

Mr Günther H. Oettinger
European Commissioner for Energy
European Commission

Daniel Dobbeni
President

Tel +32 2 741 09 50
Fax+32 2 741 09 51

Risks to interconnected system operations – follow-up to Spring 2011 letters

17 April 2012

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

I refer to my letter of 22 April 2011 and your reply of 27 May 2011 about risks to interconnected system operations in Central Europe. In my letter I informed you that ENTSO-E teams would assess this issue and report back on our findings and recommendations. Since that time the European power system has come through a tense situation over winter and governments have become increasingly concerned about loop flows affecting TSOs ability to manage security of supply. Attached for your consideration is our formal assessment of the situation that includes these most recent events.

I remain deeply concerned about the difference in speed between the connection of very large capacities of renewable energy resources and the realisation in due time of the grid investments needed to support the massive increase of power flows these new resources bring. Even more worrying is the very slow progress in permitting procedures for the new transmission lines that have for years been identified as needed by TSOs, for example for North-South transmission in Central Europe. I also remain very concerned about the potential destabilising effect of outdated connection conditions for distributed generation that are not being retrofitted anywhere fast enough. In some areas already, TSOs have to curtail renewable energy as the only alternative to maintain security of supply.

In other words, regulatory and government decision making on any measures the TSOs propose to reduce risks to electricity security of supply are much too slow in comparison to the speed with which the operational risks are now increasing.

I would be happy to meet with you and discuss our findings, and recommendations. If you wish, we could also present to the recently established Electricity Coordination Group the facts surrounding wind and solar generation and our assessment of the risks facing TSOs. The recent meetings held by the Commission on 19 and 26 March have helped in this regard.

Please let me know how you would like to take these matters forward.

Yours faithfully,



Daniel Dobbeni
President
ENTSO-E