

**ACER Decision on the first amendment to the Regional Coordination Centre
Regional Procurement of Balancing Capacity Methodology: Annex I**

**First amendment ~~of~~to the ~~Methodology~~
methodology for the regional procurement of
balancing capacity-**

**in accordance with Article 37(1)(k) of ~~the~~ Regulation (EU)
2019/943**

**of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019
on the internal market for electricity**

~~26 September~~

12 December 2025

Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> methodology draft	<input type="checkbox"/> for public consultation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for ACER approval	<input type="checkbox"/> for final publication
Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> final
TSO approval:	<input type="checkbox"/> for approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> approved

ENTSO-E, taking into account the following:

Whereas

- (1) ~~This amendment proposal document provides an amendment to Annex I ACER decision 13/2023 of 19 July 2023 on the Regional Coordination Centre Regional Procurement of Reserve Capacity Methodology (hereafter referred to as the “RCC Procurement Methodology”) in line with Article 3(2) of the RCC Procurement Methodology.~~
- (2) ~~Following Article 3(7) of the RCC Procurement Methodology, the relevant TSOs (TSOs of the SOR), supported by relevant RCC(s), shall determine in a coordinated manner the parameters referred to in the RCC Procurement Methodology. Following this coordination ENTSO-E shall develop and submit an amendment to the RCC Procurement Methodology the methodology for the regional procurement of balancing capacity in accordance with Article 2737(1)(k) of the Electricity Regulation, proposing the parameters’ values included in an Annex. Therefore, this proposal for amendment includes per SOR the definition of~~
- (3)(1) ~~the initial reliability levels X and Y for the cross-zonal capacity statistically available per direction after cross-zonal intraday (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market timeframe and after consideration of such cross-zonal for electricity (‘Electricity Regulation’) following ACER Decision No 13/2023 of 19 July 2023 on ENTSO-E’s proposal for the regional procurement of balancing capacity available after cross-zonal intraday market timeframe for sharing of reserves as referred to in Article 4(3)(a) of the RCC Procurement Methodology. With the approval came a request for amendment of specific parts of the methodology, which must be submitted by 19 October 2025.~~
- (2) ~~the reliability levels X and Y for the volume of~~ The following elements of the methodology for the regional procurement of balancing capacity have been amended:

 - a) ~~definition of the values of parameters X and Y;~~
 - a)b) ~~geographical delineation for the assessment of available non-contracted platform bids available as referred to in Article 4(3)(b) of the RCC Procurement Methodology.;~~
 - c) ~~reporting obligation on the feasibility and effectiveness of operating with the defined values of X and Y; and~~
 - d) ~~cross-references to align with the new paragraph numbering within the same article.~~
- (3) ~~For the purposes of this amendment to the methodology for the regional procurement of balancing capacity, the terms used have the meaning given to them in Article 2 of the Electricity Regulation, Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing (‘EB Regulation’), Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 of 24 July 2015 establishing a guideline on capacity allocation and congestion management (‘CACM Regulation’), Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (‘SO Regulation’) and Article 2 of the methodology for the regional procurement of balancing capacity.~~

Article 1

General principles

Article 3 – General principles – shall be amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 2 shall be amended and be read accordingly:

- (4) ~~“The facilitation by each RCC under Paragraph 1(a) of this requires the participation of the concerned TSOs in a European platform for the exchange of standard products for balancing energy according to the EB Regulation. In the proceedings to prepare this amendment, all SORs were able to align on common parameters to be proposed following the RCC Procurement Methodology. Therefore, and deviating from the provisions of Article 3(7) of the RCC Procurement Methodology, ENTSO-E proposes to define the relevant parameters in the RCC Procurement Methodology instead of defining them in an Annex.~~

