

## **The five regulators publish an action plan for fostering electricity market integration in the Central West region (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxemburg and the Netherlands)**

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**The Regional Co-ordination Committee (RCC) of the Central West region – assembling the five regulators CREG, CRE, BNetzA, ILR and DTe – publishes an ambitious action plan, indicating concrete steps to foster regional integration of the electricity markets during the next two years.**

The action plan carries on the significant work achieved through the road maps elaborated by the regulators at the end of 2005. It aims to guarantee, from 2007 onwards, an entirely regional approach to market integration in the Central West region. It enumerates several priority areas in which action is required and identifies specific actions and related timings for each priority area. The actions and timings concern all borders and countries in the Central West region, and have been consulted with the relevant Transmission System Operators (TSOs).

The priority areas mentioned in the action plan are:

- Harmonisation and improvement of the long-term explicit auction rules, including firmness of cross-border capacity allocation
- Implementation of a day-ahead flow-based market coupling
- Implementation of cross-border intraday and balancing trade
- Establishment of a common calculation method for cross-border capacities
- Maximisation of the amount and of the utilisation of cross-border capacities
- Elaboration of a regional capacity investment plan
- Transparency
- Regional market monitoring
- Harmonisation and improvement of data exchange

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006, the European Regulators' Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG) launched its Electricity Regional Initiative (ERI), aiming to identify and remove barriers hindering the growth of competitive electricity markets in seven European regions. In the framework of the ERI for the Central West region, the RCC organised in June 2006 a Mini Forum at which several market actors, stakeholders and authorities were invited and consulted regarding the topics they considered a priority for improving market integration in the region. This consultation led to a proposal for an action plan drafted by the RCC. This proposal was communicated to the TSOs and was the subject of further TSO consultation in October 2006. It resulted in the regionally harmonised action plan published at present.

The five regulators BNetzA, CRE, CREG, DTe and ILR would like to specify that, regardless of this regionally harmonised action plan, they continue to encourage all progress towards improved market integration.

With a view to achieving the single European electricity market, the five regulators consider the need for coherence and harmonisation of congestion management mechanisms and appropriate convergence of market designs with the other Electricity Regional Initiatives of the utmost importance.

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