 7a(2) to 7a(12).~~

~~(8) — The following new Articles 7b, 7c and 7d are inserted:~~

## **Article 7b**

### **Efficient and joint use of infrastructures and gas storage**

~~1. Member States shall ensure the use of the existing infrastructure at national and regional level, for the benefit of the security of supply in an efficient way. In particular, Member States shall enable the cross border exchange of gas and cross border access to storage and LNG.~~

~~2. The common risk assessments and any subsequent updates shall include an analysis of the adequacy of the capacity of storage facilities available in the region, on the functioning of the storage capacities and their contribution to security of supply of the Union, including risks related to control of storage infrastructure relevant for the security of gas supply by third country entities. This analysis shall compare the role of gas storages with alternative measures such as investments in energy efficiency and renewables.~~

~~3. Where the results of this analysis in the common risk assessment or in any updates to this assessment indicate that there is a risk at regional level, which may be a risk for one or several Member States of the same risk group, that cannot otherwise be addressed, the Member States shall consider one or several of the following measures:~~

- ~~a) obliging gas storage users to store a minimum volume of gas in underground storage,~~
- ~~b) tendering, auctioning or equivalent mechanisms which incentivise bookings of storage capacities under which the potential shortfalls in costs are covered,~~
- ~~c) obliging a transmission system operator to purchase and manage strategic stocks of gas,~~
- ~~d) allowing for a possibility to fully integrate storages in the network of the transmission system operator in case the storage would otherwise stop operations, if such stop of operations would put at risk the secure and reliable functioning of the transmission system.~~

~~Such measures shall be subject to consultation in the relevant risk group, in particular on how the measures address the risks identified in the common risk assessment.~~

~~4. The measures adopted pursuant to Article 7a and paragraph 3 of this Article shall be necessary, clearly defined, transparent, proportionate, non-discriminatory and verifiable, and shall not unduly distort competition or the effective functioning of the internal market in gas or endanger the security of gas supply of other Member States or of the Union. The measures shall not block or restrict cross-border capacities allocated in line with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/459.~~

~~5. If regional risks are identified, Member States in the relevant risk group shall aim at agreeing in the regional risk group on the targeted level of stocks in the region to ensure that the identified security of supply risk is covered in line with the common analysis of risks.~~

~~Member States in the relevant risk group shall seek to agree on joint financing schemes of the measures taken pursuant to paragraph 3 chosen on the basis of the common risk assessment. The allocation of cost across Member States shall be fair and based on the analysis conducted in accordance with paragraph 2. If the measure is financed through a levy, this levy shall not be allocated to cross-border interconnection points. If Member States cannot agree on joint financing schemes, the Commission may adopt a legally non-binding guidance on the key elements to be included.~~

~~6. Member States in the relevant risk group shall agree on a common coordinated procedure to withdraw the gas stored in storage referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article in case of emergency, as defined in Article 11(1). The common coordinated procedure shall include the procedure in case of withdrawal of gas as part of the actions coordinated by the Commission in case of regional or Union emergency as referred to in Article 12(3).~~

~~7. After the internal consultation in the relevant risk group referred to in paragraph 3, the Member States shall consult the Gas Coordination Group. The Member States shall inform the Gas Coordination Group of the joint financing schemes and withdrawal procedures in paragraph 5 and 6.~~

~~8. The measures which result from paragraph 3 shall be included in the risk assessments, and where applicable in the preventive action plan and the emergency plan, corresponding to the given period.~~

## **Article 7e**

### **EU-wide risk assessment**

~~As a transitional provision, within six months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, all Member States shall complete the existing common and national risk assessments, and where applicable the preventive action plan and the emergency plan, by the necessary addendum to comply with Article 7b, paragraph 2 to 6. These updated plans shall be made public and notified to the Commission following the procedure in Article 8(7), and the Commission shall issue a recommendation under the conditions defined in Article 8(8), to be taken into consideration by the competent authority concerned following the procedure described in Article 8(9).~~

## **Article 7da**

### **Joint procurement for strategic balancing stocks**

~~1. Member States may set up a mechanism for the joint procurement of strategic balancing stocks by transmission system operators as part of the preventive measures to ensure security of supply.~~

~~The mechanism shall be designed in compliance with EU law and competition rules and in a way so that the strategic balancing stocks can be used as part of the actions coordinated by the Commission in case of regional or Union emergency, as referred to in Article 12(3).~~

~~The mechanism shall be open to participation of all transmission system operators within the Union who wish to join after its establishment.~~

~~2. The participating Member States shall notify their intention to establish such mechanism to the Commission. The notification shall include the information necessary to assess the compliance with this Regulation, such as the volume of gas to be purchased, the duration of the measure, the participating transmission system operators, the governance arrangements, the operating procedures and conditions for activation in an emergency situation. It shall also specify the costs and benefits expected.~~

~~3. The Commission may issue an opinion within a time limit of three months as to the compliance of the envisaged mechanism with this Regulation. The Commission shall inform the Gas Coordination Group of the notification received and if appropriate ACER. The participating Member States shall take the Commission opinion in the utmost account.~~

#### ~~Article 7eb~~

#### ~~Report on storage and joint procurement for strategic balancing stocks~~

~~The Commission shall issue a report three years after the entry into force of this Regulation on the application of Articles 7b, Articles 7c and Article 7d and on the experience, benefits, costs, and any obstacles encountered in the use of the possibility of joint procurement for strategic balancing stocks.~~

(9) Article 8 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is deleted;

(b) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:



**‘3. The preventive action plan and the emergency plan shall contain a regional chapter, or several regional chapters, where a Member State is a member of different risk groups as defined in Annex I.**

**The regional chapters shall be developed jointly by all Member States in the risk group before incorporation in the respective national plans. The Commission shall act as a facilitator so as to enable that the regional chapters collectively enhance the security of gas supply in the Union, and, do not give rise to any contradiction, and to overcome any obstacles to cooperation.**

The regional chapters shall contain appropriate and effective cross-border measures, including in relation to **storages and** LNG, subject to agreement between the Member States implementing the measures from the same or different risk groups affected by the measure on the basis of the simulation referred to in Article 7(1) and the common risk assessment.’;

~~(10) — in paragraph 6, the following sentence is added:~~

~~‘The proposal for cooperation may include the voluntary participation in joint procurement of strategic stocks, as referred to in Article 7c.’;~~

(11) The following new Article 8a is inserted:

#### ‘Article 8a

#### **Measures on cybersecurity**

1. When establishing the preventive action plans and the emergency plans, the Member States shall consider the appropriate measures related to cybersecurity.

2. The Commission may adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 19 establishing gas sector-specific rules for the cyber security aspects of cross-border gas flows, including rules on common minimum requirements, planning, monitoring, reporting and crisis management.

