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Agency for the Cooperation
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of Energy Regulators

Annual Activity Report 2012

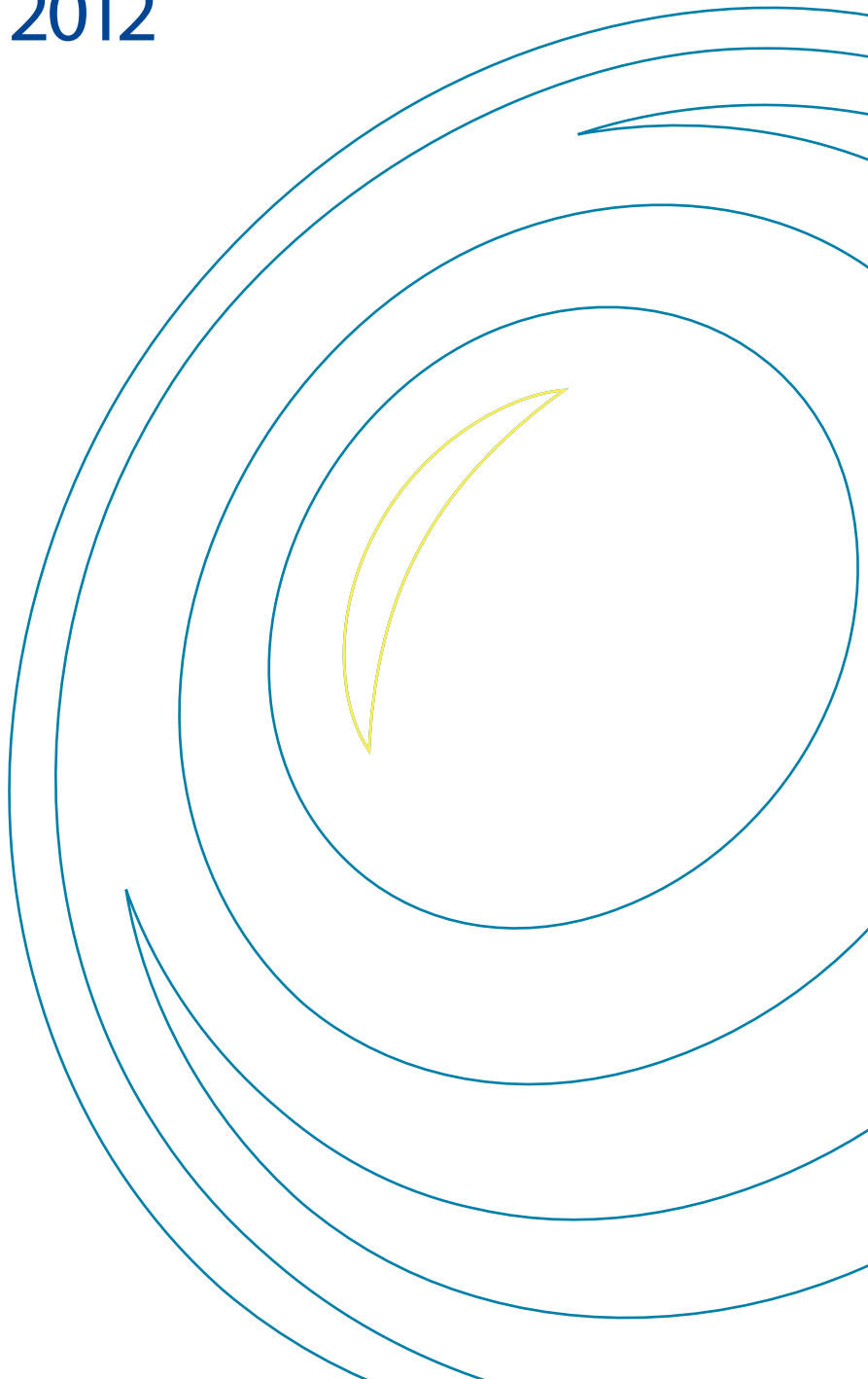


ACER



Agency for the Cooperation
of Energy Regulators

Annual Activity Report 2012



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Foreword by the Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators



2012 has been another challenging year for the Agency, as we completed our initial set-up to perform the tasks envisaged in the Third Energy Package, while we started to deliver on two additional, ambitious pieces of EU legislation: the Regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT), which entered into force at the end of 2011, and the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN-E Regulation), which entered into force in May 2013, but which was already being implemented on an ad-hoc basis in 2012.

The Agency responded to these challenges with the unfading enthusiasm and relentless dedication of its staff and the gratefully acknowledged support of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) through the Agency's Working Groups.

In fact, 2012 saw a further widening, including into new areas, and deepening of the collaboration between the Agency and NRAs. The Third Package established the Agency to promote cooperation among NRAs. REMIT reinforces this collaboration by assigning shared Agency-NRAs operational responsibilities for wholesale energy market monitoring, with the Agency being primarily tasked with surveillance of the

EU energy market and NRAs being responsible for investigations and enforcement, mainly on the basis of input from the Agency. This monitoring framework requires integrated processes and the sharing of market information between the Agency and NRAs on an unprecedented scale. The preparatory work already began in late 2011 and continued intensively throughout 2012 to prepare for the 'go live' of the new monitoring framework in 2014. Moreover, in the summer of 2012, the European Commission invited the Agency to support and coordinate the activities of NRAs in the early implementation of the new TEN-E Regulation. The Agency interacted closely with NRAs to provide common templates and indicators, thus ensuring the consistent application of criteria for assessing Projects of Common Interest.

In 2012, the Agency also acquired a more prominent role in the EU institutional framework. We enjoyed two opportunities to present our activities to the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament; a Committee's delegation visited the Agency in Ljubljana and regular meetings with the ACER Contact Group in the Committee were launched. Finally, in November, the Committee requested the Agency's opinion on a number of developments in the

energy sector related to electricity generation adequacy and capacity remuneration mechanisms. The opinion was submitted and presented in February 2013. We are extremely grateful and honoured for the consideration and support that the Committee has afforded to the Agency.

The constructive collaboration with the European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy, is also much appreciated.

Despite the extension of our activities into new fields, supporting the completion of the internal energy market by 2014 still remains one of the main priorities of the Agency, which in 2012 increased its efforts, not only in the formal framework guidelines and network code development process, but also in promoting the early, voluntary implementation of some of the key provisions in the codes. Progress was achieved in both the electricity and gas sectors, although some delays with respect to the defined roadmaps emerged and prompted the Agency to intervene with the aim of overcoming the difficulties so that the goal of market integration in 2014 is achieved. In this respect, I would like to commend the many stakeholders who participated in the public consultations organised by the Agency,

for their contributions and constructive commitment to working towards delivering the tangible benefits of an integrated European energy market to energy consumers and citizens as soon as possible.

More still needs to be done, but in 2012 the Agency worked intensively in all these areas. This Annual Activity Report presents the results of these efforts, and I am extremely grateful to the other EU institutions, the NRAs and other stakeholders who contributed to these achievements.



Alberto Pototschnig
Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of
Energy Regulators

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENCY



Mission

Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 established the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, assigning it a key role in the process completing the Internal Energy Market (IEM) for electricity and natural gas. The Agency became officially operational on 3 March 2011, at the same time as the Third Package of Legislative Measures on Energy (hereafter referred to as the 'Third Package') entered into force. The Agency has its seat in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The mission of the Agency, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 713/2009, is to assist the National Regulatory Authorities for energy (NRAs) in exercising, at European Union (EU) level, the regulatory tasks performed in Member States and, where necessary, to coordinate their actions.

Thus the Agency was established to fill the regulatory gap at EU level (beyond and across national borders) and to contribute to the effective functioning of the IEM in electricity and natural gas. In this respect, the Agency:

- complements and coordinates the work of NRAs;
- participates in the establishment of the cross-border market and network rules, and in planning for the development of European networks;
- under certain conditions, takes individual binding decisions on terms and conditions for access to, and the operational security of, cross-border infrastructure and exemption requests;
- advises other European institutions on electricity- and natural gas-related issues, at their request or on its own initiative;
- monitors the internal electricity and natural gas markets and reports on its findings.

The range and nature of tasks assigned to the Agency have been further extended by Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT). REMIT introduces a sector-specific framework for the monitoring of wholesale energy markets, so as to detect and deter market abuse.

In this framework, the Agency is responsible for collecting and analysing data on wholesale energy market transactions and other relevant data in order to identify possible instances of market manipulation, attempted market manipulation or insider trading. Following its

initial assessment, the Agency should notify the NRA(s) concerned when there are grounds to believe that abuses have occurred.

The new activities to be performed by the Agency under REMIT are important in promoting market integrity and transparency, which are essential for well-functioning energy markets and for promoting the confidence of market participants and final consumers. They are also complex, because they deal with complex traded products and markets, and delicate because monitoring should be conducted vigilantly, but without unduly interfering with the operation of energy markets.

Finally, the new Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and the revocation of Decision No 1364/2006/EC (the "TEN-E Regulation") introduces a new and enhanced regulatory framework for the development of EU energy infrastructure, concentrating on the identification of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). PCIs will benefit from a streamlined permit procedure and regulatory framework and, possibly, financial support. Although the Agency is already involved in the process of European energy network planning through its opinions on the TYNDPs, the new Regulation assigns it important new tasks in the enhanced infrastructure development framework. In particular, the Agency will be responsible for:

- assisting the NRAs in assessing criteria, costs and benefits, and the cross-border relevance of PCIs within a region, and in presenting such an assessment to the Regional Groups;
- providing opinions (within three months) on the draft regional (electricity and gas) PCI lists and on the consistent application of the criteria and the cost-benefit analysis across regions;
- providing opinions to the Commission and the Member States on methodologies for a harmonised energy system-wide CBA at Union-wide level proposed by the ENTSOs;
- monitoring the implementation of PCIs;
- taking decisions on the investment requests of PCI promoters, including cross-border cost allocation, in specific circumstances;
- facilitating the sharing of good practices, and providing recommendations on incentives and a common methodology to evaluate the higher risks of investments in electricity and gas transmission.

The new activities performed under TEN-E Regulation are aimed at promoting the efficient and timely development of energy networks in priority corridors and areas.

Organisation

The Agency comprises four bodies:

- the Administrative Board;
- the Board of Regulators;
- the Director;
- the Board of Appeal.

The Administrative Board (AB) is charged with the administrative governance of the Agency and is comprised of nine members, each having an alternate, five of whom are appointed by the Council of the EU, two by the European Commission and two by the European Parliament. The AB is responsible for ensuring that the Agency carries out its mission and performs the tasks assigned to it.

The AB's specific responsibilities include the formal appointment of the other bodies of the Agency, the adoption of the budget and Implementing Rules required for the functioning of the Agency and the formal adoption of the Agency's work programme, which is approved by the Board of Regulators, after consulting the Commission.

The AB typically meets on a quarterly basis. On 13 March 2012, Mr Piotr Woźniak and Mr Razvan Nicolescu were reappointed as AB Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for a further period of 2 years.

The Board of Regulators (BoR) comprises senior representatives of the NRAs, one for each Member State, and one non-voting representative of the European Commission. Each NRA also nominates an alternate. The BoR plays an important role in the regulatory tasks of the Agency, such as approving the Work Programme proposed by the Director.

Similarly, the Agency's activities under the Third Package and the opinion on the regional PCI lists under the TEN-E Regulation are subject to a favourable opinion from the BoR before their adoption and publication by the Director. In addition, within its field of competence, the BoR can provide guidance to the Director.

The BoR also provides an opinion to the Administrative Board on candidates to be appointed as Director, and is consulted by the European Commission on the proposal of the members of the Board of Appeal.

The BoR usually meets on a monthly basis. In November 2012, Lord Mogg and Mr Walter Boltz were reappointed as BoR Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for a further period of 2 ½ years.

The Director is responsible for representing the Agency and for its management.

More specifically, the Director is responsible for:

- preparing the work of the AB;
- adopting and publishing the opinions, recommendations, decisions and, in general, the acts of the Agency. In the case of the opinions, recommendations and decisions which the Agency delivers under the Third Package and the opinions of the regional PCI lists, a favourable opinion from the BoR is required before their adoption;
- implementing the Agency's annual work programme, under the guidance of the BoR and under the administrative control of the AB;
- taking necessary measures, notably in adopting internal administrative instructions and publishing notices, to ensure the functioning of the Agency;
- preparing the Agency's annual draft work programme for submission to the BoR, the European Parliament and the European Commission, by 30 June of the next year;
- drafting the Agency's preliminary draft budget and implementing the Agency's budget;
- preparing a draft annual report with an independent section on the regulatory activities of the Agency and a section on financial and administrative matters.

Mr Alberto Pototschnig was appointed as the first Director of the Agency and took office on 16 September 2010. His term of office is five years.

The Board of Appeal (BoA) is part of the Agency, but is independent of its administrative and regulatory structure. The BoA is responsible for considering appeals lodged by any natural or legal person, including NRAs, against individual decisions of the Agency. The decisions of the BoA may themselves be subject to appeal before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The six members and six alternates of the BoA were appointed by the AB on 22 September 2011 for a term of five years, renewable. Members and alternates of the BoA were

selected from among current and former senior staff of NRAs or other national or EU institutions with relevant experience in the energy sector, upon a proposal from the Commission following the publication of a call for interest. The first meeting of the BoA took place on 1 December 2011, at which it appointed its Chair and Vice-Chair – Prof. Pippo Ranci Ortigosa and Prof. Herbert Ungerer, respectively – and adopted its rules of procedure. The BoA did not meet in 2012.

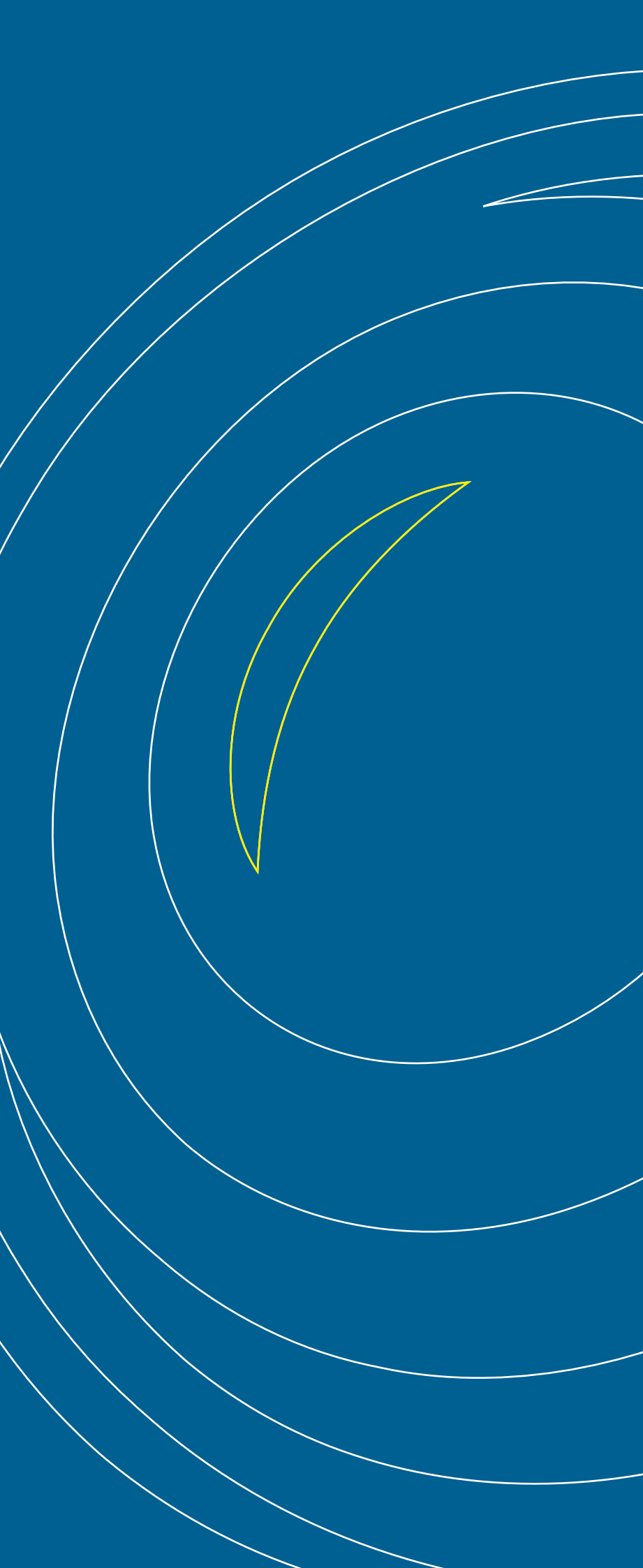
Since 1 October 2012, the Agency's staff have been organised into five departments: the Director's Office, the Electricity Department, the Gas Department, the Market Monitoring Department and the Administration Department.

