

Balancing refined draft Network Code

Stakeholder Support Process

Introduction

This document explains the purpose of the Stakeholder Support Process (SSP) for the refined draft Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks (the 'Balancing refined draft Network Code') and the request for stakeholder engagement.

A response form is provided at the end of this cover note. Responses should be sent to info@entsog.eu by 28 September 2012.

Purpose of the Stakeholder Support Process

The SSP gives stakeholders the opportunity to express their support and/or other views about the Balancing refined draft Network Code¹ before ENTSOG's final internal approval and subsequent submission to Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

Indeed, as set out in ENTSOG's project plan for the Balancing Network Code development process issued in October 2011, the SSP is designed to inform ENTSOG's decision-making process on the level of support from the stakeholders regarding the draft network code and therefore whether to recommend it for submission to ACER for its opinion.

ENTSOG also hopes that the SSP will help to continue the valuable dialogue with market participants regarding the overall network code development process. Respondents are encouraged to express their views regarding the process and ENTSOG will use these views to further refine our processes.

In addition, ENTSOG believes that if the Balancing refined draft Network Code and the ENTSOG processes used to develop it are widely supported by stakeholders, this may ensure that the European Commission continue to use the ENTSOG-led network code development process referred to in Article 8 (1) of the Regulation (EC) 715/2009.

ENTSOG has developed the draft Network Code through a process of continuous consultation with stakeholders. It considers that the resulting document is robust and workable, taking due consideration of the framework guideline and subsequent ACER feedback.

Stakeholders are invited to state whether the rules set out in the Balancing refined draft Network Code, implemented in a harmonised way across the European Union, are considered to represent positive progress in facilitating the creation of the internal energy market.

¹ ENTSOG is carrying out the Stakeholder Support process in line with articles 26(4) and 28 (6) of its Rules of Procedure.

Stakeholder engagement requested

ENTSOG encourages stakeholders to participate in this process and to respond to this short questionnaire, in order to ensure the widest possible representation from the market.

The response form at the end of this document includes a table, allowing stakeholders to indicate whether they support particular themed sections of the Balancing refined draft Network Code. These sections are:

- Chapter I: General Provisions
- Chapter II: Balancing System
- Chapter III: Cross-border Cooperation
- Chapter IV: Operational Balancing
- Chapter V: Nominations
- Chapter VI: Daily Imbalance Charge
- Chapter VII: Within-Day Obligations
- Chapter VIII: Neutrality Arrangements
- Chapter IX: Linepack Flexibility Service
- Chapter X: Information Provision
- Chapter XI: Implementation, Interim Measures and Entry into Force

There is space available for respondents to provide brief reasoning for their responses.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank all Stakeholders that have been actively involved in the development of the Balancing refined draft Network Code. We hope that the work carried out and the results reached are considered as a helpful contribution to the further integration of the European Union gas market.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "S. Kamphues".

Stephan Kamphues
ENTSOG President