3. To develop this delegated act, the Commission shall work closely with the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators ('ACER'), the **European Union Agency for Cybersecurity Agency** ('ENISA'), the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas ('ENTSOG') and a limited number of main affected stakeholders, as well as entities with existing competences in cybersecurity, within their own mandate, such as cybersecurity operation centres (SOCs) relevant for regulated entities and computer security incident response teams (CSIRT), as referred to in the **Art 9 of Directive (EU) 2022/xxx on security of network and information systems (NIS 2.0)** measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union'

(12) Article 9 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

(i) point (e) is replaced by the following:

‘(e) other preventive measures designed to address the risks identified in the risk assessment, ~~as referred to in Article 7a(1)~~, such as those relating to the need to enhance interconnections between neighbouring Member States, to further improve energy efficiency, **to prevent capacity hoarding**, to reduce gas demand and the possibility to diversify gas routes and sources of gas supply and the regional utilisation of existing storage and LNG capacities, if appropriate, in order to maintain gas supply to all customers as far as possible;’;

(ii) point (k) is replaced by the following:

‘ (k) information on all public service obligations that relate to the security of gas supply, ~~including storage capacity obligations and strategic stocks~~;’;

(iii) the following point ~~(i)~~ **(I)** is added:

‘~~(i)~~ **(I)** information on measures related to cybersecurity, as referred to in Article 8a.’;

~~(13) In Article 12(3), the following point (d) is added:~~

~~‘(d) coordinate the actions with regard to the joint procurement of strategic stocks, as referred to in Article 7c.’;~~

(14) Article 13 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 are replaced by the following:

‘3. A solidarity measure **shall be a last resort measure** that shall apply only if the requesting Member State has:

(a) declared an emergency state under Article 11;

(b) not been able to cover the deficit in gas supply to its solidarity protected customers despite the application of the measure referred to in Article 11(3);

(c) exhausted all market-based measures (‘voluntary measures’), all non-market based measures (‘mandatory measures’) and other measures contained in its emergency plan;

(d) notified an explicit request to the Commission and to the competent authorities of all Member States with which it is connected either directly or pursuant to paragraph 2 via a third country, accompanied by a description of the implemented measures referred to in point (b) of this paragraph **and by the explicit commitment** to pay fair and prompt compensation to the Member State providing solidarity in accordance with paragraph 8.

4. **The Member States that receives a request for a solidarity** measure shall make such offers on the basis of voluntary demand-side measures as much as and for as long as possible, before resorting to non-market-based measures.

Where market-based measures prove insufficient for the Member State providing solidarity to address the deficit in gas supply to solidarity protected customers in the requesting Member State, the Member State providing solidarity may introduce non-market-based measures in order to comply with the obligations laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2.

5. If there is more than one Member State that could provide solidarity to a requesting Member State, the requesting Member State shall, after consulting all Member States required to provide solidarity, seek the most advantageous offer on the basis of cost, speed of delivery, reliability and diversification of supplies of gas. **Should the available market based offers not be enough sufficient to cover the deficit in gas supply to the solidarity protected customers in the requesting Member State, the Member States required to provide solidarity shall be obliged to activate non-market based measures.'**

(b) In paragraph 10, the following subparagraph is added:

‘Where a solidarity measure has been provided in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2, the final amount of the compensation that has been paid by the requesting Member State shall be subject to ex-post control by the Regulatory Authority and/or the Competition Authority of the Providing Member State, within three months of the lifting of the emergency. The Requesting Member State shall be consulted and give its opinion on the conclusion of the ex-post control. Following the consultation with the Requesting Member State, the authority which exercises this ex-post control is entitled to require a rectification of the amount of the compensation, taking into account the opinion of the Requesting Member State. The conclusions of this ex-post control shall be transmitted to the European Commission, which will take them into consideration in its report on the emergency pursuant to Article 14(3).’;

(c) paragraph 14 is replaced by the following:

‘14. The applicability of this Article shall not be affected if Member States fail to agree or finalise their technical, legal and financial arrangements. In such a situation, where **a solidarity measure is needed to guarantee the gas supply to solidarity protected customers, the arrangements contained in ~~(new)~~ Annex IX shall apply by default to the request and provision of the relevant gas.**’;

(15) In Article 14(3), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘After an emergency, the competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall, as soon as possible and at the latest six weeks after the lifting of the emergency, provide the Commission with a detailed assessment of the emergency and the effectiveness of the measures implemented, including an assessment of the economic impact of the emergency, the impact on the electricity sector and the assistance provided to or received from, the Union and its Member States. **Where relevant, the assessment shall include a detailed description of the circumstances that led to activating the mechanism in Article 13 and the conditions under which the missing gas supplies were received, including the price and financial compensation paid, and – where relevant – the reasons why the solidarity offers were not accepted and /or gas was not supplied.** Such assessment shall be made available to the GCG and shall be reflected in the updates of the preventive action plans and the emergency plans.’

(15a) in Article 17a, the following paragraph is added:

**‘2. The report that is to be submitted by 28 February 2025 shall also include a general assessment of the application of Articles 6a to 6d, Article 7(1) and (4)(g), Article 16(3), Article 17a, Article 18a, Article 20(4), and Annexes Ia and Ib to this Regulation. The report shall be accompanied, where necessary, by a legislative proposal to amend this Regulation.’;**

(16) Article 19 is amended as follows:

(a) the first sentence of paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 3(8), Article 7(5), Article 8(5) **and Article 8a(2) (cybersecurity)** shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from ~~1 November 2017~~ **[the date of adoption of the amendments]**.’;

(b) the first sentence of paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

‘3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 3(8), Article 7(5), Article 8(5) **and Article 8a(2) (cybersecurity)** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council.’;

(c) the first sentence of paragraph 6 is replaced by the following:

‘6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 3(8), Article 7(5), Article 8(5) **and Article 8a(2) (cybersecurity)** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object.’;

~~(16a) in Article 22, paragraph 4 is deleted;~~

(17) Annex VI is amended as follows:

(a) in section 5(a) , second subparagraph, the following indent is inserted after the second indent ‘Measures to diversify gas routes and sources of supply,’

‘ - Measures to prevent capacity hoarding,’;

(b) in section 11.3, point (a) , second subparagraph, the following indent is inserted after the second indent ‘Measures to diversify gas routes and sources of supply,’;

‘ - Measures to prevent capacity hoarding,’;

(18) The text set out in Annex II to this Regulation is added as Annex IX to Regulation (EU) 2017/1938.

### *Article 68*

### **Repeal**

Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 is repealed . References made to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex II.

*Article 69*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from [1 January 2023] .

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*  
*The President*

*For the Council*  
*The President*



**ANNEX I****GUIDELINES ON****1. INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE METHODOLOGY USED TO SET THE REGULATED REVENUE OF THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR**

The following information shall be published before the tariff period by the regulatory authority or the transmission system operator as decided by the regulatory authority.

This information shall be provided separately for transmission activities where the transmission system operator is part of a larger commercial entity or holding.

1. The entity responsible calculating, setting and approving the different components of the methodology.
2. A description of the methodology, including at least a description of:
  - (a) the overall methodology, such as revenue-cap, hybrid, cost-plus or tariff benchmarking;

- (b) the methodology to set the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base (RAB), including:
  - (i) methodology to determine the initial (opening) value of the assets as applied at the start of the regulation and when incorporating new assets to the regulatory asset base;
  - (ii) methodology to re-evaluate assets;
  - (iii) explanations of the evolution of the value of the assets;
  - (iv) treatment of decommissioned assets;
  - (v) depreciation methodology applied to the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base, including any changes applied to the values.
- (c) the methodology to set the cost of capital;
- (d) the methodology to determine the total expenditure (TOTEX) or, if applicable, operational expenditure (OPEX) and capital expenditure (CAPEX);
- (e) the methodology to determine the efficiency of the cost, if applicable;
- (f) the methodology applied to set the inflation;
- (g) the methodology to determine premia and incentives, if applicable;
- (h) non controllable costs;
- (i) services provided within the company holding, if applicable.