Main institutional activities in 2012

- The first ACER Annual conference “Making the Internal Energy Market a Reality – Which Role for ACER?” took place on 14 March in Ljubljana. More than 200 participants attended.
- The Director, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the BoR and staff members participated in the Madrid Forum meetings on 22-23 March and 2-3 October.
- The Director and the Chairs of the AB and BoR attended the World Forum of Energy Regulation in Quebec City on 14-16 May.
- The Director, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the BoR and staff members participated in the Florence Forum meetings on 22-23 May and on 20-21 November.
- The Director and the BoR Chair made a presentation of the Agency’s 2013 work programme outline before the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament on 31 May, and an ITRE Committee delegation visited ACER on 30-31 August.
- The Director met with Commissioner Oettinger on 27 June.
- A meeting with ElCom, the National Electricity Regulatory Authority of Switzerland, took place on 12 July in Geneva.
- The first visit of the Court of Auditors took place on 16-20 March 2012.
- The first visit of the Internal Audit Service took place on 6-11 January 2012.

PART 1
POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE YEAR





This section provides a report of the Agency's regulatory activities in 2012 in fulfilling its mission under Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 and the other provisions of the Third Package. It also reports on the activities for the implementation of REMIT, which entered into force on 28 December 2011, and for the early implementation of the TEN-E Regulation.

This is the independent section referred to in Article 15(4) of Regulation (EC) No 713/2009, approved by the BoR. It is arranged as follows:

- Statement of the BoR Chair;
- Chapter 1 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 related to the development of framework guidelines and network codes;
- Chapter 2 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 related to the Regional Initiatives;
- Chapter 3 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 related to other tasks of the ENTSOs;
- Chapter 4 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 related to the monitoring of the Internal Energy Markets;
- Chapter 5 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 related to the monitoring of the wholesale energy markets under REMIT;
- Chapter 6 illustrates the Agency's activities in 2012 supporting the European Commission in the infrastructure area;
- Chapter 7 illustrates the Agency's cooperation and communication with NRAs in 2012;
- Chapter 8 illustrates the consultation and involvement of stakeholders in the Agency's activities in 2012;
- Chapter 9 presents an assessment of the results obtained by the Agency in 2012 with respect to its Work Programme for that year.

Statement of the Chair of the Board of Regulators



Throughout 2012 we have continued and intensified our efforts and commitment to deliver the core European rules that will form the basis of an effective European internal energy market in 2014. We have also undertaken substantial preparatory work for establishing the foundations for the future monitoring of wholesale energy markets under REMIT and to work “as if” the TEN-E Regulation were adopted.

The European Council has recently underlined the importance of meeting the 2014 deadline for the completion of the Union’s internal energy market. Delivery of the framework guidelines and network codes is at the heart of this challenging obligation and the Agency has devoted most of its resources to its achievement.

This challenge during 2012 has indeed been enormous. In its preparatory work leading to adoption of the network codes the Agency has marked some significant results: the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing and on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules for European Gas Transmission Networks; the consultation on the Framework Guidelines on Harmonised Gas Transmission Tariff Structures; the Reasoned Opinions on the Network Codes on Requirements for Generators and on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management in the electricity transmission networks and the Reasoned Opinion and Recommendation to the Commission on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms for European Gas Transmission Networks.

It is also worth noting the important role played by ACER’s Regional Initiatives to the early implementation of some of these network codes.

Regulatory cooperation between the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and the Agency is of particular importance given the increasing integration of energy markets which reinforces the need for regulatory scrutiny at both national and European level in a co-ordinated way. The growing volumes of the Agency’s and NRAs’ activities require continuous information exchange between them on each area of work and on issues of common interest. To meet these increased demands, in 2012, two more Agency’s Working Groups were established: the Market Integrity and Transparency Working Group (AMIT WG) undertook preparatory work on REMIT; and the Implementation, Monitoring and Procedures Working Group (AIMP WG) which assists the Agency in fulfilling its monitoring tasks under the Regulation as well as developing the appropriate processes.

These Working Groups form the backbone of the Agency’s work and on all these areas NRAs make a major and essential contribution through their active participation in these Groups.

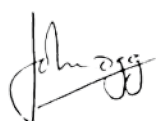
The Agency has also been asked to take on a key role in the policy relating to wholesale energy markets monitoring under REMIT Regulation. Its prohibitions for market manipulation, attempted market manipulation and insider trading took effect immediately (as from its entry into force on 28 December 2011). The work during the first implementation stage, which started upon the entry into force of REMIT, has allowed us to ensure that the Agency is ready to shift to the operational stage, after the adoption by the European Commission of the Implementing Acts. All the tasks undertaken in 2012 (2nd edition of the ACER guidance on the application of REMIT definitions, the ACER decision on the registration format, and ACER Recommendations on the record of transactions) have been the result of intense preparations under the newly established AMIT WG.

As the European Council has recently confirmed, an interconnected energy network is an important element in the completion of the European single market. Thus, the preparatory work on the new TEN-E Regulation (recently adopted) involved intense preparations by NRAs and the Agency in the process for the selection of projects of common interest (PCI) and participation in the meetings of the regional groups. The NRAs and the Agency have cooperated from the earliest stages to ensure consistency by developing a common basis for the project assessments upon which the initial NRA opinions on PCI candidates were based. In parallel, over the last year, the Agency adopted its opinion on the TYNDP for electricity prepared by ENTSO-E and provided its opinion on the ENTSO-E and ENTSG annual summer and winter outlooks.

In 2012 ACER, in cooperation with CEER, published the first joint monitoring report. It reported progress towards the Internal Energy Market with detailed findings on the obstacles it faced and identified what more needs to be done to complete the Internal Energy Market.

We are committed to continue our work in 2013. We have an even more ambitious Work Programme, where its successful implementation will be crucial for the completion of the Internal Energy Market that will ensure a level playing field in the wholesale markets through effective monitoring, and address the challenge of ensuring adequate investment in energy infrastructure. The Agency must continue to play its role in delivering a fully operational Internal Energy Market. That goal involves all of us: the Agency, the ENTSOs and the Commission, Member States and the European Parliament as well as all stakeholders.

A huge vote of thanks must go to each and every one of the hundreds of people involved in the remarkable programme of work; to the (still limited) staff of the Agency, to the NRAs' experts involved in the Working Groups and to Alberto Pototschnig, the Director. Congratulations to you all for your achievement.



Lord Mogg
Chair of the Board of Regulators

1. FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES AND NETWORK CODES

The Third Package envisages the development and adoption of an energy network and market rules, directly applicable and binding throughout the EU. These rules are included in network codes, which are made legally binding via the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (the “comitology process”) ¹. Network codes are drafted by ENTSO-E (for electricity) and ENTSG (for gas) on the basis of the principles and criteria defined by the Agency in framework guidelines.

The fields in which framework guidelines and network codes for electricity and gas may be adopted are listed in Article 8(6) of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 and in Article 8(6) of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, respectively. Those fields include: (i) network security and reliability (ii) network connection, (iii) third-party access, (iv) data exchange and settlement, (v) interoperability, (vi) operational procedures in an emergency, (vii) capacity allocation and congestion management, (viii) trading with regard to the technical and operational provision of network access services and system balancing, (ix) transparency, (x) balancing, including network-related reserve power (electricity), (xi) harmonised transmission tariff structures, and (xii) energy efficiency regarding electricity and gas networks.

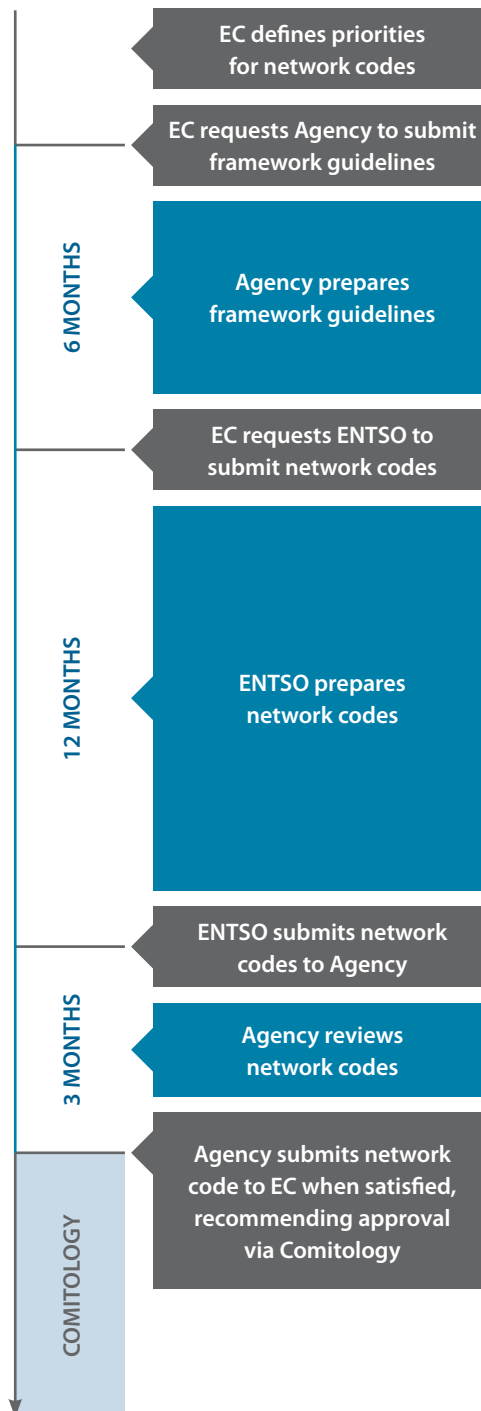
The process for the development and adoption of network codes includes:

- the annual identification by the European Commission of priority areas for the development of network codes. This activity is supported by a Planning Group (which brings together the European Commission, the Agency, ENTSO-E and ENTSG), which prepares and regularly updates a three-year activity plan relating to framework guidelines and network codes (the ‘three-year plan’), and involves a public consultation of stakeholders;
- on the basis of the annual priority list, the Agency develops (non-binding) framework guidelines following invitations issued by the European Commission. In developing the framework guidelines, the Agency widely consults stakeholders through public consultations and workshops. Once adopted, the framework guidelines are submitted to the European Commission, which may request the Agency to review them. Once finalised, the framework guidelines are published on the Agency’s website;

¹ Regulation on implementing powers (Regulation EU No 182/2011 repealing Decision 1999/468/EC)

- the development of the network codes by ENTSO-E or ENTSG and their submission to the Agency. The network codes are developed following invitations issued by the European Commission and according to the principles, criteria and objectives defined in the corresponding framework guidelines. In developing the network codes, the ENTSGs consult stakeholders through public consultations and workshops²;
- the evaluation of the network codes by the Agency to assess their compliance with the principles, objectives and criteria defined in the corresponding framework guidelines. During the evaluation phase, the Agency often invites stakeholders to present their views, either through workshops organised by the Agency or on a bilateral basis. The results of the Agency's evaluation are presented in reasoned opinions addressed to ENTSO-E or ENTSG. On the basis of the Agency's reasoned opinions, the ENTSGs may amend the network codes;
- the submission of the network codes for adoption by the Agency to the European Commission, when the Agency is satisfied that they comply with the principles and criteria defined in the corresponding framework guidelines;
- the adoption of the network codes by the European Commission through the comitology process.

This procedure, and its timeline, can be summarised as follows:



² The Agency is closely involved in the network code development process. Before the network codes are formally submitted, the Agency also provides early feedback on the drafts, as well as typically an informal preliminary opinion, which enables ENTSO-E or ENTSG to become aware at an early stage of any concern that the Agency may have and to modify the network codes accordingly before their submission

1.1. ELECTRICITY FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES AND NETWORK CODES

FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES

Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing

The Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing aim to provide a policy framework for establishing market-based, objective, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory rules for balancing. They provide clear definitions of the roles and responsibilities of different entities in the balancing market, including intermittent generation and demand-side resources, the framework for the procurement and exchanges of balancing reserves and balancing energy and the framework for imbalance settlement and access to interconnection capacities for balancing. These rules should promote the integration of diverse national balancing arrangements into a single European balancing market.

The development of Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing was first included in the Agency's Work Programme for 2011. However, the definition of an appropriate approach to the integration of electricity balancing markets proved more challenging than expected, due to significant differences in existing national balancing market arrangements. Hence, the completion of the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing was included in the Agency's Work Programme for 2012.

In January 2012, the Agency received an invitation from the European Commission to deliver the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing by 18 July 2012. This deadline has been extended for two months to enable the

preparation of a good quality Initial Impact Assessment and to take into account the outcome of the impact assessment study commissioned by the European Commission. The final Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing were delivered to the European Commission on 18 September 2012.

The Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing are one of the most complex framework guidelines that the Agency has delivered to date. They provide a clear framework and targets for the harmonisation and integration of the European balancing market. As the balancing market is expected to grow in significance with increasing penetration of intermittent renewable energy sources, a well-functioning and fully integrated balancing market will enable significant cost savings in electricity sector and thus contribute to lower end-user prices in Europe. This has been shown by the Initial Impact Assessment and the impact assessment study commissioned by the European Commission. Finally, the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing were received positively from stakeholders as an ambitious, challenging, but adequate framework for establishing the European electricity balancing market.

In December 2012, the European Commission invited ENTSO-E to submit, by 1 January 2014, the Network Code on Electricity Balancing, which must be in accordance with the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Public Consultation on the draft Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Public_consultations/Closed%20public%20consultations/Pages/DFGEB-2012-E-004-FG-on-Electricity-Balancing.aspx
- Presentation of the draft Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Media/Events/Presentation_of_the_Draft_FG_on_Electricity_Balancing/default.aspx
- Final Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Framework_Guidelines/Framework%20Guidelines/Framework%20Guidelines%20on%20Electricity%20Balancing.pdf

Framework Guidelines on Third Party Access

The Agency's Work Programme for 2012 also envisaged the scoping and development of Framework Guidelines on Third Party Access.

However, as indicated in the updated three-year plan³, the scoping phase of these framework guidelines, and thus their development, was postponed following the Florence Forum's conclusion that the planning for 2012 already included too many network code projects to be dealt with in parallel.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/codes/codes_en.htm

NETWORK CODES

Network Code(s) pursuant to the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connections

The objective of the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connections and associated network codes is to develop a harmonised electricity grid connection regime that will support optimal system operation that is essential to the completion of the internal electricity market.

The Agency published its Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connections on 20 July 2011.

Following the invitation from the European Commission on 29 June 2012, on 13 July 2012, ENTSO-E submitted to the Agency, the first of the three planned network codes pursuant to the Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connections: the Network Code for Requirements for Grid Connection Applicable to All Generators, accompanied by supporting documents.

On 3 September 2012, the Agency held a public workshop to hear and collect stakeholders' views on (i) the changes made by ENTSO-E to the Network Code following its public consultation and the justification provided, (ii) how and where the Network Code meets or deviates from the Framework Guidelines.

On 13 October 2012, the Agency provided its Opinion on the Network Code. The Opinion, while acknowledging that the Network Code would help facilitate achieving the targets of the European Union on renewable energy sources and distributed generation penetration, as well as market integration, while ensuring security of supply, recognised that some specific features of the Network Code could be improved in order to make it compliant with the Framework Guidelines; these concerned:

- significance test to identify "significant grid users";
- justification for significant deviations from existing standards and requirements;
- national scrutiny of the Network Code's requirements to be implemented at national level;
- recovery of costs incurred by TSOs and DSOs.

In its Opinion, the Agency asserted that its specific concerns could be addressed within a few months without reopening the overall structure of the Network Code. This implied that the revised Network Code and/or supporting documents could be resubmitted to the Agency in early 2013.

ENTSO-E resubmitted an amended Network Code on 8 March 2013.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Workshop on the Network Code for the Requirements for Grid Connection Applicable to all Generators
<http://www.acer.europa.eu/Media/Events/RfG%20NC%20Workshop/default.aspx?InstanceID=1>
- Opinion on the Network Code for the Requirements for Grid Connection Applicable to all Generators
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2008-2012.pdf

Network Code(s) pursuant to the Framework Guidelines on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management for Electricity

The Framework Guidelines on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management (CACM) for Electricity and the respective network codes are intended to provide a legal framework and requirements for Transmission System Operators and Power Exchanges on how to operate the integrated electricity market in the long-term, day-ahead and intraday timeframe.

The Agency adopted its Framework Guidelines on CACM on 29 July 2011. Following the adoption of these Framework Guidelines, the European Commission invited ENTSO-E, by a letter of 16 September 2011, to start the drafting of a Network Code covering the optimal and coordinated use of transmission network capacity, day-ahead capacity allocation and intraday capacity allocation, and to submit it to the Agency by the end of September 2012.

On 27 September 2012, ENTSO-E submitted the Network Code on CACM to the Agency, with a supporting document. During the preparation of its Opinion, the Agency invited the stakeholders to present their views on the Network Code. Some of the concerns addressed by the stakeholders were taken into account in the Opinion, which the Agency issued on 19 December 2012.