~~Article 32(1) of the EB Regulation sets out the various options for the provision of reserve capacity, from which TSOs can choose in accordance with their relevant NRA. As a result of the individual rules for dimensioning reserve capacity at the LFC block level, as specified in the SO Regulation, a TSO may Article 4(6), the facilitation by the RCC under Paragraph 1(a) does not circumvent the right of TSOs to consider non-contracted balancing energy bids expected to be available on European platforms, considering the available cross-zonal capacity. This aims to minimise the costs associated with providing reserve capacity. The granularity steps resulting from the definition of $Y = 0.1\%$ are considered accurate enough to allow TSOs to modulate the procurement of reserves to mitigate price spikes and manage possible scarcity scenarios taking advantage of reliable estimations and allowing TSOs to calibrate their risk aversion in practice, depending on the prevailing conditions. TSOs expect that small variations of risk level in the $X\%$ to 100% set of values may lead to large variations in volume of non-contracted balancing energy bids, especially during the consolidation of TSOs participation to the European Platforms. On top of that, higher granularity can help LFC Blocks to stay consistent with their individual risk management procedures. Therefore, the parameters determined by this amendment provide the relevant TSOs with a sufficient range of volumes of non-contracted balancing energy bids expected to be available on the European platforms, which they can consider individually available within their control area for the optimal provision of required reserve capacity – following Article 32(1) of the EB Regulation.”~~

- (5) ~~Assuming independence of both X parameters regarding volumes of non-contracted balancing energy bids expected to be available on the European platforms, and available cross-zonal capacity, the combination of both parameters may result in a value below 99%. Resulting, ENTSO-E emphasises that the X parameter represents only a minimum reliability level. A TSO is not obliged to apply it. The final decision on the considered volume of non-contracted balancing energy bids expected to be available on the European platforms is on each individual TSO in line with the established national rules for the provision of reserve capacity to comply with above mentioned SO Regulation requirement. As most European TSOs today do not rely strongly on non-contracted balancing energy bids, experience has to be gained first. Therefore, the resulting range of volumes of non-contracted balancing energy bids expected to be available on the European platforms, considering the available cross-zonal capacity,~~

provides sufficient basis to develop the necessary experience and sensitivity. The chosen reliability levels let LFC Blocks explore a wider set of values in order to assess the sensitive relationship between the expected liquidity of non-contracted balancing energy bids and the corresponding level of risk, with the aim of providing qualifying elements for the decision-making process behind the optimal provision of reserve capacity. Additionally, the chosen reliability levels are assumed to prevent overestimation of non-contracted balancing energy bids, therefore decrease the risk of scarcity situations and support the integrity of the RCC's assessments.

- (6) In any case, system operational security must be ensured. LFC Blocks will remain free to adopt individual reliability levels according to Article 4(9) of the RCC Procurement Methodology, gaining experience over time and reflecting individual specificities. Additionally, requirements and the limits for the exchange of FRR according to Annex VII of the SO Regulation apply.
- (7) This amendment of the RCC Procurement Methodology continues to set rules in line with the principles regarding the operation of electricity markets listed in Article 3 of the Electricity Regulation. In particular, the chosen range of parameters
- a. decreases barriers to cross-border electricity flows between bidding zones or Member States and cross-border transactions on electricity markets and related services markets pursuant to point (h) of Article 3 of the Electricity Regulation by providing a reliable basis for TSOs for an optimal provision of reserve capacity by reserves from outside the LFC block; and
 - b. provides for and fosters effective and efficient cooperation of TSOs at the regional level, pursuant to point (i) of Article 3 of the Electricity Regulation, allowing TSOs to calibrate their risk aversion in practice, depending on the prevailing conditions and thus supporting an optimal provision of reserve capacity aiming at minimisation of costs associated with the provision of reserve capacity; and
 - c. supports an efficient dispatch pursuant to point (i) of Article 3 of the Electricity Regulation as it supports TSOs to rely on volumes of non-contracted balancing energy bids available on the European platforms when determining their optimal provision of reserve capacity and thus reducing the procurement of balancing capacity which leads to a D-1 obligation for provision of reserves and thus may not result in the most efficient dispatch of units due to uncertainties materialising intraday.