3. The values of the parameters used in the methodology
  - (a) the detailed values of the parameters that are part of the cost of equity and cost of debt or weighted average cost of capital expressed in percentages;
  - (b) depreciation periods in years applicable separately to pipelines and compressors;
  - (c) changes in the depreciation period or in the acceleration of the depreciation applied to assets;
  - (d) efficiency targets in percentages;
  - (e) inflation indices;
  - (f) premia and incentives.
4. The values of costs and expenditures that are used for setting the allowed or target revenue in the local currency and in euro of:
  - (a) the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base per asset type detailed per year until its full depreciation, including:
  - (b) investments added to the ~~regulated~~ **regulatory** asset base, per asset type;
  - (c) the depreciation per asset type until the full depreciation of the assets;
  - (d) the cost of capital including the cost of equity and the cost of debt;
  - (e) operational expenditures;
  - (f) premia and incentives detailed separately per item.

5. Financial indicators to be provided for the transmission system operator. In the event of the transmission system operator being part of a larger holding or company, these values shall be provided separately for the transmission system operator, including:

- (a) earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA);
- (b) earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT);
- (c) return on assets I (ROA) = EBITDA / RAB;
- (d) return on assets II (ROA) = EBIT / RAB;
- (e) return on equity (ROE) = ~~Equity / Profit~~ Profit / Equity;
  - (aa) return on capital employed (RoCE);
  - (bb) leverage ratio;
  - (cc) net debt / (Net debt + Equity);
  - (dd) net debt / EBITDA.

The regulatory authority or the transmission system operator shall provide a simplified tariff model including the disaggregated parameters and values of the methodology and allowing to replicate the calculation of the allowed or target revenue of the transmission system operator.

6. Transmission system operators shall maintain and make available to the competent authority upon request a daily log of the actual maintenance and flow disruptions that have occurred. Information shall also be made available on request to those affected by any disruption.

**2. PRINCIPLES OF CAPACITY-ALLOCATION MECHANISMS AND CONGESTION- MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE EVENT OF CONTRACTUAL CONGESTION**

**2.1. Principles of capacity-allocation mechanisms and congestion-management procedures concerning transmission system operators**

1. Capacity-allocation mechanisms and congestion-management procedures shall facilitate the development of competition and liquid trading of capacity and shall be compatible with market mechanisms including spot markets and trading hubs. They shall be flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances.
2. Those mechanisms and procedures shall take into account the integrity of the system concerned as well as security of supply.
3. Those mechanisms and procedures shall neither hamper the entry of new market participants nor create undue barriers to market entry. They shall not prevent market participants, including new market entrants and companies with a small market share, from competing effectively.
4. Those mechanisms and procedures shall provide appropriate economic signals for efficient and maximum use of technical capacity and facilitate investment in new infrastructure.
5. Network users shall be advised about the type of circumstance that could affect the availability of contracted capacity. Information on interruption ~~should~~**shall** reflect the level of information available to the transmission system operator.

6. Should difficulties in meeting contractual delivery obligations arise due to system integrity reasons, transmission system operators ~~should~~**shall** notify network users and seek a non-discriminatory solution without delay.

Transmission system operators shall consult network users regarding procedures prior to their implementation and agree them with the regulatory authority.

## **2.2.** Congestion management procedures in the event of contractual congestion

### *2.2.1. General provisions*

1. The provisions of point 2.2 shall apply to interconnection points between adjacent entry-exit systems, irrespective of whether they are physical or virtual, between two or more Member States or within the same Member State in so far as the points are subject to booking procedures by users. They may also apply to entry points from and exit points to third countries, subject to the decision of the relevant national regulatory authority. Exit points to end-consumers and distribution networks, entry points from LNG terminals and production facilities, and entry-exit points from and to storage facilities are not subject to the provisions of point 2.2.
2. On the basis of the information published by the transmission system operators pursuant to Section 3 of this Annex and, where appropriate, validated by national regulatory authorities, ACER shall publish a monitoring report on congestion at interconnection points with respect to firm capacity products sold in the preceding year, taking into consideration to the extent possible capacity trading on the secondary market and the use of interruptible capacity.

The monitoring report shall be published every two years. ACER shall publish additional reports based on a substantiated request from the Commission up to once per year.

3. Any additional capacity made available through the application of one of the congestion-management procedures as provided for in points 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 shall be offered by the respective transmission system operator(s) in the regular allocation process.

3.

2.2.2. *Capacity increase through oversubscription and buy-back scheme*

1. Transmission system operators shall propose and, after approval by the national regulatory authority, implement an incentive-based oversubscription and buy-back scheme in order to offer additional capacity on a firm basis. Before implementation, the national regulatory authority shall consult with the national regulatory authorities of adjacent Member States and take account of the adjacent national regulatory authorities' opinions. Additional capacity is defined as the firm capacity offered in addition to the technical capacity of an interconnection point calculated on the basis of Article 5(1) of this Regulation.
2. The oversubscription and buy-back scheme shall provide transmission system operators with an incentive to make available additional capacity, taking account of the technical conditions, such as the calorific value, temperature and expected consumption, of the relevant entry-exit system and the capacities in adjacent networks. Transmission system operators shall apply a dynamic approach with regard to the recalculation of the technical or additional capacity of the entry-exit system.

3. The oversubscription and buy-back scheme shall be based on an incentive regime reflecting the risks of transmission system operators in offering additional capacity. The scheme shall be structured in such a way that revenues from selling additional capacity and costs arising from the buy-back scheme or measures pursuant to point 6 are shared between the transmission system operators and the network users. National regulatory authorities shall decide on the distribution of revenues and costs between the transmission system operator and the network user.
4. For the purpose of determining transmission system operators' revenues, technical capacity, in particular surrendered capacity as well as, where relevant, capacity arising from the application of firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it and long term use-it-or-lose-it mechanisms, shall be considered to be allocated prior to any additional capacity.
5. In determining the additional capacity, the transmission system operator shall take into account statistical scenarios for the likely amount of physically unused capacity at any given time at interconnection points. It shall also take into account a risk profile for offering additional capacity which does not lead to excessive buy-back obligation. The oversubscription and buy-back scheme shall also estimate the likelihood and the costs of buying back capacity on the market and reflect this in the amount of additional capacity to be made available.
6. Where necessary to maintain system integrity, transmission system operators shall apply a market-based buy-back procedure in which network users can offer capacity. Network users shall be informed about the applicable buy-back procedure. The application of a buy-back procedure is without prejudice to the applicable emergency measures.
7. Transmission system operators shall, before applying a buy-back procedure, verify whether alternative technical and commercial measures can maintain system integrity in a more cost-efficient manner.



8. When proposing the oversubscription and buy-back scheme the transmission system operator shall provide all relevant data, estimates, and models to the national regulatory authority in order for the latter to assess the scheme. The transmission system operator shall regularly report to the national regulatory authority on the functioning of the scheme and, upon request of the national regulatory authority, provide all relevant data. The national regulatory authority may request the transmission system operator to revise the scheme.