The Opinion, while acknowledging that the Network Code would help facilitate market integration, as well as non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, concluded that in some specific areas the submitted Network Code was not in accordance with the Framework Guidelines. These areas concerned entry into force, capacity calculation, re-dispatching and countertrading arrangements, regulatory approval procedures, assessment of bidding zones, intraday regional auctions, definition of a common timetable for the day-ahead market, compensation in cases of force majeure and emergency situations, cost recovery, objectives of the Network Code, as well as consultation and transparency. In its Opinion, the Agency invited ENTSO-E to address the specific concerns expressed in the Opinion and to resubmit an amended Network Code to the Agency.

Following the Agency's Opinion, ENTSO-E informed the Agency that it would not take advantage of the possibility of resubmitting the Network Code. Therefore, on 14 March 2013, the Agency issued a (qualified) Recommendation to the European Commission to introduce amendments to the Network Code to address the concerns raised in the Opinion and to adopt the Network Code after complementing it with the guidelines on governance of the day-ahead and intraday market coupling.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Opinion on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management for Electricity (CACM)
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2010-2012.pdf

1.2. GAS FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES AND NETWORK CODES

FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES

Framework Guidelines on Rules Regarding Harmonised Transmission Tariff Structures

Choice for consumers and competitive pricing are the key objectives of the Third Package. The Framework Guidelines on harmonised tariff structures are designed to facilitate market integration and increase consumer welfare.

After the preparatory stage initiated by ERGEG in 2010, early in 2012 the Agency finalised the scoping phase for these Framework Guidelines. Public consultation on the scope of the Framework Guidelines took place from 8 February to 26 March 2012, along with a stakeholder workshop in Ljubljana on 20 February 2012.

The European Commission invited the Agency, by a letter of 29 June 2012, to develop Framework Guidelines on Rules regarding Harmonised Transmission Tariffs Structures within 6 months, with an impact assessment. As part of this process, public consultation was held from 5 September until 5 November 2012, along with a stakeholders' workshop on 18 September 2012 in Ljubljana and bilateral meetings with key stakeholder organisations.

Due to the complexity of the tariff issues and the need for further analysis, the Agency requested an extension of the deadline to 31 March 2013, to which the European Commission agreed. On 15 March 2013, the European Commission requested the Agency to extend the scope of the Framework Guidelines to include provisions on the harmonisation of cost allocation methodologies. It is expected that the Framework Guidelines will be submitted by the Agency in November 2013.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Public consultation on the Scope and main policy options for Framework Guidelines on Harmonised Transmission Tariff Structures
http://acernet.acer.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/ACER_HOME/Stakeholder_involvement/Public_consultations/Closed_Public_Consultations/PC-06
- Public Consultation on draft Framework Guidelines on Rules Regarding Harmonised Transmission Tariff structures for Gas
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Public_consultations/Closed%20public%20consultations/PC-07_Draft_FGs_on_Interoperability_and_Data%20Exchange%20Rules/default.aspx

Framework Guidelines on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules

Operational, technical, communications and business interoperability is a prerequisite for efficiently functioning and integrated energy markets. The absence of such common interoperability rules in the European Union can be an obstacle to the creation of an integrated, competitive internal European gas market. Such rules can ensure that users of two or more transmission systems do not face technical, operational, communication or business-related barriers and receive the same services as if the relevant networks were operated by a single efficient entity.

Data exchange rules are closely linked to interoperability rules. By specifically addressing the harmonisation of communication formats among market participants, data exchange rules are set out to streamline practices and facilitate technical, operational or business related communications.

The European Commission invited the Agency, by a letter of 31 January 2012, to develop Framework Guidelines on Interoperability and Data Exchange rules within 6 months, with an impact assessment. As part of this process, public consultation was held from 16 March to 16 May 2012. During the consultation period, a stakeholder workshop was held on 23 April 2012 in Ljubljana and bilateral meetings with key stakeholder organisations were held. The final ACER Framework Guidelines on Interoperability and Data Exchange rules were submitted to the European Commission on 26 July 2012. The impact assessment accompanying the Framework Guidelines was submitted to the European Commission on 17 October 2012.

ENTSOG is currently working on a network code. ENTSOG has been invited by the European Commission to deliver the Network Code on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules by 11 September 2013.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Public consultation on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules:
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Public_consultations/Closed%20public%20consultations/PC-07_Draft_FGs_on_Interoperability_and_Data%20Exchange%20Rules/default.aspx
- Framework Guidelines on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules published on 26 July 2012:
http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Framework_Guidelines/Related%20documents/FG%20on%20Interoperability%20and%20Data%20Exchange%20Rules%20for%20European%20Gas%20Transmission%20Networks.pdf
- Initial Impact Assessment accompanying the Framework Guidelines published on 17 October 2012
[http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Framework_Guidelines/Related%20documents/Initial%20Impact%20Assessment%20\(IIA\)_ENTSO-G.pdf](http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Framework_Guidelines/Related%20documents/Initial%20Impact%20Assessment%20(IIA)_ENTSO-G.pdf)

NETWORK CODES

Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms

The main objective of the Framework Guideline and the associated network code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms is to promote and define harmonised capacity allocation mechanisms, using auction procedures and a set of standardised bundled cross-border capacity products at interconnection points. These measures are intended to facilitate gas transport and gas trading throughout the EU and thus support market integration.

The Framework Guidelines on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms were finalised and formally adopted by the Agency on 3 August 2011. ENTSOG had been developing the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms in parallel with the development of the Framework Guidelines during 2011 and, consequently, submitted the Network Code to the Agency on 6 March 2012.

On 5 June 2012, the Agency issued its reasoned Opinion, which acknowledged the high level of conformity of the Network Code with the framework guidelines, but identified the following 11 issues for improvement:

1. Definitions
2. Application to New Technical Capacity
3. Standard Contracts
4. TSO Cooperation
5. Capacity Breakdown
6. Sale of Unbundled Firm Capacity
7. Amendment of Existing Capacity Contracts
8. Interruptible Capacity
9. Tariffs
10. Incentive Regimes
11. Interim Period

Following the Agency's Opinion, ENTSOG revised the Network Code, consulted stakeholders and resubmitted an amended network code to the Agency on 17 September 2012. The amended Network Code addressed the Agency's concerns expressed in the Opinion in seven of the eleven areas, while maintained the original approach with respect to the remaining four (namely capacity breakdown and its application to new capacity, sale of unbundled firm capacity, tariffs, and implementation period). After a public workshop on 19 September 2012, the Agency adopted a (qualified) Recommendation, which was submitted to the European Commission pursuant to Article 5

of Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 on 4 October 2012. Following clarifications from the Commission on the legal basis for the adoption of qualified recommendations by the Agency, the (qualified) Recommendation on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms was adopted again on 9 November 2012.

This Network Code was adopted in April 2013 and is expected to enter into force in August 2013.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Reasoned Opinion No 04/2012 on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (5 June 2012): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2004-2012.pdf
- Reasoning behind the Opinion on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (5 June 2012): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2004-2012%20Reasoning.pdf
- Consultancy Study on Auction Design for capacity allocation in gas transmission systems (5 June 2012): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Reasoned%20Opinion%2004-2012%20Consultants%20Study%20Final%20Report.pdf
- Recommendation No 02/2012 on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (4 October 2012): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Recommendations/ACER%20Recommendation%2002-2012.pdf
- Recommendation No 04/2012 the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (9 November 2012): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Recommendations/ACER%20Recommendation%2004-2012.pdf

Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks

The term 'balancing' refers to the specific service offered by TSOs of allowing transmission network users to take out less or more gas than they have injected into the system over a given period. Balancing also includes auxiliary services (such as injection or withdrawal of gas into/from storage), which a TSO may buy in order to keep the system within its safe operational limits.

Based on the Agency's Framework Guidelines on Gas Balancing, published on 11 October 2011, and following the Commission's invitation of 4 November 2011, ENTSOG started to develop the network code in December 2011 in close cooperation with the Agency and with the involvement of the stakeholders.

The first draft of the network code was published by ENTSOG on 13 April 2012 for public consultation. The Agency provided its view on this first draft on 14 June 2012. Before the end of the network code process, in a letter of 2 October 2012, the Agency reviewed the draft network code and informed ENTSOG of the points of concern regarding the compliance of the network code with the framework guidelines.

ENTSOG formally submitted the Network Code on Gas Balancing to the Agency and the Commission on 26 October 2012. In the following three months, the Agency assessed the network code. This assessment led to the Agency adopting a reasoned Opinion on 25 January 2013. The Commission is planning to start the comitology process in July 2013.

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

- Reasoned Opinion on the Network Code on Gas Balancing (25.01.2013): http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2001-2013.pdf

2. REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Since its formal opening in March 2011, the Agency has been responsible for the coordination of the Regional Initiatives (RIs), formerly run by ERGEG, under which common visions – Target Models – were elaborated. The Agency has given renewed emphasis to the RI process in an effort to promote the early implementation of some of the most critical provisions contained in network codes for the integration of the electricity and gas markets and meet the target of completing the IEM by 2014 set by the European Council in February 2011.

The Agency is promoting a more project-oriented and pan-European approach to the RI work. This new approach is emerging notably with the development of cross-regional roadmaps, both in electricity (Electricity Regional Initiative – ERI) and gas (Gas Regional Initiative – GRI), as a way to guarantee that RIs will make progress on the IEM by complementing the formal process of the development of framework guidelines and network codes. The second edition of the Agency's Regional Initiatives Status Review Report⁴, covering progress and challenges faced by the RI process during 2012, was published in February 2013. This report is intended as a transparency tool for all stakeholders and energy consumers, allowing them to follow developments in the integration of energy markets at regional level as a step towards completing the IEM.

The Agency also reports on the latest developments in the RI process on a quarterly basis through the online publication of RI Quarterly Reports for ERI⁵ and GRI⁶.

⁴ Available on the Agency website: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Publication/ACER%20Regional%20Initiatives%20Status%20Review%20Report%202012.pdf

⁵ Available on the Agency website: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Publications/Pages/Publication.aspx

⁶ Available on the Agency website: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Publications/Pages/Publication.aspx

2.1. ELECTRICITY REGIONAL INITIATIVES

In electricity, the common vision has been transposed into four cross-regional roadmaps,⁷ which were endorsed by the Florence Forum in December 2011. The Agency's Regional Initiatives Status Review Report highlights, inter alia, that

- the European Price Coupling project experienced some delay, but the 2014 deadline can still be met: in spite of the obstacles, the launch of the North-West Europe/Price Coupling of Regions project in November 2013 and its rapid extension to neighbouring regions should turn this challenge into a success;
- a major delay has occurred in the North-West Europe Intraday project, but a pilot solution is to be delivered in 2013 following the selection of the IT platform by Power Exchanges (PXs). When the platform has been selected, TSOs and PXs should push ahead with implementation, involving market participants;
- the process for implementing harmonised allocation rules for long-term rights is on track: a "wish-list" is being finalised and its implementation prepared. In parallel with the ongoing extension of CASC.EU, a regional platform dedicated to allocating transmission rights and the integration of the current bilaterally managed borders to existing platforms is also progressing;
- the implementation of the flow-based method has been postponed due to operational difficulties and the loop-flow issue, but progress is now expected following positive developments on loop flows within the CEE region at the end of 2012.⁸

⁷ Available on the Agency website: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Electricity/Regional_initiatives/Cross_Regional_Roadmaps/Pages/Cross-Regional-Roadmaps.aspx

⁸ This is the agreement between the German TSO 50Hertz and the Polish TSO PSE-O on the "virtual phase shifting transformer" pilot project, which is intended to limit unplanned cross-border flows between both countries.

2.2. GAS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The first cross-regional, project-oriented roadmap for the gas sector was developed during 2012, and was aimed at early implementation of the provisions of the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (CAM NC). The CAM roadmap is comprised of several pilot projects and platforms aimed at the early implementation of coordinated and market-based allocation of bundled cross-border capacity products, in accordance with the network code provisions. The elaboration of this roadmap was made possible through the close cooperation of the Agency and ENTSOG with the Transmission System Operators and NRAs from 12 EU Member States.

The roadmap was endorsed by the ENTSOG Board and by the Agency Board of Regulators and published in early 2013. With respect to the GRI, the second edition of the Regional Initiatives Status Review Report highlights the

relevance of the aforementioned CAM roadmap and assesses the main achievements made in each of the gas regions in different areas. It also includes recommendations and guidance for future work, suggesting cross-regional work for the early implementation of other network codes.

Such work will be continued within the framework of the GRI, which will also remain a forum for achieving tangible results from specific projects in different areas, such as market integration, security of supply and hub development, in accordance with the regional work plans for 2011-2014. In parallel, the Agency considers that the GRI will continue to serve the purpose of information exchange, emulation of good practices among regulators and operators, and learning from experience with regional projects.

3. WORK RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ENTSOS

3.1. WORK RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ENTSO-E

ENTSO-E ANNUAL REPORT 2011

On 4 June 2012 the Agency issued its Opinion⁹ on ENTSO-E's Annual Report 2011 "Completing the Internal Electricity Market by 2014: The Challenges for Europe's Transmission System".

The Agency found that, in general, ENTSO-E's Annual Report 2011 provided a good overview of ENTSO-E's work and activities in 2011, in a well-structured and comprehensible way. The Agency identified a number of important considerations in this report, among which it emphasised the creation of ENTSO-E's day-ahead and intraday monitoring groups (to increase cross-regional coordination and ensure the further extension of day-ahead price coupling and continuous intraday trading to other regions) and the commitment of ENTSO-E to improve its performance in stakeholder engagement.

However, the Agency also noted that the Annual Report 2011 did not deal, or dealt only marginally, with other relevant issues, such as:

- the cooperation between ENTSO-E and the ENTSSOG was not addressed at all;
- the coordination of technical cooperation between the Community and third-country TSOs was mentioned only with regard to developing a process for including projects from third parties (i.e. developers who are not ENTSO-E members) in the TYNDP;
- no update was provided on the trial parallel interconnection between Turkey and the continental European system that began in September 2010 and was subject to four ENTSO-E announcements in 2011;
- no information was provided on the current status of the TSO's migration of system planning data exchanges (although the TSOs had committed to finalising this migration by December 2011).

In its Opinion the Agency suggested that these issues be adequately covered in the next annual report in order to avoid uncertainties and doubts about ENTSO-E's activities.

⁹ Opinion no 03-2012, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2003-2012%20on%20the%20ENTSO-E%20Annual%20Report%202011.pdf

ENTSO-E TEN-YEAR NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012

On 6 July 2012, ENTSO-E submitted to the Agency its Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2012. On 5 September 2012, the Agency issued its Opinion¹⁰ on ENTSO-E's TYNDP 2012.

The Agency welcomed the substantial improvements introduced in the 2012 TYNDP compared to the pilot 2010 TYNDP. In particular, the Agency noted the development of a EU2020 scenario supported by a top-down approach. The Agency also welcomed ENTSO-E's efforts to develop a unified methodology to assess the socio-economic benefits of increased transfer capacities through the introduction and application of an economic valuation approach, based on market studies. In addition, the 2012 TYNDP introduced a multi-criteria analysis derived from market and grid studies performed under a common pan-European framework. In the context of the Energy Infrastructure Package, this is a first step towards a cost-benefit analysis methodology. The developed clustering methodology provides an overview of projects, and highlights the interdependence of investments that address the same functional needs.

The Agency also provided specific recommendations for improving subsequent TYNDPs:

- with respect to the process, the main improvements are expected in the fields of stakeholder involvement, the consultation process and treatment of third-party projects;
- regarding the methodological aspects, the main improvements are expected in the multi-criteria assessment, the cost-benefit analysis, the clustering methodology, the development of scenarios, the presentation of sensitivity of market study results with respect to the scenarios, the identification of cross-border investment gaps and the transmission adequacy approach.

¹⁰ Opinion No. 06/2012, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2006-2012.pdf

ENTSO-E SUMMER OUTLOOK REPORT 2012 AND WINTER REVIEW 2011/2012

On 11 June 2012, ENTSO-E submitted to the Agency the Summer Outlook Report 2012 and Winter Review 2011/2012, on which the Agency delivered its Opinion¹¹ on 8 October 2012.

In its Opinion, the Agency positively noted that:

- the results in the Summer Outlook Report (SOR) are useful for identifying adequacy risks for each country in specific periods of the year;
- ENTSO-E introduced adequacy regional analyses as an important addition to the long-standing national assessments;
- ENTSO-E improved the description of the SOR methodology and expanded the SOR questionnaire;
- ENTSO-E introduced an overnight downward adequacy analysis.

The Agency appreciated that, over the years, the use of the deterministic approach had led to a consolidated methodology across Europe. However, the Agency called on ENTSO-E to further enrich this deterministic approach by devoting more attention to the probability of occurrence of supply/demand forecast conditions and the occurrence of adequacy risks.

The Agency proposed improvements to the SOR, including:

- the development of regional analyses, particularly focussing on groups of neighbouring countries which may simultaneously require imports from abroad;
- the presentation of the remaining capacity indicator in relative terms (percentage of the peak load), in order to facilitate comparability between countries;
- the possible extension of the overnight downward adequacy analysis to other periods in spring or autumn;
- the collection and publication of quantitative information as an element of the winter review.

