

ACER



Agency for the Cooperation
of Energy Regulators



Working towards
an internal energy
market for the benefit
of all EU consumers!

What is the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators or ACER?

ACER is a European agency established by the Third Energy Package which created a new institutional framework to support the completion of the internal energy market for gas and electricity. ACER opened its offices in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in March 2011. It comprises three Boards, a Director, agency staff and seconded national experts from Member States' public authorities. The Director represents the Agency and is responsible for its management. The Agency's regulatory activities are overseen by the Board of Regulators, composed of senior

representatives from the national regulatory authorities competent for energy. The administrative and budgetary activities of the Agency fall under the supervision of the Administrative Board, with members appointed by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. Finally, the Board of Appeal is part of the Agency but independent of its administrative and regulatory structures and deals with complaints lodged against ACER's decisions.



Why do we need a European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators?

Since the early 1990's, Europe has been working towards harmonising and integrating the national energy (electricity and gas) markets into a single trade area. By doing so it wants to promote competition, cooperation on meeting the challenges related to climate change, and improvement of security of supply, thus benefiting all European energy consumers and European citizens.

In 2007, the Treaty of Lisbon laid the groundwork for a common energy policy and in 2011, the Council set targets for completing the internal energy market by 2014 and removing energy islands by 2015.



There is a need for strong cooperation among energy NRAs to support this process and avoid any regulatory gap on cross-border issues. The tradition of voluntary cooperation among energy NRAs dates back to 2000. In 2003, the European Regulatory Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG) was set up as a consultative body to the European Commission. In 2009, the Third Energy Package strengthened and institutionalised the cooperation of energy NRAs by creating ACER as a European agency notably to work towards the 2014 IEM target date.

How does ACER contribute to the welfare of EU citizens and businesses?

The interests of present and future European energy consumers are at the heart of the Agency's activities. In many cases, the Agency's activities also benefit European citizens more widely.

By defining the principles and criteria for the development of **network and market rules** for the IEM, the Agency promotes the smooth functioning of the European energy sector, encouraging competition and security of supply.

By supporting **regional and cross-regional initiatives** which favour market integration, the Agency works towards the removal of barriers to cross-border trade and free movement of energy, thus giving energy consumers greater choice.



By overseeing the work of transmission system operators and notably their **network development plans**, the Agency ensures that electricity and gas grids in the European Union are developed in such a way as to support market integration and facilitate the achievement of Europe's objectives for sustainability and security of supply for the benefit of all European citizens.

By **monitoring the functioning of gas and electricity markets**, and notably wholesale energy trading, the Agency plays a part in safeguarding market integrity and transparency and promoting confidence among energy consumers that the energy prices they pay reflect market fundamentals and are not distorted by abusive practices.

In all its activities, the Agency involves and consults stakeholders extensively, including EU energy consumers, through public consultations and specific events.

To learn more about the Agency and its activities and keep up to date with developments, visit www.acer.europa.eu!

For more information:

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