#### 2.2.3. *Firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it mechanism*

1. National regulatory authorities shall require transmission system operators to apply at least the rules laid down in point 3 per network user at interconnection points with respect to altering the initial nomination if, on the basis of the yearly monitoring report of ACER in accordance with point 2.2.1(2), it is shown that at interconnection points demand exceeded offer, at the reserve price when auctions are used, in the course of capacity allocation procedures in the year covered by the monitoring report for products for use in either that year or in one of the subsequent two years,
  - (a) for at least three firm capacity products with a duration of one month or
  - (b) for at least two firm capacity products with a duration of one quarter or
  - (c) for at least one firm capacity product with a duration of one year or more or
  - (d) where for at least six months no firm capacity product with a duration of one month or more has been offered.

2. If, on the basis of the yearly monitoring report, it is shown that a situation as defined in point 1 is unlikely to reoccur in the following three years, for example as a result of capacity becoming available from physical expansion of the network or termination of long-term contracts, the relevant national regulatory authorities may decide to terminate the firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it mechanism.
3. Firm renomination is permitted up to 90 % and down to 10 % of the contracted capacity by the network user at the interconnection point. However, if the nomination exceeds 80 % of the contracted capacity, half of the non-nominated volume may be renominated upwards. If the nomination does not exceed 20 % of the contracted capacity, half of the nominated volume may be renominated downwards. The application of this point is without prejudice to the applicable emergency measures.
4. The original holder of the contracted capacity may renominate the restricted part of its contracted firm capacity on an interruptible basis.
5. Point 3 shall not apply to network users — persons or undertakings and the undertakings they control pursuant to Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 – holding less than 10% of the average technical capacity in the preceding year at the interconnection point.
6. On interconnection points where a firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it mechanism in accordance with point 3 is applied, an evaluation of the relationship with the oversubscription and buy-back scheme pursuant to point 2.2.2 shall be carried out by the national regulatory authority, which may result in a decision by the national regulatory authority not to apply the provisions of point 2.2.2 at those interconnection points. Such a decision shall be notified, without delay, to ACER and the Commission.

7. A national regulatory authority may decide to implement a firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it mechanism pursuant to point 3 on an interconnection point. Before adopting its decision, the national regulatory authority shall consult with the national regulatory authorities of adjacent Member States. In adopting its decision, the national regulatory authority shall take account of the adjacent national regulatory authorities' opinions.

#### 2.2.4. *Surrender of contracted capacity*

Transmission system operators shall accept any surrender of firm capacity which is contracted by the network user at an interconnection point, with the exception of capacity products with a duration of a day and shorter. The network user shall retain its rights and obligations under the capacity contract until the capacity is reallocated by the transmission system operator and to the extent the capacity is not reallocated by the transmission system operator. Surrendered capacity shall be considered to be reallocated only after all the available capacity has been allocated. The transmission system operator shall notify the network user without delay of any reallocation of its surrendered capacity. Specific terms and conditions for surrendering capacity, in particular for cases where several network users surrender their capacity, shall be approved by the national regulatory authority.

#### 2.2.5. *Long term use-it-or-lose-it mechanism*

1. National regulatory authorities shall require transmission system operators to partially or fully withdraw systematically underutilised contracted capacity on an interconnection point by a network user where that user has not sold or offered under reasonable conditions its unused capacity and where other network users request firm capacity. Contracted capacity is considered to be systematically underutilised in particular if:

- (a) the network user uses less than on average 80% of its contracted capacity both from 1 April until 30 September and from 1 October until 31 March with an effective contract duration of more than one year for which no proper justification could be provided; or
  - (b) the network user systematically nominates close to 100% of its contracted capacity and renominates downwards with a view to circumventing the rules laid down in point 2.2.3(3).
- 2. The application of a firm day-ahead use-it-or-lose-it mechanism shall not be regarded as justification to prevent the application of point 1.
- 3. Withdrawal shall result in the network user losing its contracted capacity partially or completely for a given period or for the remaining effective contractual term. The network user shall retain its rights and obligations under the capacity contract until the capacity is reallocated by the transmission system operator and to the extent the capacity is not reallocated by the transmission system operator.
- 4. Transmission system operators shall regularly provide national regulatory authorities with all the data necessary to monitor the extent to which contracted capacities with effective contract duration of more than one year or recurring quarters covering at least two years are used.

**3. DEFINITION OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR NETWORK USERS TO GAIN EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE NATURAL GAS SYSTEM, THE DEFINITION OF ALL RELEVANT POINTS FOR TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS AND THE INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED AT ALL RELEVANT POINTS AND THE TIME SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS INFORMATION SHALL BE PUBLISHED**

**3.1. Definition of the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the system**

*3.1.1. Form of publication*

1. Transmission system operators (TSOs) shall provide all information referred to under point 3.1.2 and points 3.3(1) to 3.3(5) in the following manner:
  - (a) on a website accessible to the public, free of charge and without any need to register or otherwise sign on with the transmission system operator;
  - (b) on a regular/rolling basis; the frequency shall be according to the changes that take place and the duration of the service;
  - (c) in a user-friendly manner;
  - (d) in a clear, quantifiable, easily accessible way and on a non-discriminatory basis;
  - (e) in a downloadable format that has been agreed between transmission system operators and the national regulatory authorities — on the basis of an opinion on a harmonised format that shall be provided by ACER — and that allows for quantitative analyses;

- (f) in consistent units, in particular kWh (with a combustion reference temperature of 298,15 K) shall be the unit for energy content and m<sup>3</sup> (at 273,15 K and 1,01325 bar) shall be the unit for volume. The constant conversion factor to energy content shall be provided. In addition to the format above, publication in other units is also possible;
- (g) in the official language(s) of the Member State and in English;
- (h) all data shall be made available on one Union-wide central platform, established by ENTSOG on a cost-efficient basis.

2. Transmission system operators shall provide details on actual changes to all information referred to under point 3.1.2 and points 3.3(1) to 3.3(5) in a timely manner as soon as available to them.