¹¹ Opinion No. 07/2012, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2007-2012.pdf

ENTSO-E TEN-YEAR NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012

According to Part A of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 838/2010¹², the current Inter-Transmission System Operator Compensation (ITC) mechanism is to compensate for the cost of hosting cross-border flows of electricity through an ITC fund, established by ENTSO-E, consisting of two components to cover the costs of making infrastructure available and the costs of incurred transmission losses, respectively. The Agency's main responsibilities envisaged by Regulation (EU) No 838/2010 are related to monitoring the ITC mechanism and the proposal for the annual cross-border infrastructure compensation sum.

In 2012, monitoring of the implementation of the ITC mechanism and management of the ITC fund focused on reviewing:

- the general compliance of the implementation of the ITC mechanism in 2011 with the Regulation;
- the approach for adjusting the level of transits used in the ITC mechanism for the cross-border capacity which is allocated in a manner incompatible with Point 2 of the guidelines on congestion management in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 714/2009;
- the treatment of voluntary third-country ITC Parties;
- the criteria for the valuation of losses at national level.

The review process was mainly based on:

- the ITC Clearing and Settlement Multi-Year Agreement ("the ITC Agreement");
- relevant data and written explanations from ENTSO-E and the ITC Data Administrator;
- the NRAs criteria for evaluating transmission losses for the purpose of calculating the losses compensation amount in ITC.

The Report on the implementation of the ITC mechanism and the management of the ITC fund in 2011¹³ was submitted to the European Commission only in September 2012, due to a settlement revision conducted by ENTSO-E which ended in August 2012.

The report pointed out that implementation of the ITC mechanism and the management of the ITC fund in 2011 were generally in line with the requirements set out in the Regulation. However, it also noted that there is scope for strengthening the quality assurance process and participation of the ITC Parties.

¹² Commission Regulation (EU) No. 838/2010 of September 2010 on laying down guidelines relating to the inter-transmission system operator compensation mechanism and a common regulatory approach to transmission charging

¹³ Report available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Publication/ITC%20monitoring%20report%202011.pdf

3.2. WORK RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ENTSOG

ENTSOG 2013 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

ENTSOG submitted its 2013 Annual Work Programme to the Agency for its opinion on 9 November 2012, and the supporting documentation from the consultation process on 19 November 2012. The Agency adopted and published its Opinion¹⁴ on 12 December 2012.

In its opinion, the Agency recognised the consistency of the Work Programme with ENTSOG's tasks as described in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, the 2013 Work Programme of the Agency and the joint Commission/ACER/ENTSOG three-year work plan, the ambitious character of the Programme and the alignment of its priorities with the targets for the IEM. It was found that ENTSOG was still in the process of building its internal resource base in order to meet the challenges defined in the draft 2013 Work Programme.

The Agency encouraged ENTSOG to consider more structured coverage of all the tasks required under Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, including a more proactive position on the development of common network operation tools and an incidents classification scale, allowing for the provision of timely input and proper coordination with the development of network codes. The Agency advised on essential aspects of work, such as indicators, procedures and assessment reporting, already in the primary draft of the documents and in coordination with the relevant monitoring and reporting activities of the Agency.

The Agency acknowledged ENTSOG's positive effort to establish an anticipatory approach to the development of network codes, as demonstrated in 2012, whereby potentially divergent views on key issues are extensively and constructively consulted in order to arrive at acceptable solutions with key stakeholders before adopting the codes under ENTSOG's internal procedures. The Agency believes that this approach should be regarded as good practice and adopted in other areas of work where stakeholders are involved.

Regarding other aspects of the involvement of stakeholders, the Agency encouraged ENTSOG to involve distribution system operators in system development, particularly when they play a system operator role. The Agency appreciated ENTSOG's effort to involve upstream operators and gas suppliers in its deliberations, and encouraged further dialogue with all segments of the gas industry.

¹⁴ Opinion No 09/2012, available at : http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2009-2012.pdf

SUMMER AND WINTER SUPPLY OUTLOOKS

ENTSOG published the annual Winter Supply Outlook 2011-2012 on 14 December 2011. The Agency's Opinion¹⁵ on ENTSOG's Winter Supply Outlook 2011-2012 was published on 4 June 2012.

In 2012, the Agency also provided an Opinion¹⁶, on 5 September 2012, on the Summer Supply Outlook 2012, which was published by ENTSOG on 24 May 2012. Later during the year, ENTSOG developed its Annual Winter Supply Outlook for 2012-2013 and published it on 8 November 2012. The Agency's Opinion¹⁷ was adopted on 15 February 2013. Given the schedule for the preparation and release of the seasonal Outlooks by ENTSOG in 2012, the Agency's Opinion expressed the need to publish them further ahead of the start of the season, which would provide greater added value in terms of perspective on supply and demand trends during a forthcoming season, as well as potential "alerts" if specific events are triggered.

Among other key findings and recommendations of the Agency were the appropriateness of enlarging the geographical scope of the Outlooks, which now cover the EU-27 (less Cyprus and Malta) and Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and exports to Turkey and the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation. The Agency recommended that ENTSOG also consider including Ukraine, one of the contracting parties of the Energy Community, in view of the impact which changes in gas flow patterns in this country may have on eastern EU countries.

Regarding the Outlooks' methodology and tools, the Agency welcomed the fact that these are the same as those used for the ongoing TYNDP process. At the same time, the Agency invited ENTSOG to complement its analyses of the robustness of the gas infrastructure by incorporating supply-side analyses directly in the Outlook, providing better analyses of actual patterns of supply and inter-seasonal comparisons and supply trends analyses, and considering analyses of possible realistic supply variations and disruption.

¹⁵ Opinion No 03/2013, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2003-2013.pdf

¹⁶ Opinion No 05/2012, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2005-2012.pdf

¹⁷ Opinion No 03/2013, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2003-2013.pdf

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

ENTSOG published its Annual Report for 2011 rather late in 2012, and for this reason the Agency's Opinion¹⁸ was adopted on 25 January 2013. In its opinion, the Agency recommended that ENTSOG consider an earlier publication date for its Annual Reports, preferably in the first half of the year after the reporting period.

The Agency found that the 2011 ENTSOG Annual Report is consistent with ENTSOG's tasks as described in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, provides an adequate reporting format for the tasks performed by ENTSOG in 2011, and covers ENTSOG's priorities for the reporting year, which are generally in accordance with the targets for the IEM. The Annual Report covers part of the so-called "interim period" (December 2009 – March 2011), which includes tasks related to both the completion of ENTSOG's establishment and results from the delivery on certain projects as outlined in ENTSOG's 2011 Annual Work Programme.

The Agency's opinion highlights ENTSOG's commitment to improving transparency, involving stakeholders and taking their views into account, expanding ENTSOG's resource base and striving to assure complete coverage of all work areas and deliverables expected from ENTSOG in the framework of the Third Package. Nevertheless, the Agency noted that the Report does not contain references to work in all areas referred to in Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, and encouraged ENTSOG to provide a more complete review of its activities in future reports.

The Agency also encouraged ENTSOG to consider highlighting in the Annual Report the execution of critical tasks and deliverables in juxtaposition to ENTSOG's Annual Work Programme, so that actual performance can be compared to initial schedules and resource assignments.

¹⁸ Opinion No 04/2013, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2004-2013.pdf

OTHER TSO-RELATED WORK: THE COMMUNITY-WIDE TEN-YEAR NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TYNDP) 2013-2022 AND GAS REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLANS OPINION

The Agency followed ENTSOG's TYNDP 2013-2022 development process and actively participated in all Stakeholder Joint Working Sessions, discussing demand and supply scenarios, input data, methodology, network modelling, and other key aspects of the development of TYNDP methodology and assurance of its consistency. The TYNDP for gas is currently undergoing public consultation. The Agency is expected to provide a (reasoned) opinion on the TYNDP after its publication later in 2013.

Six gas GRIPs were published by TSOs in the course of late 2011 and 2012. The Agency reviewed the GRIPs and, in view of the feedback from the Gas Regional Initiatives, prepared the Agency's opinion on GRIPs (including recommendations to ENTSOG and, via ENTSOG, to TSOs), with the objective of assisting the enhancement of the next editions of GRIPs in 2014. The Opinion¹⁹ was formally adopted in March 2013.

¹⁹ Opinion No 09/2013, available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2009-2013.pdf

4. MONITORING THE INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET (IEM MONITORING)

According to Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 713/2009, the Agency is responsible for monitoring the internal market for electricity and natural gas, with special reference to retail prices, access to networks (including network access of electricity produced from renewable sources) and compliance with consumer rights as laid down in the Third Package. This activity has to be carried out in close cooperation with the European Commission, NRAs and other relevant organisations, and without prejudice to the competences of competition authorities.

The objective of the Agency's market monitoring activities is to assess how energy markets work and how they can perform more efficiently, thus making energy more affordable in the interest of European energy consumers. The Agency presents its results, on an annual basis, in its Market Monitoring Report.

In 2012, the Agency - in cooperation with the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) - performed its IEM monitoring that focuses on the areas specified in the legislation. In addition to this, the presence of potential barriers to completing the IEM was also investigated.

For its 2012 Market Monitoring Report (covering the year 2011), the Agency used a number of monitoring indicators and relied on a variety of data sources. For retail markets and consumer issues, the Agency benefited from sources such as Eurostat, previous studies of the European Commission, online retail price comparison tools, CEER's National Indicators database, and individual NRA contributions as needed. For wholesale market integration, monitoring data were collected through Platts, the ERI and the GRI, Eurostat, IEA/OECD, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG, and the CEER database on National Indicators. In late 2012, the Agency secured access to the

Energy Markets Observation System (EMOS), a database built by the European Commission, which hosts data relevant to a number of energy sectors, and which will add to the 2013 data source pool.

On 29 November 2012, the first joint ACER-CEER IEM Market Monitoring Report was presented in Brussels and made available on the Agency's website.

For electricity, the report showed, inter alia, that spot market price convergence across the European electricity market has increased as a result of the implementation of market coupling, which is part of the European Electricity Target Model. For gas, price convergence has been increasing, although differences remained between different areas of the EU, and congestion was identified, even if only at contractual level, at a significant number of interconnection points throughout the EU and at its borders. Further, the report pointed out wide differences in the retail prices of electricity and natural gas between countries, and called for stronger efforts to integrate the energy market to deliver tangible benefits to consumers.

In this context, the Report identified a number of barriers to energy market integration, such as unplanned electricity flows, which partly result from the growing penetration of electricity from renewable sources and remaining bottlenecks throughout the European electricity network, or unclear cross-border gas transmission tariffs (whose basic computation principles are currently in the process of being partially harmonised through a network code), as well as contractual and seasonal congestion and the lack of a unified approach with respect to gas capacity allocation.

5. MONITORING THE WHOLESALE ENERGY MARKET (REMIT)

Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT), which entered into force on 28 December 2011, significantly expanded the mission of the Agency by assigning new responsibilities in the area of wholesale market monitoring. Such activities are very different from the monitoring of the internal market, which the Agency has been performing pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 713/2009, and required the Agency to acquire new IT infrastructure and software to collect data from market participants at EU level, new monitoring tools and specialised expertise.

The activities of the Agency with respect to REMIT are to be performed in two stages:

- I. The implementation stage, in which the Agency puts in place the IT tools and the procedures - including on data exchange with NRAs and other authorities, at national and EU level, with which the Agency cooperates – to monitor wholesale energy markets effectively. This stage began with the entry into force of REMIT on 28 December 2011. As the adoption of the Implementing Acts is expected to take place in the second half of 2013, the development stage needs to be completed by early 2014²⁰.
- II. The operational stage, in which the Agency will be responsible for actively monitoring trading in wholesale energy markets. As indicated above, this stage begins in early 2014.

During 2012, the Agency progressed in the implementation stage, with its activities focussing on:

- the determination, in cooperation with NRAs, of the format according to which information in national registries of market participants will be transmitted to the Agency. A proposal was subject to public consultation from 18 April to 21 May 2012, and the Decision²¹ on the format was adopted on 26 June 2012;
- the formulation of recommendations to the Commission on the records of transactions, including orders to trade, which the Agency considers necessary to monitor wholesale energy markets effectively and efficiently. Draft Recommendations were subject to public consultation from 21 June to 31 July 2012; the final Recommendations²² were adopted on 23 October 2012, and were submitted to the European Commission shortly afterwards;
- issuing, on 28 September 2012, the second edition of the non-binding Guidance²³ on the application of the definitions listed in Article 2 of REMIT, including those concerning inside information, market manipulation and attempts to manipulate the market;

²⁰ The new monitoring framework introduced by REMIT, and the corresponding reporting obligations for market participants, will apply from 6 months after the adoption of the Implementing Acts.

²¹ Available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Pages/Director%27s-decision.aspx.

²² Available at: <http://www.acer.europa.eu/remi/Pages/Recommendations-on-REMIT-Records-of-transactions.aspx>.

²³ Available at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/remi/Pages/ACER_guidance.aspx. The first edition of the guidance was adopted on 20 December 2011.

The Agency also published a Q&A paper on REMIT and responded to numerous questions submitted by market participants through the Agency's REMIT mailbox. The Agency also communicated with the public on all REMIT matters and organised several workshops.

Stakeholder involvement and intensive dialogue with market experts were also promoted, including through the establishment of three expert groups.

With the adoption of REMIT, during 2012 the Agency needed to adapt its IT infrastructure accordingly in order to prepare for the new tasks assigned to it, including collecting, reviewing and sharing data from wholesale energy markets. With the entry into force of REMIT, the Agency made available through its website a platform for notifying delayed disclosures of inside information and reporting suspicious transactions to enable market participants and persons professionally arranging transactions to fulfil their respective obligations.

The effective implementation of market monitoring under REMIT requires the deployment of IT infrastructure capable of handling large volumes of data and also specialist software for automated data analysis purposes. Therefore, the Agency initiated the following IT procurement procedures:

- for Web application development services and IT consultancy services for the implementation of the Agency's REMIT Information System (ARIS) (Tender 1, divided into two lots);
- for IT infrastructure hosting services (Tender 2);
- for the Market monitoring system for ARIS (Tender 3).

The table below illustrates the procedures for the three tenders.

	Tender 1		Tender 2	Tender 3
	Lot 1 Software development	Lot 2 Consultancy		
Contract Notice published on OJEU	14/06/2012	14/06/2012	14/06/2012	28/08/2012
Bids received	10	6	4	4
Award decision	8/10/2012	No award	15/11/2012	20/11/2012
Contract signed	24/10/2012 25/10/2012 11/11/2012	--	31/01/2013	11/12/2012

6. SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE AREA

The TEN-E Regulation came into force on 15 May 2013, and the first PCI list is expected to be adopted by the end of the year. However, some preparatory work started already in 2012, based on the invitation of the European Commission of 16 July 2012.

Therefore, since July 2012, the Agency has been significantly involved in the early implementation process and has carried out the following activities:

- the development of a dedicated area on the Agency's website with NRAs and Agency's contacts comprising all electricity and gas corridors;
- the development of checklists (online tool) for facilitating common bases for developing the initial NRA opinions on PCI candidates. This has ensured transparency and full access to the information and assessments provided by NRAs to all other NRAs, and the establishment of cooperative on-line protected information and project databases accessible remotely by all NRAs;
- the development of formats for the NRAs' opinions and checking the consistency of the responses with the checklists. In this way, the Agency supported the NRAs in the development of informal opinions regarding PCI candidates.

The Agency also participated in most Regional Groups meetings.

The cooperative effort of NRAs in the infrastructure area, coordinated by the Agency, led to the provision of preliminary opinions on PCI candidates, which were submitted to the TEN-E electricity and gas Regional Groups in January 2013.

7. COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH NRAS

The main statutory objective of the Agency is to support the cooperation of NRAs at EU level and to coordinate their action whenever necessary. This role complements the new mandate of NRAs under the Third Package, and in particular their duty to promote a competitive, secure and environmentally sustainable internal energy and effective market opening²⁴.

The Agency thus provides an integrated framework within which NRAs cooperate. This framework is intended to facilitate the uniform application of the legislation on the internal energy market throughout the EU and thereby increase market integration.

More recently, REMIT and the TEN-E Regulation have expanded the area of cooperation of the Agency and NRAs. REMIT stresses the complementarity of monitoring at national and European level; it assigns a leading role in market monitoring to the Agency, while reserving to NRAs (and other competent authorities)

investigative and enforcement powers. The TEN-E Regulation also requires close cooperation between the Agency and NRAs, as the latter are tasked with providing opinions on PCI candidates, while the Agency has to provide an opinion on the consistent application of the PCI selection criteria and on the CBA across regions. Such consistency is best achieved through a coherent approach across the regions, which the Agency can promote. Moreover, NRAs are expected to share best practices in providing incentives for higher-risk projects through the Agency.

