

## **ACER welcomes the day-ahead market coupling in North-West Europe**

Ljubljana, 04 February 2014

**“The Agency welcomes the go-live of the day-ahead market coupling in the North-West Europe region, which covers 75% of the European power market” said ACER Director, Alberto Pototschnig today. “I am pleased that this very important milestone towards the completion of the Internal Energy Market has finally been achieved”, he stressed.**

As from today, this project allows organised electricity markets - power exchanges - covering 15<sup>1</sup> European countries to be closely interlinked. The market coupling between Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Sweden will significantly enhance the development of the single EU energy market by favouring price convergence, which fosters competition and therefore leads to a greater choice of services and tangible benefits for European electricity consumers.

At the same time, as from today, Spain and Portugal, which have operated as an integrated market since 2010, will also use the same market coupling platform and contractual procedures<sup>2</sup>.

This achievement rewards the intensive work performed by transmission system operators, power exchanges, national regulatory authorities and the Agency within the voluntary early implementation framework called the regional initiatives process.

In the coming months, the electricity markets of Portugal and Spain will join the North-West Europe region, while their Italian and Slovenian counterparts are expected to do so by the end of 2014.

Further information on this project, as well as other examples of voluntary early implementation of the network codes –common binding EU rules- can be found in the [latest yearly Regional Initiatives Status Review Report published by ACER today](#).

**ENDS (See Notes for Editors on the next page)**

1. The North-West Europe region consists of Benelux, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Great Britain – Northern Ireland is not included. Austria benefits from the North-West Europe region day-ahead market coupling as it shares the same price area with Germany and Luxembourg. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania benefit from this coupling as they are already linked to the Nordic market. Poland is also involved in this project via the sub-sea cable with Sweden, the SwePol link.
2. Although electricity and capacity will still be traded separately between France and Spain until full coupling is achieved.

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