

European Commission's legislative proposal on ACER Regulation

A EURELECTRIC position paper

April 2017

EURELECTRIC is the voice of the electricity industry in Europe.

We speak for more than 3,500 companies in power generation, distribution, and supply.

We Stand For:

Carbon-neutral electricity by 2050

We have committed to making Europe's electricity cleaner. To deliver, we need to make use of **all low-carbon technologies**: more renewables, but also clean coal and gas, and nuclear. Efficient electric technologies in **transport and buildings**, combined with the development of smart grids and a major push in **energy efficiency** play a key role in reducing fossil fuel consumption and making our electricity more sustainable.

Competitive electricity for our customers

We support well-functioning, distortion-free **energy and carbon markets** as the best way to produce electricity and reduce emissions cost-efficiently. Integrated EU-wide electricity and gas markets are also crucial to offer our customers the **full benefits of liberalisation**: they ensure the best use of generation resources, improve **security of supply**, allow full EU-wide competition, and increase **customer choice**.

Continent-wide electricity through a coherent European approach

Europe's energy and climate challenges can only be solved by **European – or even global – policies**, not incoherent national measures. Such policies should complement, not contradict each other: coherent and integrated approaches reduce costs. This will encourage **effective investment** to ensure a sustainable and reliable electricity supply for Europe's businesses and consumers.

EURELECTRIC. Electricity for Europe.

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KEY MESSAGES

- ACER is the appropriate body for NRAs to fully work together and cooperate in order to discuss and build a European vision of what a consistent energy regulation should be in order to accompany the evolution of the electricity market.
- In order to accelerate the progress towards a single market, the independence of the Internal Electricity Market's governance framework needs to be strengthened with a view to promoting a more integrated and European approach. In this respect, the move to open ACER's membership to third countries which have concluded agreements with the European Union in the area of energy, environment and competition is welcome.
- EURELECTRIC fully supports the new provisions for more regional and European cooperation and for a stronger role of ACER within this framework.
- EURELECTRIC supports that ACER's tasks have been updated in the field of wholesale market supervision (including the increased regulatory oversight of Nominated Electricity Market Operators) and cross-border infrastructure as coordination of national regulatory actions will increase in the coming years. Coordinated regional decisions would mean faster and more effective decision-making on cross-border issues.
- The role of ACER should be to realise seamless cooperation of NRAs regarding especially cross-border issues. EURELECTRIC does however believe that ACER should also act upon objectively observed disagreements among NRAs. Market players should be entitled to notify observed disagreements among NRAs to ACER where these are detrimental to their interests. EURELECTRIC supports that ACER is given more responsibility in elaborating and submitting the final proposal for Network Codes to the Commission and that ACER is given the competence to revise and approve methodologies and algorithms for the implementation of the Network Codes (Article 5.1.(c), Article 5.3 and Article 55 of the Electricity Regulation). For a balanced representation of interests, stakeholders should be involved in the process.
- EURELECTRIC further argues for stakeholder involvement in Article 5.3 where ACER approves and amends methodologies and assumptions used in the bidding zone review process.
- EURELECTRIC also believes that ACER should be subject to sufficient checks and balances and considers it unnecessary to change the voting rule of the Board of Regulators (Article 23) and the Administrative Board (Article 19.55) from two-thirds majority to simple majority. Furthermore, a robust agreement among NRAs on the decisions taken by ACER is necessary to ensure a consistent and stable regulatory framework across Europe.
- ACER should be made sufficiently independent from the European Commission, so not to reduce the level of independence of regulators (ACER and NRAs together) in relation to both national governments and European institutions.
- ACER should continue to focus the preparation for monitoring the national implementation of the Network Codes and facilitate stakeholder involvement.
- Finally, ACER should be granted the appropriate resources and powers to carry out its tasks effectively.

EURELECTRIC pursues in all its activities the application of the following sustainable development values:

Economic Development

▶ Growth, added-value, efficiency

Environmental Leadership

▶ Commitment, innovation, pro-activeness

Social Responsibility

▶ Transparency, ethics, accountability



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