In this context, NRAs actively participate in the activities of the Agency in different ways, including:

- in the BoR, where each NRA is represented by one senior member;
- in the Agency's Working Groups, which bring together NRAs' experts and Agency's staff.

²⁴ Cfr. Article 36 of Directive 2009/72/EC and Article 40 of Directive 2009/73/EC.

AGENCY WORKING GROUPS (AWGS)

Much of the work of the Agency is dealt with in the Agency's Working Groups (AWGs). The main role of the AWWGs is:

- to provide input to the Director for the preparation of opinions, recommendations, decisions and other relevant documents;
- to support the Director and the Agency staff in other tasks, such as reviewing and analysing stakeholders' submissions during a consultation process, opinion building and interaction with external parties;
- to provide information to the BoR on issues relevant to the Director's proposals to facilitate the BoR in adopting its formal opinion or in providing guidance to the Director pursuant to Article 15(1) of Regulation (EC) No 713/2009.

During the first year of the Agency's operations, two AWWGs, the Agency's Electricity and Gas WGs, were operating. Both were established on 1 March 2011. Two new AWWGs were created on 31 January 2012:

- the Market Integrity and Transparency WG (AMIT WG), which is tasked with assisting the Director in the preparatory work for the implementation of REMIT;
- the Implementation, Monitoring and Procedures WG (AIMPWG), which is tasked with assisting the Director in the area of monitoring and in developing appropriate processes and procedures.

The AWWGs bring together the Agency's staff and NRAs' experts, who have a comprehensive understanding of developments in their own energy markets.

The AWWGs' objectives, deliverables and milestones are guided by the Director in consultation with the AWWG chairs.

The AWWGs also include several Task Forces (TFs) to support work in specific areas. AWWGs typically meet on a monthly basis.

The following Table illustrates the structure of the AWWGs and their TFs in 2012.

Overview of WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES at ACER in 2012

<p>ELECTRICITY WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Chair: Martin Crouch Deputy Chair: Geert Moelker</p>	<p>GAS WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Chair: Walter Boltz Deputy Chair: Stefanie Neveling</p>
<p>Task Forces: Electricity networks and markets</p>	<p>Task Forces: Interoperability</p>
<p>Infrastructures</p>	<p>Capacity Allocation Mechanism</p>
	<p>Balancing</p>
	<p>Tariffs</p>
<p>MARKET INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Chair: José Braz Deputy Chair: Fadhel Lakhoua</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND PROCEDURES WORKING GROUP</p> <p>Chair: Koen Locquet Deputy Chair: Johannes Mayer</p>
<p>Task Forces: Wholesale Market Surveillance</p>	<p>Task Forces: Unbundling and Reporting</p>
<p>Market Monitoring Governance</p>	<p>Procedures workstream</p>
<p>REMIT IT Implementation and Management</p>	
<p>Expert Group on REMIT Implementation</p>	
<p>Expert Group on wholesale market surveillance</p>	

8. CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

In carrying out its tasks, the Agency consults extensively, in an open and transparent manner and at an early stage, with market participants, TSOs, consumers and, where relevant, competition authorities. In 2012, the Agency used different formats for consulting and engaging stakeholders, including:

- public consultations;
- workshops and seminars;
- establishment of expert groups.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

While preparing the framework guidelines, the Agency is formally required to consult the ENTSO-E and ENTSO-G, as well as other relevant stakeholders, during a period of no less than two months, in an open and transparent manner.

Additionally, the Agency also carries out public consultations on the implementation of REMIT and in the context of the RIs.

The Agency's website is the main channel of communication with stakeholders. Public consultations are carried out online. When a public consultation is launched, stakeholders receive an email alert via the ACER Newsletter.

All supporting documents and questionnaires are published online, together with the invitation to participate in the consultation. The Agency also creates dedicated email addresses to facilitate stakeholders' participation in the consultation. Responses to consultations are also published on the Agency's website.

Ten public consultations were held by the Agency in 2012. The following Table presents the topics and dates of these consultations.

TITLE	START DATE	END DATE
Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connection	3 March 2012	2 May 2012
Framework Guidelines for Gas Capacity Allocation Mechanisms Management	3 March 2012	2 May 2012
REMIT Registration Format	18 April 2012	21 May 2012
Records of Transactions	21 June 2012	6 August 2012
Transparency in Gas Markets	31 July 2012	31 August 2012
The Draft Guidance Note on Consultation	3 August 2012	30 September 2012
Forward Risk Hedging Products and Harmonisation of Long-Term Capacity Allocation Rules	26 August 2012	28 October 2012
Draft Framework Guidelines on Rules Regarding Harmonised Transmission Tariff Structures for Gas	5 September 2012	5 November 2012
Assessment of the Annual Cross-Border Infrastructure Compensation Sum	16 October 2012	14 November 2012
Recommendations to the European Commission as Regards the Records of Wholesale Energy Market Transactions According to REMIT	21 June 2012	31 July 2012

WORKSHOPS

The Agency also promotes the involvement of stakeholders in its activities through workshops. Workshops are organised typically in conjunction with public consultations or as important initial steps in the development of framework guidelines. In this latter role, they are organised during the scoping phase and are opportunities for the Agency to present its views on the main policy options under consideration, as well as to collect, at an early stage, opinions from stakeholders on essential topics.

The Agency holds most of its workshops in its headquarters in Ljubljana. Whenever possible, workshops are web-streamed with the aim of involving as many participants as possible.

Nine workshops were organised by the Agency in 2012; the following Table presents the topics, the level of attendance and dates.

WORKSHOP	NO OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	WEB STREAMING	DATE
Harmonised Gas Transmission Tariff Structures	41	No	20 February 2012
Interoperability Rules for European Gas Transmission Networks	23	No	23 April 2012
REMIT Registration Format	45	No	4 May 2012
REMIT Records of Transactions and 2nd edition of ACER Guidance	86	No	19 July 2012
The Network Code for Requirements for Grid Connection applicable to all Generators	57	Yes	3 September 2012
Transparency in Gas Markets	47	Yes	13 September 2012
Framework Guidelines on Harmonised Transmission Tariff Structures	84	No	18 September 2012
Gas Network Code amendments/ACER opinion on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms	65	No	19 September 2012
The assessment of the annual cross-border infrastructure compensation sum	42	No	25 October 2012

EXPERT GROUPS

The Agency benefits greatly from the expertise of stakeholders through ad-hoc expert groups, which are set up and consulted by the Agency on specific and technical issues. Their members are experts from a variety of stakeholders, such as energy companies, energy consumers and academia.

The mandate, composition and activities of the expert groups are published on the Agency's website. Each expert group is established following a call for applications, which is

published on the Agency's website and announced via the ACER Newsletter.

The Agency selects the experts to be included in each group on the basis of the applications received, and so as to have a wide range of competences and expertise.

Two ad hoc expert groups were established by the Agency in 2012. The following Table presents the characteristics of these expert groups.

EXPERT GROUP	MANDATE	DATE OF CREATION	NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN 2012
Ad hoc Expert Group on Harmonised Gas Tariff Structures	Provide expert support to ACER during the development of the Framework Guideline on Harmonised Gas Tariff Structures.	17 February 2012 (Open letter)	5 Meetings and 1 Telco
Ad hoc group of experts on gas interoperability (its mandate expired)	Provide expert support to ACER during the development of the Framework Guideline on Gas Interoperability	28 September 2011 (Open letter)	2 Meetings

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

A new website for the Agency was launched in 2012. It offers more user-friendly features, including news, upcoming events and document search and also provides an enhanced workspace for Agency workshops and public consultations.

One of the Agency's most useful communication tools is its Newsletter, which is used by the Agency's press office to inform stakeholders and interested parties of official documents and reports published on the Agency's website, as well as workshops and conferences organised by the Agency. By the end of 2012, some 1800 stakeholders had subscribed to the Agency's Newsletter, which is 30% more than in the previous year.

THE AGENCY IN THE MEDIA

As a public institution, the Agency is committed to transparency and openness. The media are excellent channels to explain the Agency's work both to European citizens in general and to energy stakeholders in particular. News, articles and interviews about the Agency were published widely in the European media, by news agencies and publications specialising in energy markets. The Agency also maintains excellent relations with the Slovenian media.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Agency's 1st Annual Conference 'Making the internal energy market a reality – which role for ACER?' took place on 14 March 2012 at Ljubljana Castle and attracted more than 200 participants. Speakers included senior representatives from EU institutions, as well as from the energy sector, including market players. The host country was represented by State Secretary Dr. Igor Šalamun from the Slovenian Ministry for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning. Commissioner Oettinger contributed a video message.

9. OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF REGULATORY ACTIVITIES IN 2012

DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
ELECTRICITY		
Framework Guidelines on Electricity Balancing	Expected Public consultation: January 2012	Public consultation in April-June 2012*
	Expected Final FG: June 2012	Final FG published in September 2012* * EC granted additional 2 months to the Agency to prepare better quality Initial Impact Assessment
Framework Guidelines on Third Party Access	Scoping discussions on the third party access framework guideline during the second half of 2012 (Q3 and Q4) FG and IIA to be prepared in Q1-Q2 2013	EC decided not to request ACER to develop the Framework Guidelines on Third Party Access
Reasoned opinion on the Network Code on Electricity Grid Connections	Expected start date: April 2012	Start date: July 2012*
	Expected public consultation period: May 2012	No public consultation for opinion
	Expected completion date: June 2012	Opinion published in October 2012* *EC granted additional 3.5 months to ENTSO-E to complete the network code
Reasoned opinion on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management	Expected start date: September 2012	Start date: October 2012
	Expected public consultation period: October 2012	No public consultation for the opinion took place
	Expected completion date: November – December 2012	Opinion published in December 2012
Annual report on implementation and management of the ITC fund	Start of activities: March 2012	2011
	Report delivered: June 2012	Report delivered in September 2012* *Data from ENTSO-E received at the end of June 2012
Proposal to the Commission on the annual cross-border infrastructure compensation sum	Expected Public consultation: December 2012	Public Consultation in October-November 2012

DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
NATURAL GAS		
Framework Guideline on Interoperability of Gas Systems	Expected start date: September 2011	Start date: September 2011 EC invitation letter: January 2012
	Expected public consultation period: December 2011 – February 2012	Public consultation in March-May 2012*
	Expected Completion date: April 2012	Final FG (on Interoperability and Data Exchange rules) published in July 2012* *Given the technical nature of this framework, the collection of guideline data underpinning the chosen policy options required more time
Framework Guidelines on the Rules for Trading	Expected start date: Q1/2 2012	*Not started in 2012. In the EC-ACER-ENTSOG 3-year work plan, the FG on rules for trading were postponed
	Expected public consultation period: Q2/3 2012	
	Expected completion date: Q3/4 2012	
Framework Guidelines on Data Exchange and Settlement Rules	Expected start date: Q1/2 2012	*Data Exchange rules included in FG on Interoperability. In the EC-ACER-ENTSOG 3-year work plan, FG on settlement rules were postponed
	Expected public consultation period: Q2/3 2012	
	Expected completion date: Q3/4 2012	
Reasoned opinion on the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanism	Expected start date: Q1/2 2012	Network code received on 6 March 2012
	Expected public consultation period: Q1/2 2012	No public consultation for the RO took place
	Expected completion date: Q2 2012	Reasoned opinion published on 5 June 2012 Final Recommendation published on 9 November 2012
Reasoned opinion on the Network Code on Balancing Rules	Expected start date: Q4 2012	Start date: Q4 2012
	Expected public consultation period: Q4 2012/Q1 2013	No public consultation for RO
	Expected completion date: Q4 2012/Q1 2013	Reasoned opinion published on 25 January 2013 Recommendation published on 25 March 2013

DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
CROSS-SECTOR ISSUES		
Annual report on the results of monitoring the internal electricity and natural gas market (including, in particular, the retail prices of electricity and natural gas; access to the network, including access of electricity produced from renewable energy sources, and compliance with the consumer rights laid down in Directive 2009/72/EC and Directive 2009/73/EC)	<p>Monitoring Report:</p> <p>Expected start date: April 2012</p> <p>Expected completion date: September 2012</p> <p>ACER indicators and database included in the report</p> <p>Data from all regulators included in the report</p>	<p>Start date: April 2012</p> <p>Report approved, finalised and published on website in November 2012</p> <p>ACER indicators and ACER/CEER database used in the report</p> <p>Data from regulators used in the report</p>
Report with a status review of Regional Initiatives	<p>Expected start date: September 2012</p> <p>Expected completion date: December 2012</p>	*Report published in February 2013
Opinion on ENTSO-E and ENTSOG Work Programmes	Within 2 months from the day of receipt, opinion on ENTSO-E and ENTSOG work programmes to the European Commission	<p>ENTSOG Work Programme received on 9 November 2012, the opinion published on 12 December 2012</p> <p>ENTSO-E Work Programme received on 29 November 2012, the opinion delivered on 28 January 2013</p>


DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
CROSS-SECTOR ISSUES (cont'd)		
Opinion on ENTSO-E relevant documents:		
Opinion to ENTSO-E on draft Community-wide network development plan	For the opinion to ENTSO-E on draft Community-wide network development plan, within 2 months	The ENTSO-E draft Community-wide network development plan received on 11 July 2012
Opinion/recommendations to ENTSO-E, EP, Council and EC, where draft Community-wide TYNDP do not contribute to IEM objectives/principles		Opinion issued on 5 September 2012
Recommendations to TSOs, NRAs or other competent bodies based on monitoring the implementation of Community-wide Network Development Plan and investigation of reasons for inconsistencies with the national/regional Ten-Year Network Development Plans		No opinion, since no ENTSO-E documents in 2012
Opinion on common network operation tools, including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans	For the opinion to ENTSO-E on common network operation tools including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans, by end of 2012	No opinion, since no ENTSO-E documents in 2012 until end of November 2012
Opinion on annual summer and winter Outlooks on generation adequacy	For the opinion on annual Outlooks on summer and winter generation adequacy, within 2 months of submission by ENTSO-E	ENTSO-E summer and winter Outlooks on generation adequacy received on 11 June 2012.* Opinion on Summer Outlook published on 8 October 2012
Opinion on recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between the Community and third-country transmission system operators	For the Opinion to ENTSO-E on recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between the Community and third-country transmission system operators, by end of 2012	No opinion, since no ENTSO-E document in 2012

DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
CROSS-SECTOR ISSUES (cont'd)		
Opinion on ENTSOG relevant documents:		
Regional investment plans will complete the Community wide network development plan; complementary opinion could be necessary	For the report to the EC on common network operation tools, including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans, by end of 2012. For the Recommendation to the EC on common network operation tools, including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans by end of 2012, if not completed in 2011	*All six GRIPs reviewed; opinion published in March 2013 *No non-compliance reported by NRAs National TYNDPs. Development plans collected and shared by ACER in 2013
Opinion to NRA on consistency of national Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) with Community-wide TYNDP, at request		TYNDP opinion published in 2011. Next one planned for 2013
Opinion/recommendations to ENTSOG, EP, Council and EC, where draft Community-wide TYNDP do not contribute to IEM objectives/principles		Monitoring of implementation of EU-wide TYNDP 2011-20 based on ENTSOG assessment, which was not available in 2012
Recommendations to TSOs, NRAs or other competent bodies based on monitoring the implementation of Community-wide Network Development Plan and investigation of reasons for inconsistencies		
Recommendation to the EC on common network operation tools, including a common incidents classification scale, and research plans		Not provided, since no network operation tools developed by ENTSOG
Opinion on annual summer and winter supply outlooks	For the opinion on annual summer and winter generation adequacy outlooks, within 2 months of submission by ENTSOG.	The Winter Supply Outlook received on 14 December 2011. Opinion published on 4 June 2012 Summer Supply Outlook received on 24 May 2012. Opinion published on 5 September 2012
Report to the EC on recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between Community and third-country transmission system operators		Not published by ENTSOG

DELIVERABLES	WORK PROGRAMME 2012 KPIS	RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2012
CROSS-SECTOR ISSUES (cont'd)		
Proposals to the European Commission on cost allocation methodologies and other aspects related to energy infrastructure	Consistently with the timeline adopted by the Commission for the Comitology Guidelines	TEN-E Regulation published in April 2013. Foreseen for 2013/2014
Opinion on decisions of National Regulatory Authorities on TSO certification	Within two months of the day of receipt of such request from the Commission	No opinion requested by the Commission
Activities related to REMIT		
Development of monitoring methodologies and procedures	Expected start date: July 2012 Expected completion date: December 2012	No development in absence of clarity on implementing acts on data collection as a basis for monitoring activities
Contribution to the preparation of the delegated act, upon request from the Commission		No contribution requested by the Commission
Decision on the format according to which information in national registries is transmitted to the Agency		Published on 26 June 2012
Recommendation to the Commission on the records of transactions which it considers necessary to monitor wholesale energy markets effectively and efficiently	Expected start date: January 2012 Expected public consultation period: March–April 2012 Expected completion date: July 2012	Published on 23 October 2012 to take account of ESMA's draft regulatory technical standards on derivatives reporting under EMIR from 27 September 2012 and the public consultation from DG ENER on the Implementation of a Data and Transaction Reporting Framework for Wholesale Energy Markets from 14 September 2012
Guidance on the application of the definitions listed in Article 2 of REMIT	As required	2nd edition of Guidance published 28 September 2012
Mechanisms for information sharing with National Regulatory Authorities, competent financial authorities of the Member States, competition authorities of the Member States, ESMA and other relevant authorities	As required	Not required, as the Commission's implementing acts have not yet been adopted, nor a draft was available

*Instances when the Agency was unable to deliver by the set deadlines, shaded when not compliant with deadlines

PART 2
GOVERNANCE,
MANAGEMENT AND
INTERNAL CONTROL
SYSTEMS



1. MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Agency's Administrative Board is charged with the administrative governance of the Agency and with ensuring that the Agency carries out its mission and performs the tasks assigned to it. In 2012, the Administrative Board met four times (13 March, 20 June, 5 September and 5 December) in Ljubljana, and adopted 26 decisions and 1 opinion. Two written procedures took place.