~~SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR THE REGIONAL PROCUREMENT OF RESERVE CAPACITY TO ACER~~

~~Article 1~~

~~Introduction of common parameters~~

~~Article 3—General principles—of the RCC Procurement Methodology is amended as follows:~~

~~a) b) Article 3(7) of the RCC Procurement Methodology Paragraph 7~~ shall be amended and ~~be~~ read accordingly:-

~~«“To apply the methodology to in the SOR, the levels X and Y, as referred to in Article 4, shall be applied as follows: X = 90% and Y = 0.1%.~~

~~If the relevant TSOs deem it necessary to apply different parameters per SOR, they shall determine the parameters referred to in this methodology in a coordinated manner, supported by relevant RCC(s). Following this coordination, ENTSO-E shall develop and submit an amendment to this methodology in accordance with Article 27 of the Electricity Regulation, proposing values for the parameters included in an Annex. This amended proposal shall include the X and Y levels referred to in Article 4.→→.”~~

Article 2

Assessment of available non-contracted platform bids

Implementation Timeline

~~Article 8 — Implementation timeline — of the RCC Procurement Methodology is amended as follows:-~~

~~A new paragraph 54 – Assessment of available non-contracted platform bids – shall be included amended and be read accordingly:-~~

~~«5. RCCs may derogate from the timeline under paragraphs 1-3 following the notification to the TSOs of the concerned SOR. Such derogation shall be upon request to be submitted to the relevant regulatory authorities of the concerned SOR. The request shall include the reason for derogation and a proposal for a revised implementation timeline. The request shall be subject to the approval of the relevant regulatory authorities and may be renewed upon due justification.»—~~

~~TSOs of each SOR in cooperation with relevant RCC(s) shall implement this amendment to the RCC Procurement Methodology by 19 January 2026.~~

Article 3

Language

~~1. The reference language for this amendment to the RCC Procurement Methodology shall be English.—~~

~~2. For the avoidance of doubt, where TSOs need to translate this amendment to RCC Procurement Methodology into their national language(s), in the event of inconsistencies between the English version published by ACER and any version in another language, the~~

~~relevant TSOs or RCCs shall, in accordance with national legislation, provide the relevant national regulatory authorities with an updated translation of this methodology.~~

“1. Each RCC shall calculate on a daily basis the available non-contracted platform bids in the whole SOR, which may be considered by the relevant TSO when determining the volume of balancing capacity that they need to procure per LFC block at day-ahead and where relevant on the intraday basis.

2. Each RCC, in close coordination with the TSOs of the SOR, shall define a geographical delineation within the SOR for the application of this Article. The delineation shall be limited to the LFC block, LFC area or the bidding zone, whichever the RCC considers most appropriate for the purpose of this methodology.

3. The relevant TSOs of the SOR with whom an RCC shall exchange information pursuant to paragraphs (5) and (6) and to whom an RCC shall issue recommendations pursuant to (9), shall be the ones who are allowed, in accordance with Article 18(5)(b) of the EB Regulation, to consider non-contracted platform bids for the optimal provision of reserve capacity according to Article 32(1)(c) of the EB Regulation.

4. Each RCC shall:

a. Determine the cross-zonal capacity statistically available per direction after cross-zonal intraday market timeframe and after consideration of such cross-zonal capacity available after cross-zonal intraday market timeframe for sharing of reserves at the reliability levels X % to 100 % in Y % steps which shall be derived from the monitoring activities described in Article 7(1)(a); and

b. Determine, per the geographical delineation defined pursuant to paragraph (2) the volume of non-contracted platform bids available per product and direction, and the respective validity period of the relevant balancing capacity market at the reliability levels X% to 100% in Y% steps. The non-contracted platform bids available at the specified reliability levels shall be derived from the related monitoring activities described in Article 7(1)(b).