### *3.1.2. Content of publication*

- 1. Transmission system operators shall publish at least the following information about their systems and services:
  - (a) a detailed and comprehensive description of the different services offered and their charges;
  - (b) the different types of transportation contracts available for these services;
  - (c) the network code and/or the standard conditions outlining the rights and responsibilities of all network users including:

- (i) harmonised transportation contracts and other relevant documents;
  - (ii) if relevant for access to the system, for all relevant points as defined in point 3.2 of this Annex, a specification of relevant gas quality parameters, including at least the gross calorific value, Wobbe index and oxygen content, and the liability or costs of conversion for network users in case gas is outside these specifications;
  - (iii) if relevant for access to the system, for all relevant points information on pressure requirements;
  - (iv) the procedure in the event of an interruption of interruptible capacity, including, where applicable, the timing, extent, and ranking of individual interruptions (for example pro-rata or first-come-last-interrupted);
- (d) the harmonised procedures applied when using the transmission system, including the definition of key terms;
  - (e) provisions on capacity allocation, congestion management and anti-hoarding and reutilisation procedures;
  - (f) the rules applicable for capacity trade on the secondary market vis-à-vis the transmission system operator;
  - (g) rules on balancing and methodology for the calculation of imbalance charges;
  - (h) if applicable, the flexibility and tolerance levels included in transportation and other services without separate charge, as well as any flexibility offered in addition to this and the corresponding charges;

- (i) a detailed description of the gas system of the transmission system operator and its relevant points of interconnection as defined in point 3.2 of this Annex as well as the names of the operators of the interconnected systems or facilities;
- (j) the rules applicable for connection to the system operated by the transmission system operator;
- (k) information on emergency mechanisms, as far as it is the responsibility of the transmission system operator, such as measures that can lead to the disconnection of customers groups and other general liability rules that apply to the transmission system operator;
- (l) procedures agreed upon by transmission system operators at interconnection points, of relevance for access of network users to the transmission systems concerned, relating to interoperability of the network, agreed procedures on nomination and matching procedures and other agreed procedures that set out provisions in relation to gas flow allocations and balancing, including the methods used;
- (m) transmission system operators shall publish a detailed and comprehensive description of the methodology and process, including information on the parameters employed and the key assumptions, used to calculate the technical capacity.



### **3.2. Definition of all relevant points for transparency requirements**

1. Relevant points shall include at least:
  - (a) all entry and exit points to and from a transmission network operated by a transmission system operator, with the exception of exit points connected to a single final customer, and with the exception of entry points linked directly to a production facility of a single producer that is located within the EU;
  - (b) all entry and exit points connecting balancing zones of transmission system operators;
  - (c) all points connecting the network of a transmission system operator with an LNG terminal, physical gas hubs, storage and production facilities, unless these production facilities are exempted under point (a);
  - (d) all points connecting the network of a given transmission system operator to infrastructure necessary for providing ancillary services as defined by Article 2(30) of [recast Gas Directive as proposed by COM(2021)xxx].
2. Information for single final customers and for production facilities, that is excluded from the definition of relevant points as described under point 3.2(1)(a), shall be published in aggregate format, at least per balancing zone. The aggregation of single final customers and of production facilities, excluded from the definition of relevant points as described under point 3.2(1)(a), shall for the application of this Annex be considered as one relevant point.

3. Where points between two or more transmission operators are managed solely by the transmission operators concerned, with no contractual or operational involvement of system users whatsoever, or where points connect a transmission system to a distribution system and there is no contractual congestion at these points, transmission system operators shall be exempted for these points from the obligation to publish the requirements under point 3.3 of this Annex. The national regulatory authority may require the transmission system operators to publish the requirements under point 3.3 of this Annex for groups or all of the exempted points. In such case, the information, if available to the TSO, shall be published in an aggregated form at a meaningful level, at least per balancing zone. This aggregation of these points shall for the application of this annex be considered as one relevant point.

### **3.3. Information to be published at all relevant points and the time schedule according to which this information ~~should~~ shall be published**

1. At all relevant points, transmission system operators shall publish the information as listed in points (a) to (g), for all services and ancillary services provided (in particular information on blending, ballasting and conversion). This information shall be published on a numerical basis, in hourly or daily periods, equal to the smallest reference period for capacity booking and (re-)nomination and the smallest settlement period for which imbalance charges are calculated. If the smallest reference period is different from a daily period, information as listed in points (a) to (g) shall be made available also for the daily period. This information and updates shall be published as soon as available to the system operator ('near real time').

- (a) the technical capacity for flows in both directions;
- (b) the total contracted firm and interruptible capacity in both directions;
- (c) the nominations and re-nominations in both directions;
- (d) the available firm and interruptible capacity in both directions;
- (e) actual physical flows;
- (f) planned and actual interruption of interruptible capacity;
- (g) planned and unplanned interruptions to firm services as well as the information on restoration of the firm services (in particular, maintenance of the system and the likely duration of any interruption due to maintenance). Planned interruptions shall be published at least 42 days in advance;
- (h) occurrence of unsuccessful, legally valid requests for firm capacity products with a duration of one month or longer including the number and volume of the unsuccessful requests;
- (i) in the case of auctions, where and when firm capacity products with a duration of one month or longer have cleared at prices higher than the reserve price;
- (j) where and when no firm capacity product with a duration of one month or longer has been offered in the regular allocation process;
- (k) total capacity made available through the application of the congestion-management procedures laid down in points 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 per applied congestion-management procedure.

2. At all relevant points, the information under points 3.3(1)(a), (b) and (d) shall be published for a period at least 24 months ahead.
3. At all relevant points, transmission system operators shall publish historical information on the requirements of points 3.3(1)(a) to (g) for the past 5 years on a rolling basis.
4. Transmission system operators shall publish measured values of the gross calorific value, the Wobbe index, the hydrogen content blended in the natural gas system, methane content and oxygen content at all relevant points, on a daily basis. Preliminary figures shall be published at the latest 3 days following the respective gas day. Final figures shall be published within 3 months after the end of the respective month.
5. For all relevant points, transmission system operators shall publish available capacities, booked and technical capacities, on an annual basis over all years where capacity is contracted plus 1 year, and at least for the next 10 years. This information shall be updated at least every month or more frequently, if new information becomes available. The publication shall reflect the period for which capacity is offered to the market.

**3.4. Information to be published regarding the transmission system and the time schedule according to which this information ~~should~~ shall be published**

1. Transmission system operators shall ensure the publication on a daily basis and updated every day the aggregated amounts of capacities offered, and contracted on the secondary market (i.e. sold from one network user to another network user), where the information is available to the TSO. This information shall include the following specifications:

- (a) interconnection point where the capacity is sold;
- (b) type of capacity, i.e. entry, exit, firm, interruptible;
- (c) quantity and duration of the capacity usage rights;
- (d) type of sale, e.g. transfer or assignment;
- (e) the total number of trades/transfers;
- (f) any other conditions known to the transmission system operator as mentioned in point 3.3.

In so far such information is provided by a third party, transmission system operators shall be exempted from this provision.

2. Transmission system operators shall publish harmonised conditions under which capacity transactions (e.g. transfers and assignments) will be accepted by them. These conditions must at least include:

- (a) a description of standardised products which can be sold on the secondary market;
- (b) lead time for the implementation/acceptation/registration of secondary trades. In case of delays the reasons have to be published;
- (c) the notification to the transmission system operator by the seller or the third party as referred to under point 3.4(1) about name of seller and buyer and capacity specifications as outlined in point 3.4(1).

In so far such information is provided by a third party, transmission system operators shall be exempted from this provision.