Administrative Board decisions:

1. Appointment of new member and alternate, 9 January 2012**
2. Appointment of new member and alternate, 17 February 2012**
3. Appointment of new alternate, 3 February 2012**
4. Estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Agency for the financial year 2013, 13 March 2012
5. Decision concerning the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relations to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any illegal activity detrimental to the EU interest, 13 March 2012
6. Decision on staff training, 13 March 2012
7. Decision on temporary occupation of management posts, 13 March 2012
8. Decision on the MSPP 2013-2015, 13 March 2012
9. Decision (new) on the estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Agency for the financial year 2013, 30 March 2012*
10. Decision on the adoption of Internal Control Standards (repealing decision AB no 08/2011), 20 June 2012
11. Decision establishing the policy and procedure for reclassifying temporary agents, 20 June 2012
12. Decision establishing the policy and procedure for reclassifying contract agents, 20 June 2012
13. Decision on the appointment of new BoR member, 22 June 2012**
14. Decision on the appointment of new BoR member, 22 June 2012**
15. Decision on the appointment of new BoR alternate, 3 July 2012**
16. Decision on the appointment of new BoR alternate, 4 July 2012**
17. Decision on the appointment of new BoR alternate, 16 July 2012**
18. Decision on the appointment of new BoR alternate, 20 July 2012**
19. Decision on the Implementing rules of the ACER Financial Regulation, 5 September 2012
20. Decision on the appointment of new BoR member, 19 September 2012**
21. Decision on teleworking at ACER, 9 October 2012*
22. Decision on the appointment of new BoR alternate, 23 November 2012**
23. Decision on External Activities and Assignments, 5 December 2012
24. Decision on Permission for the Director to engage in academic cooperation with the FSR in 2013, 5 December 2012
25. Decision on appointing 2 members as reporting officers to assess the annual performance of the Director, 5 December 2012
26. Decision on the Adoption of the 2013 Budget, 19 December 2012 *

Opinion:

- 1 Opinion on final accounts, 20 June 2012

*Adopted by written procedure

** Decision delegated by the Administrative Board to the Chairman via Decision AB 05bis/2010 of 21 September 2010

2. FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Agency reports its financial activity both on a cash and accrual basis. Budgetary accounts are presented in Sections 2.3.1 (Revenue) and 2.3.2 (Expenditure); the financial statements presented on an accrual basis can be found in Annex II.

2.1. REVENUE

The approved budget for the Agency for the financial year 2012 amounted to EUR 7,241,850.

In addition to appropriations for that year, an amount of EUR 830,837.65 was carried forward from the financial year 2011 to honour outstanding payments related to the 2011 commitments estimated by the Agency at that time. Of the amount carried forward, EUR 590,143.87 had been disbursed by the end of the financial

year 2012, with the difference to be returned to the European Commission during the financial year 2013.

The Revenue Outturn Statement presents on a cash basis the actual amounts cashed as income and the amount of cash consumed to honour the settlement of liabilities, as well the amounts of unutilised and cancelled appropriations.

Budgetary outturn account

	1 January - 31 December 2012 EUR	8 March - 31 December 2011 EUR
INCOME		
Commission subsidy	7,241,850.00	4,371,199.15
EFTA contribution	0.00	119,000.00
Other income – assigned revenue	4,039.98	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	7,245,889.98	4,490,199.15
EXPENSES		
Expenditure related to employees of the agency - Title I		
Payments	4,150,059.22	1,915,262.83
Carry-forwards	219,014.05	192,258.32
Agency's building and associated expenses - Title II		
Payments	447,374.60	207,570.77
Carry-forwards	1,651,902.63	301,738.77
Operational expenditure - Title III		
Payments	244,352.51	258,730.87
Carry-forwards	80,492.72	336,840.56
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,793,195.73	3,212,402.12
Total appropriations not utilised	452,694.25	1,277,797.03
BUDGETARY OUTTURN BEFORE SPECIAL ITEMS	452,694.25	1,277,797.03
Cancelled carryovers	240,693.78	292,288.63
Correction from data migration	0.00	2,146.27
Exchange rate differences	(781.92)	(807.05)
BUDGETARY OUTTURN	692,606.11	1,571,424.88
Interest generated by the end of the financial year to be returned to the Commission	6,829.63	10711.93
Total to be returned to the Commission	699,435.74	1,582,136.81

2.2. EXPENDITURE

The implementation of the 2012 budget was 93.75%, with unused appropriations of EUR 452,694.25. Approximately 20% of these unused appropriations have been cancelled, as no decision has been reached in relation to the annual salary adjustment.

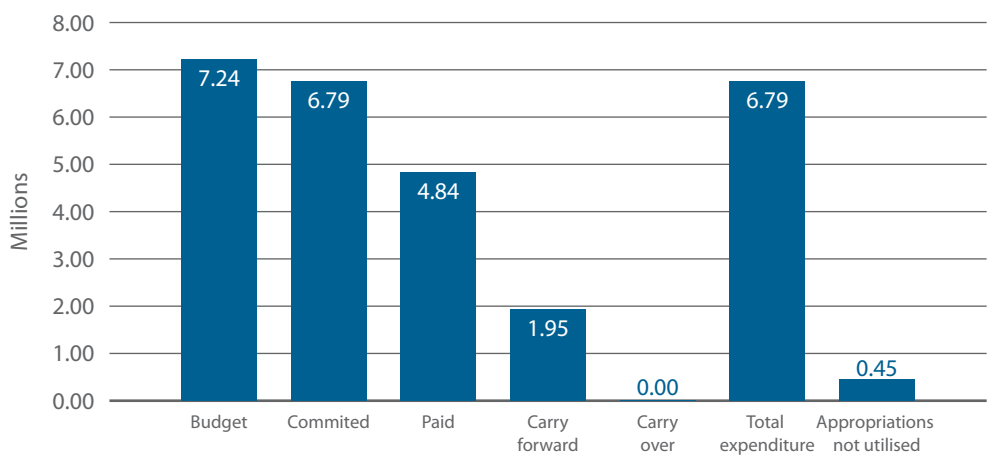
In order to support the successful achievement of the Agency's objectives for the financial year 2012, 20 budgetary transfers were made during the year, ensuring improved allocation and distribution of funds.

In addition to the annual subsidy, an amount of EUR 4,039.98 was recognised under the IC4 fund source as assigned revenue stemming from recovered overpayments.

The following tables present the implementation of appropriations for the period between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012:

Implementation of current year budget – fund source C1

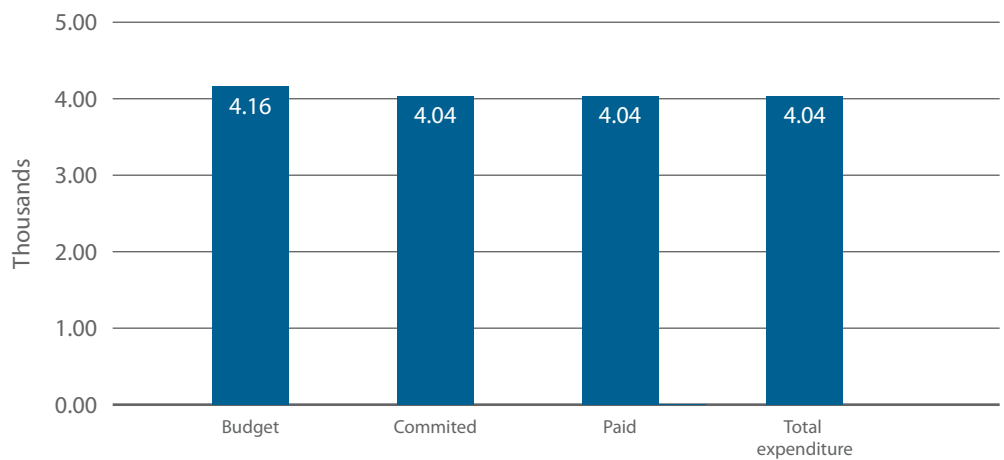
Title Chapter	Heading	Appropriation (1)	Committed (2)	% Committed	Paid (3)	% Paid	Balance Commitment (1-2)	Balance Payment (2-3)
TITLE 1 Expenditure relating to staff and resources								
CHAPTER 11	Staff in active employment	4,493,250.00	4,137,028.85	92.07%	3,964,979.13	88.24%	356,221.15	172,049.72
CHAPTER 12	Missions and duty travel	231,307.00	199,307.00	86.17%	163,098.00	70.51%	32,000.00	36,209.00
CHAPTER 13	Socio-medical infrastructure	23,500.00	13,968.39	59.44%	4,365.57	18.58%	9,531.61	9,602.82
CHAPTER 14	Social services	17,300.00	16,287.11	94.15%	15,134.60	87.48%	1,012.89	1,152.51
	TOTAL TITLE 1	4,765,357.00	4,366,591.35	91.63%	4,147,577.30	87.04%	398,765.65	219,014.05
TITLE 2 Agency's building and associated costs								
CHAPTER 20	Agency's premises costs	27,091.30	26,592.44	98.16%	24,493.27	90.41%	498.86	2,099.17
CHAPTER 21	Data processing	1,505,818.70	1,503,573.58	99.85%	100,067.89	6.65%	2,245.12	1,403,505.69
CHAPTER 22	Movable property and associated costs	149,500.00	149,498.72	100.00%	77,365.38	51.75%	1.28	72,133.34
CHAPTER 23	Current administrative expenditure	314,858.00	314,680.65	99.94%	180,356.62	57.28%	177.35	134,324.03
CHAPTER 24	Computer infrastructure, telecommunication and postage	105,100.00	104,931.84	99.84%	65,091.44	61.93%	168.16	39,840.40
	TOTAL TITLE 2	2,102,368.00	2,099,277.23	99.85%	447,374.60	21.28%	3,090.77	1,651,902.63
TITLE 3 Operational expenditure								
CHAPTER 30	Representation expenses	21,191.00	12,000.00	56.63%	6,138.75	28.97%	9,191.00	5,861.25
CHAPTER 31	Operational missions	145,739.00	145,739.00	100.00%	141,780.92	97.28%	0.00	3,958.08
CHAPTER 32	Stakeholder involvement, public relations and website	187,000.00	145,548.17	77.83%	81,720.28	43.70%	41,451.83	63,827.89
CHAPTER 33	Translations	15,000.00	15,000.00	100.00%	13,154.50	87.70%	0.00	1,845.50
CHAPTER 34	Professional indemnity	5,195.00	5,000.00	96.25%	0.00	0.00%	195.00	5,000.00
	TOTAL TITLE 3	374,125.00	323,287.17	86.41%	242,794.45	64.90%	50,837.83	80,492.72
	GRAND TOTAL BUDGET 2012	7,241,850.00	6,789,155.75	93.75%	4,837,746.35	66.80%	452,694.25	1,951,409.40



Implementation of 2012 budget – fund source C1

Implementation of 2012 assigned revenue – fund source C4

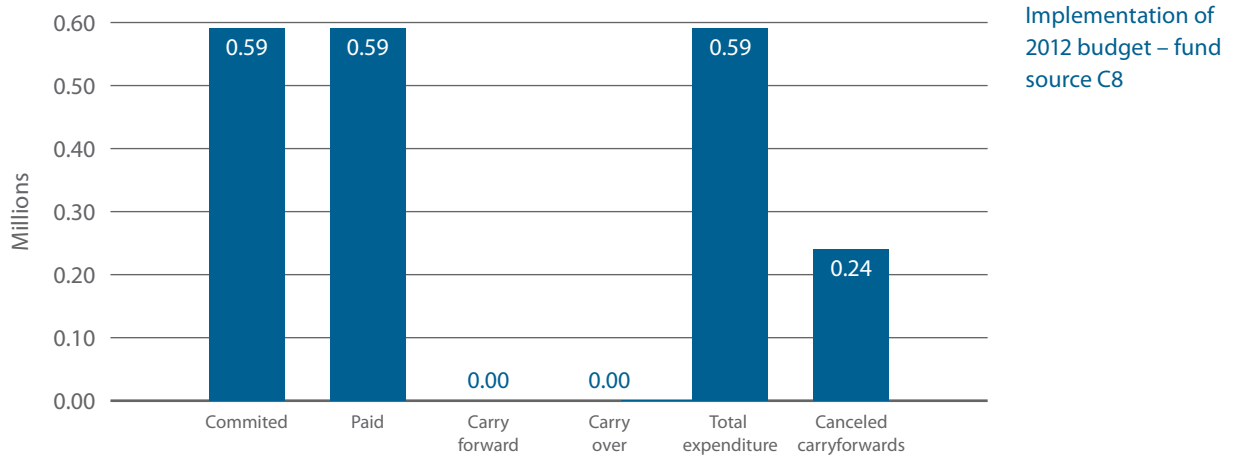
Title	Heading	Assigned revenue	Commitments	Commitment execution	Payments	Payment execution
TITLE 1	EXPENDITURE RELATING TO EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY	2,481.92	2,481.92	100%	2,481.92	100%
TITLE 3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE	1,558.06	1,558.06	100%	1,558.06	100%
TOTAL		4,039.98	4,039.98	100%	4,039.98	100%



Implementation of 2012 budget – fund source C4

Implementation of budget carried forward from year 2011 – fund source C8

Title Chapter	Heading	Appropriation (1)	Committed (2)	% Committed	Paid (3)	% Paid	Balance Commitment (1-2)
TITLE 1 Expenditure related to employees of the agency							
CHAPTER 11	Staff in active employment	175,122.10	63,087.62	36.02%	63,087.62	36.02%	112,034.48
CHAPTER 12	Missions and duty travel	8,407.61	7,118.51	84.67%	7,118.51	84.67%	1,289.10
CHAPTER 13	Socio-medical infrastructure	8,141.37	8,107.45	99.58%	8,107.45	99.58%	33.92
CHAPTER 14	Social services	587.24	520.38	88.61%	520.38	88.61%	66.86
TOTAL TITLE 1		192,258.32	78,833.96	41.00%	78,833.96	41.00%	113,424.36
TITLE 2 Agency's building and associated costs							
TITLE 2	Agency's building and associated costs						
CHAPTER 20	Agency premises costs	28,556.52	27,047.71	94.72%	27,047.71	94.72%	1,508.81
CHAPTER 21	Data processing	73,755.91	73,750.46	99.99%	73,750.46	99.99%	5.45
CHAPTER 22	Movable property and associated costs	15,131.88	13,523.08	89.37%	13,523.08	89.37%	1,608.80
CHAPTER 23	Current administrative expenditure	265,580.35	185,431.06	69.82%	185,431.06	69.82%	80,149.29
CHAPTER 24	Postal charges, telecommunication and computer infrastructure	94,745.22	71,728.33	75.71%	71,728.33	75.71%	23,016.89
TOTAL TITLE 2		477,769.88	371,480.64	77.75%	371,480.64	77.75%	106,289.24
TITLE 3 Operational expenditure							
CHAPTER 30	Representation expenses	12,596.14	7,747.41	61.51%	7,747.41	61.51%	4,848.73
CHAPTER 31	Operational missions	35,758.58	21,984.10	61.48%	21,984.10	61.48%	13,774.48
CHAPTER 32	Stakeholder involvement, public relations and website	112,454.73	110,097.76	97.90%	110,097.76	97.90%	2,356.97
TOTAL TITLE 3		160,809.45	139,829.27	86.95%	139,829.27	86.95%	20,980.18
GRAND TOTAL		830,837.65	590,143.87	71.03%	590,143.87	71.03%	240,693.78



2.3. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Agency followed a comprehensive set of processes to monitor and report on its Work Programme and developments related to its human and financial resources. Both management and staff in key functions were involved in planning, risk assessment, monitoring and reporting, to ensure the alignment of activities and a common understanding of the Agency's objectives.

Key performance indicators for major activities were identified, allowing the monitoring of progress and the updating of objectives in case of significant changes and new risks during implementation.

