Brussels, 01 April 2025

Market Participants' letter on the decision for Market Testing of the SDAC 15-Minutes Market Time Unit (MTU) Project

Today, the Market Coupling Steering Committee (MCSC) communicated its decision to proceed with Market Testing for the 15-minute MTU go-live on the 11th of June 2025. The Market Testing will last 6 weeks from 7th April to 15th May 2025.

In light of the brevity of this announcement and difficulties encountered in previous tests and development, market participants request a comprehensive understanding of the test results that informed the decision. It is essential for MCSC to confirm its level of confidence in progressing with the project and to outline measures to address any potential issues.

Last summer, critical testing issues necessitated an adjustment in the project timeline, affecting the go-live date with a rather short notice and limited early warnings. As such, we strongly recommend that MCSC informs market participants every time until the go-live. MCSC should move forward only if and when it has gained complete confidence in the project advancement.

The MCSC should avoid any last-minute postponement of the go-live date, which would be disruptive to all stakeholders. Full transparency should also be provided about the criteria against which a final decision will be made.

It is essential that all steps are taken to avoid decoupling events after the project goes live.

Firstly, because the fallback procedures are uncertain and would impose additional operational complexity to market participants already struggling with adapting to the new market environment. We ask for firm commitment from the NEMOs that fallback procedures will be clarified before the 15-minute MTU go-live.

Secondly, decoupling events occurring within the first week of go-live could result in a rollback, i.e. a return to 60-minute resolution. This scenario should be avoided by any means, as managing a rollback during the summer period would be more difficult.

In addition, we understand that under a rollback scenario, it could take weeks or months before a relaunch of the 15-minute MTU process, causing even further delays to other projects. It would also be necessary to set a date for the new 15-minute MTU go-live, which would require a thorough review against the previous criteria provided by market participants.

With the 15-minute MTU, the credibility of EU market coupling is at stake. A rollback situation would strongly erode confidence in market functioning at a time when strong investment signals are needed for the energy transition.

Considering these factors, we strongly recommend that the MCSC maintain close collaboration with market participants and regulators, and ensures full transparency on its decisions. This approach will facilitate making the most prudent decision for advancing the 15-minute MTU SDAC while minimizing disruptive effects.