

GIE response

Commission Consultation on a new energy market design¹

1 Who is GIE

Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) is an association representing the interests of European natural gas infrastructure operators active in natural gas transmission, storage and LNG regasification. GIE is a trusted partner of European institutions, regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders. It is based in Brussels, the heart of European policymaking. GIE currently represents 69 member companies from 25 countries.

One of the objectives of GIE is to voice the views of its members vis-à-vis the European Commission, the regulators and other stakeholders. Its mission is to actively contribute to the construction of a single, sustainable and competitive gas market in Europe underpinned by a stable and predictable regulatory framework as well as by a sound investment climate.

This document follows the questions of the consultation document, where the questions are in italics and GIE's answers are in blue. As the association is dealing with gas and operating the gas infrastructure in Europe, GIE is providing answers to this consultation which are relevant to the gas industry – 12 and 13.

2 Responses to consultation

2.2 Stepping up regional cooperation in an integrated electricity system

12. Fragmented national regulatory oversight seems to be inefficient for harmonised parts of the electricity system (e.g. market coupling). Would you see benefits in strengthening ACER's role?

ACER's role and responsibilities have been clearly set out in the Third Energy Package. The agency's overall mission is to complement and coordinate the work of national energy regulators at EU level. As such, any strengthened role of ACER should focus on the primary task of ACER of strengthened cooperation between national energy regulators, in order to ensure that NRAs adopt national regulations which are consistent with the EU legislation and ensure a sound, predictable and stable regulatory framework. Furthermore, potential new competences of ACER should not lead to an increase in the regulatory burden.

The division of tasks and responsibilities between the European Commission as the policymaker, ACER as the agency of regulatory authorities and ENTSOG as the body of transmission system operators is well-defined in the Third Energy Package. For example ACER has a clear role in the

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Launching the public consultation process on a new energy market design, Ref. COM(2015) 340 final, {SWD(2015) 142 final}, 15 July 2015.

different stages of the network code development process: drafting the framework guidelines and giving an opinion on the network codes. This well-balanced process should not be undermined by changed roles and responsibilities.

13. Would you see benefits in strengthening the role of the ENTSOs? How could this best be achieved? What regulatory oversight is needed?

The consultation paper focusses on the electricity market and the role currently performed by ENTSO-E. This specific question, however, concerns both ENTSOs. Within the current framework ENTSG has developed multiple network codes, through a well-received stakeholder process. GIE sees no reason for strengthening the role of ENTSG, bearing in mind the well-balanced process between policy makers, regulators and network operators, which is currently in place. If a changed role for ENTSO-E is considered, this should not automatically result in changes with regards to ENTSG. Any changes proposed should be based on a proper assessment of gas market requirements in relation to the work (to be) done by ENTSG.