5. Each RCC shall inform each relevant TSO of the SOR about the volume of non-contracted platform bids, which are expected to be locally available within the geographical delineation defined pursuant to paragraph (2).

6. Each relevant TSO shall reply to the RCC’s message pursuant to paragraph (5) without undue delay by informing the RCC about its intended use of local non-contracted platform bids and whether its assessment of locally available non-contracted platform bids deviates from the RCC’s assessment results provided pursuant to paragraph (5).

7. Each RCC may adjust the determined volumes pursuant to paragraph (4)(b) considering the information provided by a TSO in accordance with paragraph (6).

8. Each RCC shall calculate for each area aligned with the geographical delineation pursuant to paragraph (2) and at the reliability level defined in accordance with paragraph (4) the maximum volume of non-contracted platform bids from other areas pursuant to paragraph (2). For this calculation the RCC shall take into account:

a. the remaining volume of non-contracted platform bids available within the geographical delineation pursuant to paragraph (2) in accordance with paragraph (4)(b) after considering the local TSO’s intended use in accordance with paragraph (6); and

b. the available cross-zonal capacity in accordance with paragraph (4)(a).

9. Each RCC shall issue a recommendation to each relevant TSO of the SOR. The recommendation shall include the possible availability of non-contracted platform bids from other areas of the SOR delineated pursuant to paragraph (2), that this TSO may consider when determining the volume of balancing capacity.

10. Considering the recommendation pursuant to paragraph (9), each relevant TSO shall inform the RCC without undue delay about the volume of non-contracted platform bids and the reliability level it would consider to use.

11. If more than one TSO share interest in accordance with paragraph (10) for using the same volume of non-contracted platform bids, the RCC shall consider the request pursuant to paragraph (10) proportionally.

12. The RCC shall inform all TSOs of the SOR about the volume of non-contracted platform bids pursuant to paragraphs (6), (10) and (11) which may be considered by each relevant TSO of the SOR.

13. If a TSO decides to consider a different volume of non-contracted platform bids than the volume foreseen for it in accordance with paragraph (12), the TSO shall inform the RCC without undue delay about the intended deviation. Where such deviation amounts to the TSO considering to use a higher volume of non-contracted platform bids than the one foreseen in accordance with paragraph (12), the RCC shall inform all TSOs of the SOR about the risk of more non-contracted platform bids in the SOR being considered than assessed as available.

14. The RCC shall provide the values pursuant to paragraph (12) at the latest half an hour before the deadline for the submission of the balancing capacity bids by the balancing service providers for the market-based allocation process in accordance with the HCZCAM.

15. A TSO may request a review of the recommendation pursuant to paragraph (9) according to Article 42(4) of the Electricity Regulation. This request shall be reasoned and include a proposal for modification of the recommendation. Following the review, the RCC shall confirm or modify the outcomes from paragraph (4).

16. The coordination following Article 3(4) shall be carried out to ensure that only the volume of available non-contracted platform bids is distributed to all requesting TSOs across SORs. If there are TSOs from different SORs considering non-contracted platform bids and there is sufficient cross-zonal capacity available between SORs the respective RCCs have to coordinate the distribution of the volume of available non-contracted platform bids. This shall result either in (i) just one RCC operating the assessment of available non-contracted platform bids for all relevant SORs (also possible in a rotating manner), or (ii) that RCCs exchange the information necessary to ensure that available non-contracted platform bids are only considered once across SORs."

Article 3 **Monitoring and reporting**

Article 7 – Monitoring and reporting – shall be amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 3 shall be amended and be read accordingly:

"Each RCC shall include the tasks following this methodology under its monitoring and reporting activities following Article 46 of the Electricity Regulation including the reporting of the impact of deviations pursuant to Article 4(13). The reporting shall also include an assessment of the feasibility and effectiveness of operating with the values of X and Y pursuant to Article 3."