



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B - Security of supply, Energy markets & Networks
The Director

Brussels, 18 AVR. 2011
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Mr Peter Plug
Lead Regulator for the GRI North-
West Region
Dutch Office of Energy Regulation /
Nederlandse Mededingingsautoriteit
(NMa)
Muzentoren
Wijnhaven 24
2511 WB The Hague

Dear Mr Plug,

Dear Peter

As you know our Head of States and Governments, the President of the European Commission have gathered in the European Council chaired the 4th of February 2011 to discuss energy issues. At this occasion they have expressed that "*Safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy contributing to European competitiveness remains a priority for Europe*" and that "*The EU needs a fully functioning, interconnected and integrated internal energy market*". Therefore they concluded that "*The internal market should be completed by 2014 so as to allow gas and electricity to flow freely. This requires in particular that in cooperation with ACER national regulators and transmission systems operators step up their work on market coupling and guidelines and on network codes applicable across European networks.*"

It is now our common responsibility as European Commission, Member States and National Regulators and ACER, to ensure that this clear and ambitious target of 2014 will be met. This is the momentum we needed to ensure a new step for Europe: new tools with the Third Energy Package and new objectives with the European Council. In that context, we request each regulator, under the coordination of the lead regulator, to contribute to elaborate a "European Energy Work Plan 2011-2014" by the end of June for your region and to address it jointly to the European Commission (DG ENER) and to ACER..

This Work Plan should detail each step allowing us to succeed in the achievement of a Pan-European Energy Market in 2014.

The aim of this Work Plan would be for each Region and also for each pan-European project when already possible to determine the steps allowing to reach our common goal for 2014.

On our side, the Commission and ACER will remain committed toward this 2014 target and use all the tools available to help going forward in this perspective. In particular, it seems clear already that Article 8 of Regulation EC/715/2009¹ is a tool we all might want to use in case of blocking.

This target of 2014 is certainly a challenging objective, but considering the benefits European citizens could receive from this achievement, we have to act and we are confident that this period might be one of the most interesting for us all sharing such a vision for Europe.

Our services will stay at your disposal to bring any additional information you might need for the completion of this "European Energy Work Plan 2011-2014" by end of June and we take this opportunity to inform you that a specific event should be organized in Fall 2011 at the Commissioner's level to follow up on our achievement by then already.

Looking forward to receive the first "EU Energy Work Plan" we thank you in advance for your specific involvement for such an ambitious and enthusiastic project.

Yours sincerely,



Heinz Hilbrecht

Copy: Lord Mogg, CEER
Alberto Pototschnig, ACER

¹ *Article 8 of Regulation EC/715/2009*

Tasks as regards terms and conditions for access to and operational security of cross-border infrastructure¹.

For cross-border infrastructure, the Agency shall decide upon those regulatory issues that fall within the competence of national regulatory authorities, which may include the terms and conditions for access and operational security, only:

- (a) where the competent national regulatory authorities have not been able to reach an agreement within a period of six months from when the case was referred to the last of those regulatory authorities; or
- (b) upon a joint request from the competent national regulatory authorities.

The competent national regulatory authorities may jointly request that the period referred to in point (a) is extended by a period of up to six months.