The Agency's reporting structures ensured that management was aware and closely pursued the achievement of the objectives. These included: regular management meetings, development and updating of reporting tools and overviews of results achieved, and regular reporting on operational and key administrative activities. Working Groups also met in order to support planning, implementation and decision-making in key areas of operation.

Within this framework, the Agency's management considered the existing risk in several ways, including regular discussions at management meetings and through the development and regular updating of the Risk Register and action plans and the implementation of concrete actions to mitigate identified risks.

The Agency's annual risk assessment exercise for 2012 covered its operational, legal and administrative activities. The aim of the Risk Register is to identify possible risks, assess their likelihood and impact on the achievement of the Agency's objectives, and determine the Agency's response to eliminate or mitigate the potential negative effects.

As a result of the exercise, management identified five main risks considered both likely and with a potential significant impact on the Agency activities:

1. Collaboration with NRAs and their resources contributing to the main deliverables of the Agency.
2. The effectiveness of the mechanism for collecting information and sharing with regards to REMIT implementation, whereas information has to be collected effectively and must also be accurate, comparable and reliable.
3. Possible delays in the delivery of Opinions on Network Codes on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms in gas, due to external factors, which may affect the timely adoption of the network code. This, in turn, may delay the process of completing the European internal gas market.
4. Shortage of staff in the HR department, resulting in delayed recruitment procedures, and thus in delays in completing the establishment plan.
5. The impact of the expected selection of the new Agency's office premises (after the expiry, in January 2013, of the rent-free period in the current premises) and of the removal to the new premises.

All the above risks were successfully managed. In particular, those under points 1, 3 and 4 were prevented by, respectively, actions to improve cooperation with NRAs, greater coordination with the European Commission and ENTSOG in the development of the Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (which was finally adopted in early 2013) and assigning more resources to the HR function within the Agency.

Risks under points 2 and 5 were mitigated by, respectively, developing effective data reporting procedures, which minimise the burden on market participants, and ensuring that the Agency can remain in its temporary premises for an additional period.

2.4. INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

The Agency's Internal Control system was established by Administrative Board Decision AB No 08/2011 on the Adoption of Internal Control Standards, in compliance with Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2343/2002 of 23 December 2002 on the framework Financial Regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 185 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

Following a subsequent review of the system and assessment of the controls already in place, it was further revised by Administrative Board Decision AB n° 10/2012 as of 20 June 2012, and repealing Decision AB n° 08/2011.

With this Decision, the Administrative Board adopted the 16 Internal Control Standards, which apply to all administrative processes of the Agency.

The responsibility for the adoption of detailed implementing rules and procedures related to the implementation of the Internal Control Standards remains with the Director.

The information provided below describes the situation regarding the functioning of the entire Internal Control System of the Agency, an overview of the priorities set for the reporting period and implementation of those priorities, description of key controls put in place, and an overall evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the specific rules and procedures.

2.5. COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

The Internal Control Standards adopted by Administrative Board Decision AB n° 10/2012 may be structured around 6 major 'building blocks':

1. Mission and Values
2. Human Resources
3. Planning and Risk Management Process
4. Operations and Control Activities
5. Information and Financial Reporting
6. Evaluation and Audit

In 2012, the Agency made substantial progress in further completing its internal control system by issuing internal instructions and conducting relevant procedures, thus ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Internal Control Standards.

The detailed action plan (a framework overview of the 16 Internal Control Standards and respective requirements), as developed in 2011, was followed and constantly updated with the progress made, in order to assist the timely and proper implementation of the specific plans.

The results achieved in ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Internal Control Standards are summarised below by major areas (building block)²⁵:

BUILDING BLOCK 1: MISSION AND VALUES

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 1: Mission

ICS 2: Ethical and Organisational Values

The Agency took appropriate measures to foster its mission and values throughout the organisation. It succeeded in instituting place all relevant controls in order to ensure full compliance with the requirements of these two standards. The specific actions undertaken include:

- The Agency's mission statement, as defined by its founding Regulation, was published and disseminated to the public and all staff via a number of communication tools: the Agency website, Intranet, published in key internal documents, and explained at induction trainings and lunch-time seminars.
- The Agency instituted procedures to ensure that all staff are aware of the relevant ethical and organisational values, in particular ethical conduct, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest, fraud prevention and reporting irregularities. The European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour is used and communicated to all staff when they are recruited. Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Potential or Actual Conflicts of Interest in the Agency were adopted, relevant training on professional ethics and rules of staff conduct was provided to all staff. A number of complementary measures facilitate the correct implementation of ICS requirements.

²⁵ A detailed overview of the entire IC system is presented in the document "ACER Internal Control Framework - Internal Control Standards for Effective Management, baseline Requirements and Action Plan", Dec 2012

BUILDING BLOCK 2: HUMAN RESOURCES

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 3: Staff Allocation and Mobility

ICS 4: Staff Evaluation and Development

Along with the successful recruitment and continuous development of its core staff in accordance with the establishment plan, the Agency achieved substantial progress in introducing internal rules and procedures, ensuring that staff recruitment is based on the Agency's needs, priorities and objectives, whereby candidates with relevant skills and extensive expertise are attracted and recruited through fair and transparent selection procedures, with strict adherence to the principles of equal treatment, and ensuring broad geographical balance (20 nationalities by 31 December 2012).

In 2012, a new Market Monitoring Department was established and the recruitment process to fill positions in this Department was launched.

The Agency always aims to ensure that all the requirements of internal control standards in the area of human resources are effectively met, also in line with its growing structure and enhanced responsibilities. In particular:

- Staff Regulations (SR) and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities (CEOS) are applied by the Agency in the recruitment and administration of all staff. Relevant implementing rules and internal guidelines in the area of staff allocation and mobility were adopted and are strictly followed.
- A number of measures support staff development and mobility, including the adoption of rules on teleworking, provisions on the engagement of staff in outside activities and the Agency's accession to the Inter-agency Job Market (IAJM).

The Agency introduced procedures to ensure that staff skills are further developed through relevant training and support, and that staff performance and achievements are evaluated against individual annual objectives.

- In 2012, the Agency carried out the first annual appraisal exercise, following the European Commission standards.
- The rules for the reclassification of temporary agents and contract agents were adopted, based on the relevant implementing rules of the European Commission. This measure further facilitates the development and recognition of staff efforts based on individual performance, personal merit and aptitude.
- Detailed rules on staff training were adopted. A total number of training days (89) devoted to learning and development activities provided staff with enhanced opportunities for professional and personal development.

BUILDING BLOCK 3: PLANNING AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 5: Objectives and Performance Indicators

ICS 6: Risk Management Process

In 2012, the Agency continued to improve the tools and set of processes used to monitor and report on its Annual Work Programme and developments related to its human and financial resources. Both Management and staff in key functions are involved in planning, risk assessment, monitoring and reporting to assure the alignment of activities and common understanding of objectives. The following key controls are in place:

- The Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) defines clear objectives, formulated to ensure that achievements are easily monitored and assessed. The AWP clearly outlines the activities that contribute to the achievement of objectives, and aligns these with the resources available, taking into consideration the Agency's increased role and responsibilities.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) for major activities were developed to ensure that progress is effectively monitored and objectives are updated.

- The Agency has established efficient reporting structures in order to ensure that management is aware and closely pursues the achievement of objectives. Regular reporting of the relevant KPIs is ensured. KPIs are further reviewed and their effectiveness measured accordingly.
- Risk is considered by the Agency's management in several ways, mainly through the annual risk assessment exercise and the development and maintenance of a Risk Register, but also through the regular monitoring and reporting of identified risks. An action plan with concrete measures and responsibilities is defined and observed in order to ensure that activities run as planned and contribute to the implementation of the AWP objectives.

While the Agency is committed to further improving and strengthening controls in both planning and risk management, it considers it is fully compliant with the minimum requirements of the two standards.

BUILDING BLOCK 4: OPERATIONS AND CONTROL ACTIVITIES

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 7: Operational Structure

ICS 8: Processes and Procedures

ICS 9: Management Supervision

ICS 10: Business Continuity

ICS 11: Document Management

The Agency has an effective structure to support efficient decision making and clearly allocate responsibilities and the delegation of authorities. Further to what was achieved in 2011, a number of new processes and procedures were developed and introduced.

Regular reporting on KPIs was ensured internally, as well as to the Agency's bodies and the European Commission. Detailed action plans have been developed in response to recommendations made by the internal and external auditors, and their implementation was monitored closely during the year. Management supervision was effectively ensured for all levels of activity.

Delegations of authority are clearly defined. The delegation manual, recording all financial and signatories' delegations, ensures the segregation of duties, clear responsibilities and delegation of authority.

The Agency IT systems are covered by a set of procedures and policies. The IT Steering Committee was established in order to align the development of IT infrastructure with the Agency's business needs. The Agency will continue to develop and strengthen its IT systems, considering the relevant provisions on security, in order to ensure that IT systems clearly support the achievement of objectives.

A number of procedures to ensure the continuity of key operational activities and back-up for critical staff were introduced.

Document management was considered as a priority area for 2012. A Records Repository tool was developed and introduced, defining rules for registration, improving records management and safeguarding the Agency documents.

The Agency aims to invest further efforts in the following specific actions to ensure full compliance with the minimum requirements of the above standards:

- A Business Continuity Plan and Security Policy will be put in place to define crisis response and recovery scenarios in cases of major disruptions to its activities and comply with security requirements.
- A procedure for document management, including provisions on registration, filing, archival, access rights and retention periods, was developed and will be adopted in the course of 2013.

BUILDING BLOCK 5: INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 12: Information and Communication

ICS 13: Accounting and Financial Reporting

In 2012, the Agency strengthened its internal communication tools in order to ensure that management and staff members are appropriately informed of decisions that concern their work assignments and environment. In this respect, the Intranet was further enhanced and regularly updated, regular staff meetings were held to ensure exchange information and discuss key aspects of the Agency internal environment and key operational objectives.

The new Agency web-page was developed and launched. An Agency newsletter was developed, and the public was regularly informed of forthcoming activities and key Agency decisions. External Communication Guidelines were adopted by the Administrative Board.

In 2013, the Agency will focus on further defining and introducing its internal and external communication policies, promoting even greater transparency of the Agency's decisions and acts, more efficient communication and interaction with the Agency's stakeholders and the public. A number of internal communication activities will also be introduced in order to facilitate interaction among the Agency departments and to ensure improved exchange of information.

In the area of accounting and financial reporting, the Agency succeeded in effectively introducing and documenting its key accounting procedures and controls, which ensure effective financial management and accountability.

BUILDING BLOCK 6: EVALUATION AND AUDIT

The following standards are included in this building block:

ICS 14: Evaluation of Activities

ICS 15: Assessment of Internal Control Systems

ICS 16: Internal Audit Capability

The Agency does not have an internal audit capability (IAC). Due to its size and the scope of its activities, this function is more effectively performed by externally engaged consultants and the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission.

An assessment of the existing internal control system was performed by an external consultant at the beginning of 2012. The assessment was intended to continue on the progress made in 2011 and focused on implementing the priority standards, as well as overall progress on compliance with the standards.

Further to the work performed by the external consultant, management evaluates the effectiveness of the Internal Control System currently in place on the basis of the results of regular ex-post financial controls, as well as on the regular reporting of progress and results achieved.

A Strategy, Coordination and Compliance Advisor function was established within the Director's office to facilitate the assessment and evaluation of the internal control system and promote compliance with its requirements.

The first audit engagement carried out by the Internal Audit Service also took place in February 2012. A full risk assessment of the Agency and limited review of the internal control standards system were performed. The results and recommendations from the audit are described in the current report.

2.6. EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

In 2012, the Agency concentrated its efforts further on developing and strengthening its Internal Control System in order to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Internal Control Standards. More specifically, it focused on the priority below:

Further develop Staff Training and Development Policies and Procedures

A number of key controls were effectively introduced and implemented. Decisions on Staff Training were adopted, providing staff with a number of development opportunities. A Learning and Development Framework will be developed in the course of 2013 to complement the strategic direction and long-term vision for developing the Agency's human resources, based on the needs deriving from the Agency's mission and strategic objectives.

Develop, introduce and regularly update Business Continuity Plan for critical business processes and application

Although efforts were made to ensure the continuity of the Agency's key operational and administrative activities, as well as back-up for key staff, a Business Continuity Plan for critical business processes and applications is planned to be put in place in 2013, incorporating the most significant responsibilities of the Agency under REMIT.

Introduce a comprehensive document management policy and devise the relevant document management tools in order to ensure that the Agency's documents are secure, effectively managed and comply with relevant provisions

The Records Repository tool and a document management policy were developed in the course of 2012, ensuring improved management of the Agency documents, and enhancing their security and traceability through the life-cycle of records. A document management policy is expected to be adopted in 2013.

Further develop and strengthen the Key Performance Indicators, both for operational and administrative areas; develop and

introduce planning and monitoring tools to support better management supervision and effective decision making.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) for major activities were improved in 2012, allowing progress to be monitored and objectives to be updated by taking account of significant changes during the implementation. The Agency focused on the further development of its KPIs – both quantitative and qualitative – in order to cover all aspects of the Agency's activities in its administrative and operational areas, thus providing management with improved supervision and decision-making tools.

Reorganise its financial circuits in order to centralise its financial tasks, thus ensuring better management of its financial resources

The newly established financial cell became fully operational on 1 July 2012. Financial transactions and their processing in the ABAC system are fully centralised within its responsibility. This is intended to facilitate and accumulate the Agency's financial knowledge in order to ensure improved financial management, legality and regularity of financial transactions and compliance with the applicable rules.

The centralisation of the financial tasks led to increased efficiency and improvement in the budget management and performance of transactions.

Define and introduce a policy and procedures for the management of sensitive functions

The Policy and procedure for the management of sensitive functions was adopted in 2012. Sensitive functions within the Agency will be re-assessed at least every five years, or any time a major change in the Agency's structure and responsibilities occurs.

Further to ensuring compliance in priority areas, the Agency aims to effectively implement, maintain and improve all introduced controls over time, in order to ensure the internal control system in place, provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives.

PART 3
BUILDING BLOCKS TOWARDS
THE DECLARATION OF
ASSURANCE



1. ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

In 2012 the Agency succeeded in complementing and further strengthening its existing tools and procedures to better manage, control and monitor the achievement of strategic objectives, planned activities and key milestones, as well as the efficient use of human and financial resources.

Considering the major progress of the Agency in organisation, management and supervision, in planning, monitoring and reporting, in risk assessment and the efficiency of control procedures, it might be concluded that the control environment is working as intended and provides reasonable assurance that risks are identified and adequately controlled.

The ex-ante controls we introduced have provided reasonable assurance on the legality and regularity of activities. They cover the entire system of ex-ante controls and checks performed on:

- operational and financial activities;
- established workflows of financial transactions and strengthening of financial management;
- management supervision performed through regular overviews of the implementation of AWP activities and achievement of objectives, including assessment of risks involved and definition of preventive measures, where necessary.

The ex-ante controls were complemented by specific ex-post checks and controls.

Specific planning and monitoring tools have been developed to inform and support effective management decision making processes.

Based on the results achieved in 2012, and the assurance received from the external and internal audits, considering the major developments in the Agency's tasks and responsibilities, operational structure and required resources, it might be concluded that the current control system provides reasonable assurance to the Authorising Officer and Authorising Officers by Delegation in their areas of responsibility.

This conclusion also assumes the need for the Agency to continue to develop its internal control environment, to strengthen existing controls (considering the cost-effectiveness of the controls implemented and their added value against the additional costs for the Agency) in order to achieve and maintain full compliance with the requirements of the 16 Internal Control Standards, and achieve the objectives of its Annual Work Programme.

2. DATA PROTECTION

Following the appointment of a Data Protection Officer (DPO) on 19 December 2011²⁶, on 7 March 2012 the Director also appointed a Deputy Data Protection Officer for a period of three years²⁷. The Deputy Data Protection Officer will assist the DPO in carrying out its duties and ensure continuity of the DPO function.

Pursuant to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001²⁸, two notifications were made in 2012 to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS). The notifications related to the procedure for the recruitment of Temporary Agents and Contract Agents²⁹ and the procedure for

the selection of Seconded National Experts³⁰. In addition, following the EDPS's Opinion on the Agency's notification for prior checking concerning the Probationary Reports and the notification concerning Staff appraisals³¹ submitted in October 2011, clarifications and further information on the follow-up of the Opinion were submitted to the EDPS.

In 2012, DPO related requests came mainly from Permanent Representations/embassies or related national bodies, requesting personal data from Agency staff members.

26 Director Decision 2011-28 of 19 December 2011.

27 Director Decision 2012-013 of 7 March 2012.

28 OJ L8, 12.01.2001, p.1..

29 Case 2012-1012.

30 Case 2012-1013.

31 Case 2011-0953.

3. RESULTS OF AUDITS IN THE REPORTING YEAR

3.1. AUDITS – EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA)

The audit mission of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) was carried out in March 2013. It covered the financial implementation and the audit on the Agency's accounts for the first full operational year since its official opening. The Agency was granted financial autonomy on 8 March 2011. Therefore, the audit of the 2012 financial year encompassed the period 1 January to 31 December 2012, with the comparison figures being for the period 8 March to 31 December 2011. The Report of ECA for the financial year 2012 is expected to be published at the end of 2013.

