

PRESS RELEASE

French Presidency of the European Union

7 April 2022

European energy regulators met in Paris

On the occasion of the French Presidency of the European Union, Jean-François CARENCO welcomed his European counterparts to Paris on 5 and 6 April. The regular meetings of the General Assembly of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the Board of Regulators of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) were held at the CRE premises, in the presence of numerous energy regulator chairpersons.

CRE is grateful for the exceptional participation of a significant number of regulators' chairpersons over these two days. Such a level of representation, enabling for strategic discussions, is fitting given the crisis that the European energy sector has been going through for several months, a crisis that has been aggravated since the beginning of the war triggered by Russia in Ukraine. CRE and its fellow regulators had the opportunity to analyse the various measures to be implemented in order to address the energy crisis as well as the longer-term future, in particular the decarbonisation of the European energy mix.

Jean François CARENCO, Chairman of CRE highlighted that *“European integration began with energy, and 72 years later, our meeting today is a fruit of this legacy. For twenty years we have been building the internal energy market together and will continue to contribute to this project.”*

The CEER General Assembly, chaired by Annegret GROEBEL, was held on Tuesday 5 April, with the participation of the 27 regulators from the EU Member States and the Norwegian, Swiss, English and Icelandic regulators. Discussions focused on how to protect consumers against the impact of price increases on the retail markets, on the hydrogen and decarbonised gas markets package presented by the European Commission and on dynamic regulation. Jean-Laurent LASTELLE, CRE's Commissioner and CEER Vice-President, chairing the CEER International Relations Group, also seized the moment to report on the recent meeting of the international group with the President of the Ukrainian regulator (NEURC).

Annegret GROEBEL, CEER President, said *“In these times European solidarity among Member States and with Ukraine is fundamentally important and regulators are working to support all efforts on the European level”*.

On Wednesday 6 April, the 27 Member States' regulators and ACER Director convened for the ACER Board of Regulators, chaired by Clara POLETTI. The discussions focused on the price crisis and security of supply regarding the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. The regulators also discussed the ACER report on the current EU wholesale electricity market design and how it can address situations of extreme price volatility. NRAs pointed out the respective dependency on Russian gas. More than ever, European energy solidarity will be essential to ensure continued security of supply next winter. The European regulators are closely monitoring the situation and sharing information.

Christian ZINGLERSEN, the ACER Director, said *“We are on track to submit to the European Commission by the end of April our ACER assessment of the benefits and drawbacks of the EU's current wholesale market design”*.

Clara POLETTI stated that *“European energy regulators welcome the recent proposal of the EC for a revision of the gas security of supply regulation. They are at present discussing the proposal in detail and shall shortly provide a technical position”*.



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Created in 2000, the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) is a non-profit association which facilitates assistance and the exchange of experience and good practice between its members and encourages the emergence of common positions.

Established in 2011 by the European Commission's 3rd Energy Package, the European Agency for the cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) is based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Its mission is to assist national regulatory authorities in exercising and coordinating their regulatory tasks at EU level and, where necessary, to complement their actions. It ensures that market integration and harmonisation of regulatory frameworks are in line with EU energy policy objectives. To do so, ACER relies on a Board of Regulators (BoR) which brings together the national regulatory authorities of the 27 Member States plus Iceland and Norway as “non-voting members”.

Press contact : presse@cre.fr

As an independent administrative authority, the Commission de régulation de l'énergie (CRE) ensures that the electricity and natural gas markets operate effectively for the benefit of end consumers.



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