3. Regarding the balancing service of its system, each transmission system operator shall provide to each network user, for each balancing period, its specific preliminary imbalance volumes and cost data per individual network user, at the latest 1 month after the end of the balancing period. Final data of customers supplied according to standardised load profiles may be provided up to 14 months later. In so far such information is provided by a third party, transmission system operators shall be exempted from this provision. The provision of this information shall respect confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
4. Where flexibility services, other than tolerances, are offered for third party access, transmission system operators shall publish daily forecasts on a day-ahead basis of the maximum amount of flexibility, the booked level of flexibility and the availability of flexibility for the market for the next gas day. The transmission system operator shall also publish ex- post information on the aggregate utilization of every flexibility service at the end of each gas day. If the national regulatory authority is satisfied that such information could give room to potential abuse by network users, it may decide to exempt the transmission system operator from this obligation.
5. Transmission system operators shall publish, per balancing zone, the amount of gas in the transmission system at the start of each gas day and the forecast of the amount of gas in the transmission system at the end of each gas day. The forecast amount of gas for the end of the gas day shall be updated on an hourly basis throughout the gas day. If imbalance charges are calculated on an hourly basis, the transmission system operator shall publish the amount of gas in the transmission system on an hourly basis. Alternatively, transmission system operators shall publish, per balancing zone, the aggregate imbalance position of all users at the start of each balancing period and the forecast of the aggregated imbalance position of all users at the end of each gas day. If the national regulatory authority is satisfied that such information could give room to potential abuse by network users, it may decide to exempt the transmission system operator from this obligation.

6. Transmission system operators shall provide user-friendly instruments for calculating tariffs.
7. Transmission system operators shall keep at the disposal of the relevant national authorities, for at least five (5) years, effective records of all capacity contracts and all other relevant information in relation to calculating and providing access to available capacities, in particular individual nominations and interruptions. Transmission system operators must keep documentation of all relevant information under point 3.3(4) and (5) for at least five 5 years and make them available to the regulatory authority upon request. Both parties shall respect commercial confidentiality.
8. Transmission system operators shall publish at least annually, by a predetermined deadline, all planned maintenance periods that might affect network users' rights from transport contracts and corresponding operational information with adequate advance notice. This shall include publishing on a prompt and non-discriminatory basis any changes to planned maintenance periods and notification of unplanned maintenance, as soon as that information becomes available to the transmission system operator. During maintenance periods, transmission system operators shall publish regularly updated information on the details of and expected duration and effect of the maintenance.

**4. FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE PUBLICATION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON NETWORK ACCESS BY HYDROGEN NETWORK OPERATORS AND INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED AT ALL RELEVANT POINTS AND TIME SCHEDULE**

**4.1. Format of the publication of technical information on network access**

1. Hydrogen network operators shall provide all information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the network referred to under points 4.2 and 4.3 in the following manner:
  - (a) on a website accessible to the public, free of charge and without any need to register or otherwise sign on with the hydrogen network operator;
  - (b) on a regular/rolling basis; the frequency shall be according to the changes that take place and the duration of the service;
  - (c) in a user-friendly manner;
  - (d) in a clear, quantifiable, easily accessible way and on a non-discriminatory basis;
  - (e) in a downloadable format that has been agreed between hydrogen network operators and the regulatory authorities – on the basis of an opinion on a harmonised format that shall be provided by ACER – and that allows for quantitative analyses;
  - (f) in consistent units, in particular kWh shall be the unit for energy content and m<sup>3</sup> shall be the unit for volume. The constant conversion factor to energy content shall be provided. In addition to the format above, publication in other units is also possible;



- (g) in the official language(s) of the Member State and in English;
- (h) all data shall be made available as of [1 October 2025] on one Union-wide central platform, established by the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen on a cost efficient basis.

2. Hydrogen network operators shall provide details on actual changes to all information referred to under points 4.2 and 4.3 in a timely manner as soon as available to them.

#### **4.2. Content of the publication of technical information on network access**

1. Hydrogen network operators shall publish at least the following information about their systems and services:
  - (a) a detailed and comprehensive description of the different services offered and their charges;
  - (b) the different types of transportation contracts available for these services;
  - (c) the network codes and/or the standard conditions outlining the rights and responsibilities of all network users including:
    - (1) harmonised transportation contracts and other relevant documents;
    - (2) if relevant for access to the network, for all relevant points, a specification of relevant hydrogen quality parameters and the liability or costs of conversion for network users in case hydrogen is outside these specifications;
    - (3) if relevant for access to the system, for all relevant points information on pressure requirements;

- (d) the harmonised procedures applied when using the hydrogen network, including the definition of key terms;
- (e) if applicable, the flexibility and tolerance levels included in transportation and other services without separate charge, as well as any flexibility offered in addition to this and the corresponding charges;
- (f) a detailed description of the hydrogen network of the hydrogen network operator and its relevant points of interconnection as defined in point 2 as well as the names of the operators of the interconnected networks or facilities;
- (g) the rules applicable for connection to the network operated by the hydrogen network operator;
- (h) information on emergency mechanisms, as far as it is the responsibility of the hydrogen network operator, such as measures that can lead to the disconnection of customers groups and other general liability rules that apply to the hydrogen network operator;
- (i) procedures agreed upon by hydrogen network operators at interconnection points, of relevance for access of network users to the hydrogen network concerned, relating to interoperability of the network.

2. Relevant points shall include at least:
- (a) all entry and exit points to and from a hydrogen network operated by a hydrogen network operator, with the exception of exit points connected to a single final customer, and with the exception of entry points linked directly to a production facility of a single producer that is located within the EU;
  - (b) all entry and exit points connecting the networks of hydrogen network operators;
  - (c) all points connecting the network of a hydrogen network operator with an LNG terminal, hydrogen terminals, physical gas hubs, storage and production facilities, unless these production facilities are exempted under point (a);
  - (d) all points connecting the network of a given hydrogen network operator to infrastructure necessary for providing ancillary services.
3. Information for single final customers and for production facilities, that is excluded from the definition of relevant points as described under point 2(a) of this section shall be published in aggregate format and considered as one relevant point.

#### **4.3. Information to be published at all relevant points and time schedule**

1. At all relevant points, hydrogen network operators shall publish the information as listed in points (a) to (g), for all services on a numerical basis, in hourly or daily periods. This information and updates shall be published as soon as available to the hydrogen network operator ('near real time'):

- (a) the technical capacity for flows in both directions;
  - (b) the total contracted capacity in both directions;
  - (c) the nominations and re-nominations in both directions;
  - (d) the available capacity in both directions;
  - (e) actual physical flows;
  - (f) planned and actual interruption of capacity;
  - (g) planned and unplanned interruptions to services. Planned interruptions shall be published at least 42 days in advance;
2. At all relevant points, the information under points 1(a), (b) and (d) of this Article shall be published for a period of at least 24 months ahead.
3. At all relevant points, hydrogen network operators shall publish historical information on the requirements of points 1(a) to (f) of this Article for the past 5 years on a rolling basis.
4. Hydrogen network operators shall publish measured values of the hydrogen purity and contaminants at all relevant points, on a daily basis. Preliminary figures shall be published at the latest within 3 days. Final figures shall be published within 3 months after the end of the respective month.
5. Further details required to implement points 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, e.g. details on the format and content of the information necessary for network users for effective access to the network, information to be published at relevant points, details on time schedules, shall be set in a network code established on the basis of Article 52 of this Regulation.

**ANNEX II****DEFAULT TECHNICAL, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 13(14) OF  
REGULATION (EU) 2017/1938**

This Annex contains the procedure – in the form of mandatory templates – for implementing a solidarity measure under Article 13, to be followed in the event that the Member State requesting solidarity ('Requesting Member State') and the Member State obliged to provide the solidarity measure under Article 13(1) and (2) ('Providing Member State') have failed to agree or finalise the technical, legal and financial arrangements under Article 13(10).

