



## **Austrian and French energy regulators launch a public consultation on harmonization of cross-border congestion management methods for 2006**

WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST - VIENNA, PARIS. In order to define an harmonized design of the cross-border congestion management methods on the French-Italian and Austrian-Italian interconnections from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2006, the energy regulators E Control and CRE launch a joint consultation document.

This consultation shall essentially help the regulators of the three involved countries to elaborate the optimal design of an Explicit Auction method.

Following the discussions during the Mini Forum for the Central Southern European Region held in Milan on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2005, both regulators consider Explicit Auction to be the sole method applicable for the capacity allocation for 2006. In contrast to other mainly financial and administrative based methods currently applied, an Explicit Auction method provides under legal considerations a robust basis for the cross-border Congestion Management as it is market-based and compliant with the EC Regulation n°1228/2003 of 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2003 in terms of transparency, coordination and non-discrimination. Moreover it can be implemented without any delay from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2006.

The consultation document covers a large range of issues, from the very details of the Explicit Auction rules, to the way of developing cross-border intraday and balancing trade in the future. In the whole consultation, a special emphasis has been put on the several possibilities to address the Market power concerns in the cross-border trade framework.

E Control and CRE therefore invite all the relevant market parties to send in their answers, observations, commentaries or recommendations on these important issues, preferably in English and no later than Friday 30 of September 2005.

This common approach will result, in October 2005, in a joint synthesis of contributions from stakeholders and a common "Roadmap" for implementing the agreed method from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2006.

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