

ENTSOG launches Transparency Platform

The transparency guidelines and congestion management procedures (Chapter 3 of Annex 1 to Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 and its amendments) require ENTSOG to provide a Union-wide central platform, where all gas Transmission System Operators can make their relevant data publicly available. The upgraded Transparency Platform is now available for all market participants. It will go live tomorrow, 1 of Oct 2013.

(Brussels, 30 September 2013, PR046-13) ENTSOG has been working, along with its service providers, on upgrading its Transparency Platform, operating since 2009 on a voluntary basis. After solving a lot of challenges ENTSOG is proud to have met the given deadline. From tomorrow, 1st of October, onwards 41 TSOs can use the platform (www.gas-roads.eu) to upload necessary data and information and make them available to all market participants. The platform contains technical and commercial information, made available through tables and maps, needed by all the users of gas networks.

Vittorio Musazzi, General Manager of ENTSOG: *'We had to overcome two main challenges. One was the time constraint and the other was on the content side.'* A common understanding was important because having all data from all TSOs available on one common platform makes comparisons and quantitative analysis easy for all market participants.

ENTSOG will continue to work on further improvements and user friendliness of this platform and the related content. However, for the time being, it is the TSOs responsibility to upload their data correctly, consistently and in a timely manner.

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Editorial notes

- > The European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSOG) was founded on 1 December 2009 in line with Regulation (EC) 715/2009. It currently comprises 41 members and three Associated Partners from 25 EU countries, and four Observers from four non-EU countries.

- > The role of ENTSOG is to facilitate and enhance the cooperation between national gas transmission system operators (TSOs) across Europe to ensure the development of a pan-European transmission system in line with the energy goals of the EU.
- > Specific objectives are to:
 - >Promote the completion of the internal market for gas and stimulate cross-border trade
 - >Ensure the efficient management and coordinated operation of the European gas network
 - >Facilitate the European network's sound technical evolution
- > In line with Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Regulation (EC) 715/2009, ENTSOG has the task of formulating network codes in a number of areas and of adopting various communications including a non-binding community-wide Ten-Year Network Development Plan on biennial basis; Winter and Summer Supply Outlooks; common network operation tools; recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between community and third-country-TSOs; annual work programmes and annual reports.
- > The network codes developed by ENTSOG will outline the rules for gas market integration and system operation and development, covering subjects such as capacity allocation, network connection and operational security. The process begins with a request from the European Commission (EC) to ACER (Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators) to submit a Framework Guideline. ENTSOG then develops the related network code in line with the ACER Framework Guideline, conducting extensive public consultations throughout the development process. When adopted in the form of a EC Regulation, via the comitology process, the network code becomes legally binding.