Where there are several Providing Member States and bilateral solidarity arrangements are in place with one or several of them, those arrangements ~~should~~ **shall** prevail between the Member States having agreed bilaterally. The default arrangements will be applicable only with the remaining Providing Member States.

Communication between the Requesting and Providing Member States shall primarily be made by e-mail; if not possible, by telephone or any other available means, to be specified in the solidarity request and ~~in~~ confirmed in the acknowledgment of receipt of the request.

The following templates, as filled-in, shall be sent by e-mail to the relevant counterparts in other Member States (main addressee, for action), as well as to the Commission's contact point for gas crisis management (in copy, for information).

## 1. Solidarity request *(to be filled in in English)*

### Instructions:

To be sent at the latest 20 hours before start of the delivery day *(save force majeure)*.

Where there are several Providing Member States, the solidarity request shall be sent simultaneously to all of them, preferably using the same e-mail.

The solidarity measures must be requested for the following gas day, as defined in Article 3(7) of Regulation (EU) No 984/2013. If needed, the request will be repeated for additional gas days.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

1. On behalf of *(Requesting Member State)*, I request from *(Providing Member State)* the implementation of solidarity measures under Article 13(1) and Article 13(2) *(delete the latter if not relevant)*. I confirm that the requirements of Article 13(3) are complied with.

2. Short description of measures implemented by *(Requesting Member State)* (as foreseen in Article 13(2)(3)(c)):

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *(Requesting Member State)* undertakes to pay fair and prompt compensation for the solidarity measures to *(Providing Member State)* in accordance with Article 13(8). The compensation will be paid in EUR within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

4. Competent authority of requesting Member State:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_ back-up phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative instant messaging: + \_\_\_\_\_

5. Competent authority of providing Member State (please confirm it in your acknowledgement of receipt):

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_ back-up phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative instant messaging: + \_\_\_\_\_

3. Responsible TSO in requesting Member State:

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Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone + \_\_\_\_\_

4. Responsible market area manager in requesting Member State (where relevant):

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Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone + \_\_\_\_\_

6. In case of voluntary (market-based) solidarity measures, gas delivery contracts with market participants in the providing Member State shall be concluded

☐ by the requesting Member State or

☐ by an agent acting on behalf of the requesting Member State (under State guarantee).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_.



7. Technical details of the request

a) Volume of gas needed (total):

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh,

of which

high calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh;

low calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh.

b) Delivery points (interconnectors):

\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_.

There are limitations with regard to the delivery points:

☐ No

☐ Yes

If yes, please indicate the exact delivery points and volumes of gas needed:

Delivery point:

Volume of gas:

_____	_____ kWh
_____	_____ kWh
_____	_____ kWh
_____	_____ kWh

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Acknowledgement of receipt / request for additional information *(to be filled in in English)*

Instructions:

To be sent within 30 **minutes**’ of receipt of the request.

To the attention of *(Competent Authority of the Requesting Member State)*:

On behalf of *(Providing Member State)* I acknowledge receipt of your request for solidarity measures under Article 13(1) and Article 13(2) *(delete the latter if not relevant)*.

I confirm / rectify the contact details to be used for the next steps:

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: +\_\_\_\_\_ back-up phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative instant messaging: +\_\_\_\_\_

*(If request is incomplete/contains errors or omissions)* After verification, it seems that your request is incomplete / contains the following errors / missing information:

.....  
.....

Please send us an amended request, with the missing / correct data within 30 **minutes**<sup>2</sup>, if possible.

Done on (date) ..... at (time) .....

Signature: .....

### 3. Solidarity offer *(to be filled in in English)*

#### Instructions:

- (1) To be sent at the latest 11 hours before start of the delivery day *(save force majeure)*.
- (2) The solidarity offer shall include primarily gas offers based on voluntary measures ('Primary offers'). In addition, should the primary offers not be enough to cover the volumes stated in the solidarity request, the solidarity offer shall include additional gas offers ('Secondary offers'), based on mandatory measures. Should the primary offers from other Providing Member States (if relevant) not sufficient to cover the request for solidarity, *(the competent authority of the providing Member State)* shall be ready to activate non-market based measures and supply the missing volumes.
- (3) The compensation pursuant to Article 13(8) for solidarity gas based on voluntary measures shall include the gas price (as resulting from contract clauses, tenders or other market based mechanism applied) and the transmission costs to the delivery point. This compensation shall be paid directly by the Requesting Member State to the gas supplier(s) of the Providing party.
- (4) The compensation (to be paid to the Providing Member State) pursuant to Article 13(8) for the provision of solidarity gas based on mandatory measures shall include:
  - a. the gas price, which corresponds to the last available spot market price, for the relevant gas quality, on the exchange of the providing Member State at the date of the provision of the solidarity measure; if several exchanges in the territory of the providing Member State, it corresponds to the arithmetic mean of the last available spot market prices on all the exchanges; if the absence of an exchange in the territory of the providing Member State, it corresponds to the arithmetic mean of the last available spot market prices on all exchanges in the territory of the Union.
  - b. any compensation to be paid by the Providing Member State to affected third parties on the basis of the relevant laws and regulations as a result of the mandatory measure, including, if appropriate, any related non-judicial and judicial procedural costs, and
  - c. the transport costs to the delivery point.
- (4) The providing Member State shall bear the transport risk for the transport to the delivery point.
- (5) The requesting Member State shall ensure that the gas volumes provided at the agreed delivery points are taken off. The compensation for the solidarity measures will be due irrespective of the actual take-off of the gas volumes provided in line with the contract.

Date .....

Time.....

To the attention of *(Competent Authority of the Requesting Member State)*.

1. Following your request for solidarity, measures under Article 13(1) and Article 13(2) (*delete the latter if not relevant*), received on *(date)* at *(time)*, (*the competent authority of the providing Member State*) transmits you the following offer(s):

2. Information on the gas providing party

a. Gas supplier / market participant signing the contract (*for voluntary measures / if relevant*)

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: +\_\_\_\_\_

b. Contracting competent authority

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: +\_\_\_\_\_

c. Responsible TSO:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: +\_\_\_\_\_

d. Responsible market area manager (where relevant):

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone +\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Primary offers – based on voluntary measures (‘market based’)**

a. Volume of gas (total):

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh, of which

high calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh,

low calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh.

b. Period of supply:

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Maximum transport capacity:

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h, of which

firm capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h;

interruptible capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h.

d. Delivery points (interconnectors):

Delivery point	Firm transport capacity	Interruptible transport capacity
----------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------

_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
-------	-------------	-------------

_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
-------	-------------	-------------

_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
-------	-------------	-------------

_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
-------	-------------	-------------

_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
-------	-------------	-------------

e. Reference to capacity booking platform:

\_\_\_\_\_

f. Estimated compensation for the voluntary measure:

gas price: \_\_\_\_\_EUR;

other costs: \_\_\_\_\_EUR (please specify)

g. Payment details:

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank details: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. Secondary offers – based on mandatory measures ('non-market based')**

a. Volume of gas (total):

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh, of which

high calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh,

low calorific gas: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh.

b. Period of supply:

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Maximum transport capacity:

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h, of which

firm capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h;

interruptible capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/h.

d. Delivery points (interconnectors):

Delivery point	Firm transport capacity	Interruptible transport capacity
_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h
_____	_____ kWh/h	_____ kWh/h

e. Reference to capacity booking platform:

\_\_\_\_\_

f. Likely costs of mandatory measures:

estimated price of gas per kWh: \_\_\_\_\_ EUR;

likely transportation costs: \_\_\_\_\_ EUR;

estimated amount of compensation payments to sectors of the economy of the providing Member State affected by reductions in supply:

\_\_\_\_\_ EUR.

g. Payment details:

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank details: \_\_\_\_\_

Done on (date) ..... at (time) .....

Signature: .....



#### 4. Acknowledgement of receipt of the solidarity offer *(to be filled in in English)*

Instructions:

To be sent within 30 **minutes**<sup>2</sup> of receipt of the solidarity offer.

To the attention of *(Competent Authority of the Providing Member State)*.

On behalf of *(Requesting Member State)*, I acknowledge receipt of your solidarity offer received on  
(date)....., at ..... (time).

*(Competent Authority of the Requesting Party)*

Contact person: .....

Phone: + .....

Done on (date) ..... at (time) .....

Signature: .....

**5. Acceptance / refusal of solidarity offers based on voluntary measures** *(to be filled in in English)*

**Instructions:**

- (1) To be sent within 2 hours of receipt of the offer.
- (2) If offer is accepted in full, the acceptance shall reproduce the exact terms of the offer, as received from the Providing Member State. Partial acceptance of the offer may only relate to the volumes to be provided.

Date ..... Time .....

1. On behalf of *(Requesting Member State)*, I *(fully / partially)* accept / refuse the offer made by *(Providing Member State)* on *(date)* at *(time)* in implementation of solidarity measures under Article 13(1) and Article 13(2) *(delete the latter if not relevant)*.

2. Competent authority of requesting Member State:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_

3. Responsible TSO in requesting Member State:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_

4. Responsible market area manager in requesting Member State (where relevant):

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone + \_\_\_\_\_

5. Accepted primary offer(s), based on voluntary measures (*please reproduce the exact terms of the 'Primary offer(s)', as accepted*):

.....

Done on (date) ..... at (time) .....

Signature: .....

**6. Acceptance of solidarity offers based on mandatory measures (*to be filled in in English*)**

**Instructions:**

- (1) To be sent within 3 hours of receipt of the solidarity offer.
- (2) If offer is accepted in full, the acceptance shall reproduce the exact terms of the offer, as received from the Providing Member State. Partial acceptance of the offer may only relate to the volumes to be provided by delivery point.
- (3) The acceptance of offers based on mandatory measures shall include: (a) short description of offers based on voluntary measures received from other Providing Member States; (b) if relevant, the reasons why these offers were not accepted (nb. reasons may not relate to price); (c) short description of offers based on mandatory measures received from other Providing Member States; (d) an indication of whether these offers have been accepted as well and, if not, the reasons for refusing them.
- (4) The Commission may convene a coordination call with the Requesting Member State and all Providing Member States; it shall convene it upon request of one Member State. This phone call shall be held within 30 **minutes**<sup>2</sup> after receipt of the acceptance of the solidarity offers based on mandatory measures (if at Commission's initiative) or of after receipt of the request for a coordination call by a Member State.

Date ..... Time .....

1. On behalf of (*Requesting Member State*), I (*fully / partially*) accept / refuse the offer made by (*Providing Member State*) on (*date*) at (*time*) in implementation of solidarity measures under Article 13(1) and Article 13(2) (*delete the latter if not relevant*).

2. Competent authority of requesting Member State:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_

3. Responsible TSO in requesting Member State:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: + \_\_\_\_\_

4. Responsible market area manager in requesting Member State (where relevant):

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone + \_\_\_\_\_

5. Accepted secondary offer, based on mandatory measures (*please reproduce the exact wording of the 'secondary offer', as received from the Providing Member State*).

.....

6. Additional information on the acceptance of secondary offers:

(a) short description of offers based on voluntary measures received from other Providing Member States:

.....

(b) have these offers been accepted? If not, state the reasons:

.....

(c) short description of offers based on mandatory measures received from other Providing Member States:

.....

(a) have these offers been accepted? If not, state the reasons:

.....

Done on (date) ..... at (time) .....

Signature

**ANNEX III**

**Repealed Regulation with list of the successive amendments thereto**

Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European  
Parliament and of the Council  
(*OJ L 211*, 14.8.2009, p. 36)

Commission Decision 2010/685/EU  
(*OJ L 293*, 11.11.2010, p. 67)

Commission Decision 2012/490/ EU  
(*OJ L 231*, 28.8.2012, p. 16)

Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament (Only Article 22)  
and of the Council  
(*OJ L 115*, 25.4.2013, p. 39)

Commission Decision (EU) 2015/715  
(*OJ L 114*, 5.5.2015, p. 9)

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament (Only Article 50)  
and of the Council  
(*OJ L 328*, 21.12.2018, p. 1)

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**ANNEX IV****CORRELATION TABLE**

<b>Regulation (EU) No 715/2009</b>	<b>This Regulation</b>
Article 1 first subparagraph (introductory wording)	Article 1 first subparagraph (introductory wording)
Article 1 point (a)	Article 1(a)
Article 1 point (b)	-
Article 1 point (c)	Article 1(b)
Article 1 second, third and fourth subparagraphs	Article 1 second, third and fourth subparagraphs
Article 2(1) (introductory wording)	Article 2(1) (introductory wording)
-	Article 2(1) point 1
Article 2(1) point 1	Article 2(1) point 2
Article 2(1) point 2	Article 2(1) point 3
Article 2(1) point 3	Article 2(1) point 4
Article 2(1) point 4	Article 2(1) point 5
Article 2(1) point 5	Article 2(1) point 6
Article 2(1) point 6	Article 2(1) point 7
Article 2(1) point 7	Article 2(1) point 8
Article 2(1) point 8	Article 2(1) point 9

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Article 2(1) point 10  
Article 2(1) point 11  
Article 2(1) point 12  
Article 2(1) point 13  
Article 2(1) point 14  
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Article 2(1) point 14  
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-	Article 5(3)
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Article 7(3)	Article 7(4)
-	Article 7(4) second subparagraph

Article 7(4)	Article 7(5)
Article 7(5)	Article 7(6)
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Article 9(4)	-
Article 9(5)	-
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-	Article 14
Article 13	Article 15
-	Article 16
-	Article 17
-	Article 18
-	Article 19
-	Article 20
Article 4	Article 21
Article 5	Article 22

Article 5(1) to (4)	Article 22(1) to (4)
Article 8	Article 23
Article 8(1) to (3)(f)	Article 23(1) to (3)(f)
-	Article 23(3) point (g)
-	Article 23(3) subparagraph 2
Article 8(4)	Article 23(4)
-	Article 23(4) subparagraph 2
Article 8(5) to (6) point 1	Article 23(5) to (6) point 1
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Article 8(7) to (11)	Article 23(7) to (11)
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Article 19(5)	Article 31(6)
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-	Article 56(1) to (5)
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Article 30 subparagraph 2	-
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-	Annex II
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Annex III	Annex IV