ECA provided its final opinion³² on the reliability of the Agency's accounts and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts for 2011. This opinion states that the Agency's Annual Accounts³³ accurately present in all material respects its financial position as of 31 December 2011 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year. The ECA concluded that the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year ended 31 December 2011 are legal and regular in all material respects.

The audit opinion of ECA provides additional assurance to the Authorising officer's statement of assurance.

In its Report on the annual accounts of ACER for the financial year 2011, ECA made three comments, mainly regarding budget implementation, recruitment procedures and the use of seconded national experts (SNEs), which, however, do not call the Court's opinion into question. The Agency provided, and the Court accepted, an action plan to implement the recommendations. All recommendations and specific actions have been effectively implemented to date.

³² Report on the annual accounts of the European Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators for the financial year 2011, together with the Agency's replies, p.5, OJ C 388 , 15/12/2012

³³ The Final Annual Accounts were drawn up on 19 June 2012 and received by the Court on 2 July 2012.

3.2. AUDITS – INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (IAS)

In 2012, the Agency also received the first audit visit of the Internal Audit Service (IAS). An overall risk assessment and limited review of the Internal Control Standards (ICS) were performed. As a result of the IAS mission, the following main reports were produced:

1. IAS Strategic Audit Plan (SAP) 2013-2015³⁴
2. Report on the limited review of the Internal Control Standards³⁵

³⁴ IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2013-2015 for ACER, 2 May 2012.

³⁵ Final Report on the Limited review of the implementation of Internal Control Standards, 22 May 2012.

3.3. OVERVIEW OF THE IAS REPORTS AND ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

ACER Strategic Audit Plan (SAP) 2013-2015

The Strategic Audit Plan, produced in the light of the results of the risk assessment exercise, described the audit strategy established by the IAS for the period 2013-2015 with regard to the Agency's activities. The prospective audit topics to be covered in the coming three years include:

- A. Budget execution and procurement.
- B. IT governance (in the context of preparedness for REMIT).
- C. Planning, budgeting and monitoring.
- D. Development of framework guidelines and opinion on network codes.
- E. Follow-up on the recommendations reported as implemented.

The Agency was invited to present an action plan and specific actions for sub-processes requiring further action to improve controls. The proposed plan was accepted, and its implementation will be audited by the IAS according to the defined audit plan.

The first IAS audit under the Strategic Audit Plan will be carried out in the course of 2013. The audit topics will be adjusted by the IAS depending on the results of the risk assessment updates on an annual basis.

Report on the limited review of the Internal Control Standards (ICS)

The final report produced on the review of the implementation of the Internal Control Standards were intended to provide the Director and the Administrative Board with an independent assessment on the adequacy of the design and effectiveness of the implementation of the Agency's ICS. Based on the results of the limited review, and given the recent set-up of the Agency, the IAS made five observations, resulting in seven recommendations, two of which were rated 'Very Important' and five as 'Important'. Observations were formulated in the following areas:

- A. Mission and values
- B. Human resources
- C. Planning and risk management
- D. Operational and control activities
- E. Information and financial reporting.

The Agency subsequently developed an action plan with proposed actions to adequately implement the recommendations of the IAS. The action plan was approved by the IAS and the follow-up on its implementation has been regularly reported by the Agency. All of the actions were implemented and submitted for review, with six of the recommendations being accepted and closed as completed by the IAS and one action under review at the date of preparation of this report.

Audits – Internal Audit Capability (IAC)

No Internal Audit Capability is planned to be established within the Agency structure for the time being. It has been decided that, given its size and activities, the Agency does not require a full-time Internal Auditor. Internal auditing will more effectively be performed by experts from other Agencies on the basis of a Service Level Agreement and by the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission.

Follow-up to reservations and action plans for audits from previous years

Not applicable. No reservations were recorded in the previous Activity Report.

Action plans submitted to ECA and IAS following the audit visits in 2012 were implemented without delay.

Follow-up to observations from the discharge authority

In its Report,³⁶ the ECA made three comments, mainly regarding budget implementation, recruitment procedures and the use of seconded national experts (SNEs), which, however, do not call the Court's opinion into question. The Agency subsequently provided an action plan to implement the recommendations, which were accepted by the Court. All recommendations and specific actions have been effectively addressed.

Assurance received from other AO in cases of crossed sub-delegations

Not applicable.

Reservations

No reservations are to be made in the current Annual Activity Report.

Conclusions

Not applicable.

³⁶ Report on the annual accounts of the European Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators for the financial year 2011, together with the Agency's replies, p.5, OJ C 388 , 15/12/2012

PART 4
DECLARATION OF
ASSURANCE



I, the undersigned, Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators,

In my capacity as authorising officer,

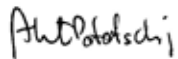
Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures that are in effect provide the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex-post controls, the work of the internal audit capability, the observations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors on years prior to the year of this declaration.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.

Ljubljana, 14 June 2013



Alberto Pototschnig

ANNEXES



ANNEX I

Core business statistics

Framework Guidelines: Electricity

Title	Public Consult.	Issued	NC Submitted	ACER RO/QR Recomm/QR
Grid Connection	Mar-May 2011	20.07.2011	RfG 13.07.2012	RO 13.10.2012
Capacity Alloc. and Cong. Manag.	Apr-Jun 2011	29.07.2011	CACM 27.09.2012	RO 19.12.2012
System Operations	Jul-Sep 2011	2.12.2011		
Balancing	Apr-Jun 2012	18.09.2012		

Framework Guidelines: Gas

Title	Public Consult.	Issued	NC Submitted	ACER RO/QR Recomm/QR
Capacity Allocation Mechanism	Mar-May 2011	03.08.2011	06.03.2012 17.09.2012	RO 05.06.2012 QR 04.10.2012 09.11.2012
Balancing	Apr-Jun 2011	18.10.2011	26.10.2012	
Interop. and Data Exch. Rules	Mar-May 2012	26.07.2012		
Harmonised Transmission Tariffs Rules	Sep-Nov 2012			

REMIT: Regulatory Deliverables

Document	Legal basis	Public Consult.	Issued
ACER Guidance on the application of REMIT definitions – 1 st Edition	16(1)	n/a	20 Dec 2011
ACER Decision on the Format for the Registration of Market Participants	9(3)	Apr-May 2012	26 Jun 2012
Guidance on the application of REMIT definitions – 2 nd Edition	16(1)	n/a	28 Sep 2012
Recommendations to the Commission on the Records of Transactions	7(3)	Jun-Aug 2012	23 Oct 2012

ANNEX II

Statistics on financial management

Annual Accounts and Financial Reports

The following financial statements have been drawn up for the financial year 2012:

Economic Outturn Account	1 January- 31 December 2012	8 March- 31 December 2011
for the year ending 31 December 2012	EUR	EUR
REVENUE		
European Commission subsidy	6,549,243.89	4,362,607.98
Other operating revenue	71.09	38,290.07
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	6,549,314.98	4,400,898.05
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	3,767,277.39	1,887,289.29
Fixed asset related expenses	163,348.70	112,674.20
Other administrative expenses	963,066.20	1,029,584.75
Operational expenses	447,366.67	444,356.83
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	5,341,058.96	3,473,905.07
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1,208,256.02	926,992.98
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS		
Financial operations expenses	300.00	62.15
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FROM FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(300.00)	(62.15)
ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR	1,207,956.02	926,930.83

Annual Accounts and
Financial Reports

Balance Sheet		
as of 31 December 2012	1 January- 31 December 2012	8 March- 31 December 2011
	EUR	EUR
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Intangible fixed assets	20,402.97	28,191.70
Tangible fixed assets	401,064.16	459,311.32
Plant and equipment	1,710.22	456.56
Computer hardware	307,927.38	416,282.16
Furniture and vehicles	44,269.10	41,182.25
Other fixtures and fittings	47,157.46	1,390.35
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	421,467.13	487,503.02
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short-term receivables	58,186.25	41,015.09
Current receivables	553.50	207.43
Sundry receivables	15,900.52	23,495.52
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	41,732.23	17,312.14
Cash and cash equivalents	4,215,005.25	2,387,634.18
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,273,191.50	2,428,649.27
TOTAL CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,694,658.63	2,916,152.29
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	926,930.83	0.00
Economic result of the year	1,207,956.02	926,930.83
TOTAL EQUITY	2,134,886.85	926,930.83
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	2,559,771.78	1,989,221.46
Current payables	8,948.77	5,667.92
Accrued expenses and deferred income	269,250.46	401,416.73
Accounts payable with consolidated entities	2,281,572.55	1,582,136.81
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,559,771.78	1,989,221.46
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	4,694,658.63	2,916,152.29

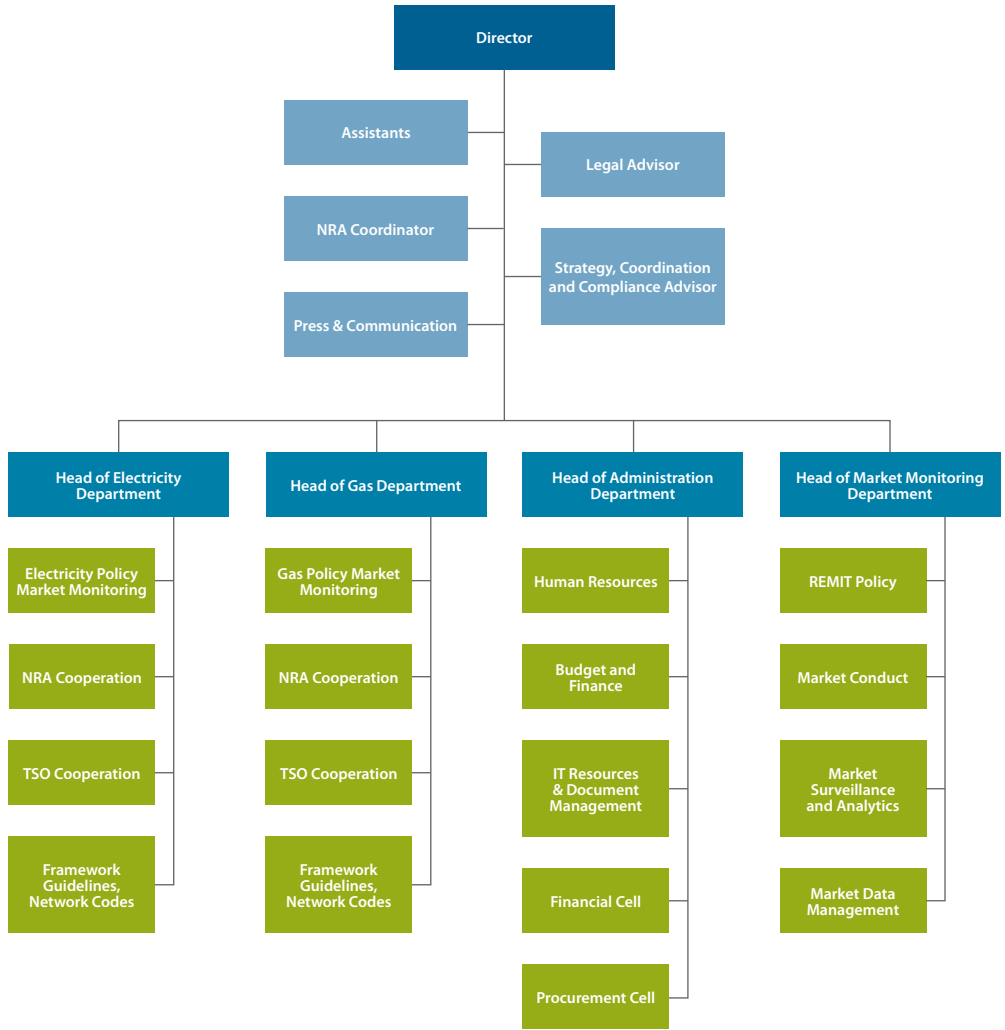
Cash Flow Statement	1 January- 31 December 2012	8 March- 31 December 2011
	EUR	EUR
Surplus/(deficit) from operating activities	1,208,256.02	926,992.98
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Adjustments		
Amortization (intangible fixed assets)	8,388.73	5,333.55
Depreciation (tangible fixed assets)	154,019.05	110,939.42
Amount written off (tangible fixed assets)	940.92	
(Increase)/decrease in Short term Receivables	(17,171.16)	0.00
Increase / (decrease) in Other liabilities	(132,166.27)	0.00
Increase/(decrease) in Current payables	3,280.85	0.00
Increase/(decrease) in Liabilities related to consolidated entities	699,435.74	0.00
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	1,924,983.88	1,043,265.95
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of tangible and intangible fixed assets	(97,312.81)	(603,775.99)
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	(97,312.81)	(603,775.99)
Financing Activities		
Financial operations revenues/expenses	(300.00)	(62.15)
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	(300.00)	(62.15)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,827,371.07	2,387,634.18
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	2,387,634.18	0.00
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	4,215,005.25	2,387,634.18

Annual Accounts and
Financial Reports

Statement of Changes in Net Assets		as at 31 December 2012	
Net Assets	Opening balance EUR	Economic result of the year EUR	Total Net Assets EUR
Balance as of 1 January 2012	926,930.83	0.00	926,930.83
Economic result of the year	0.00	1,207,956.02	1,207,956.02
Balance as of 31 December 2012	926,930.83	1,207,956.02	2,134,886.85

ANNEX III

Organisational chart



In 2012, the Agency continued to recruit technical staff, especially for the newly-established Market Monitoring Department.

By 31 December 2012, 58 members of staff had been recruited, 43 of whom were temporary agents (TAs), 4 contract agents (CAs) and 11 Seconded National Experts (SNEs).

ANNEX IV

Establishment plan

Function group and grade	2012				2013	
	Authorised under the EU Budget		Filled as of 31/12/2012		Authorised under the EU Budget	
	Permanent posts	Temporary Posts	Permanent posts	Temporary Posts	Permanent Posts	Temporary Posts
AD 16	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 15	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 14	0	1	0	1	0	1
AD 13	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 12	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 11	0	4	0	4	0	4
AD 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD 9	0	2	0	2	0	2
AD 8	0	6	0	6*	0	6
AD 7	0	4	0	4	0	6
AD 6	0	2	0	2	0	4
AD 5	0	11	0	11	0	11
AD total	0	30	0	30	0	34
AST 11	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 9	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 7	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 6	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 5	0	1	0	1	0	1
AST 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 3	0	12	0	12	0	14
AST 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
AST total	0	13	0	13	0	15
GRAND TOTAL	43		43		49	

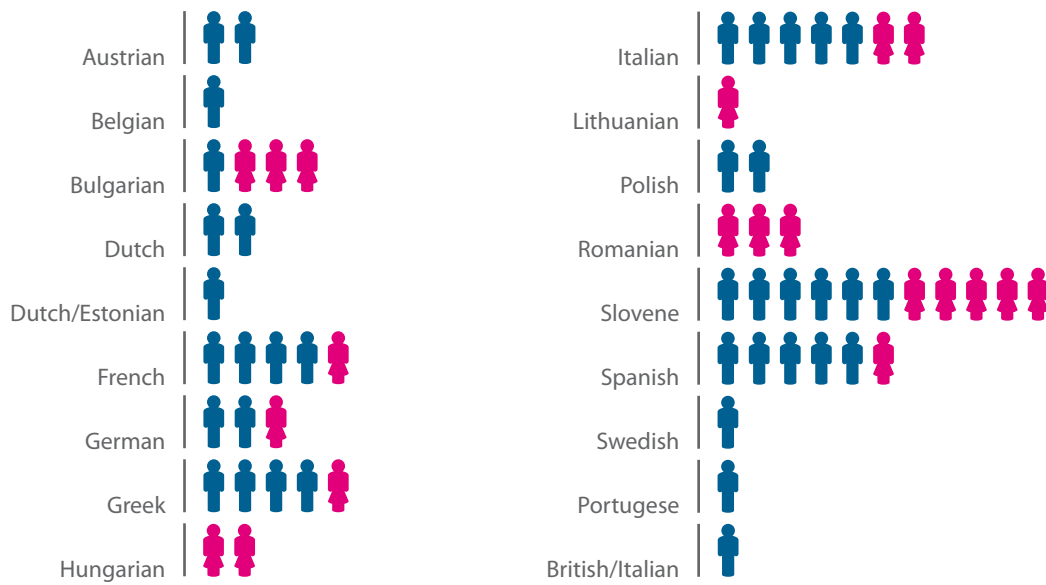
*One offer letter (AD8) sent out and accepted, with a starting date confirmed

Geographical balance

On 31 December 2012, ACER employed 47 staff members and had 11 SNEs of different geographical origin. Staff and SNEs come from 18 different EU countries (in order of number of employees): Slovenia, Italy, Spain,

France, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Sweden, Estonia, Poland, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

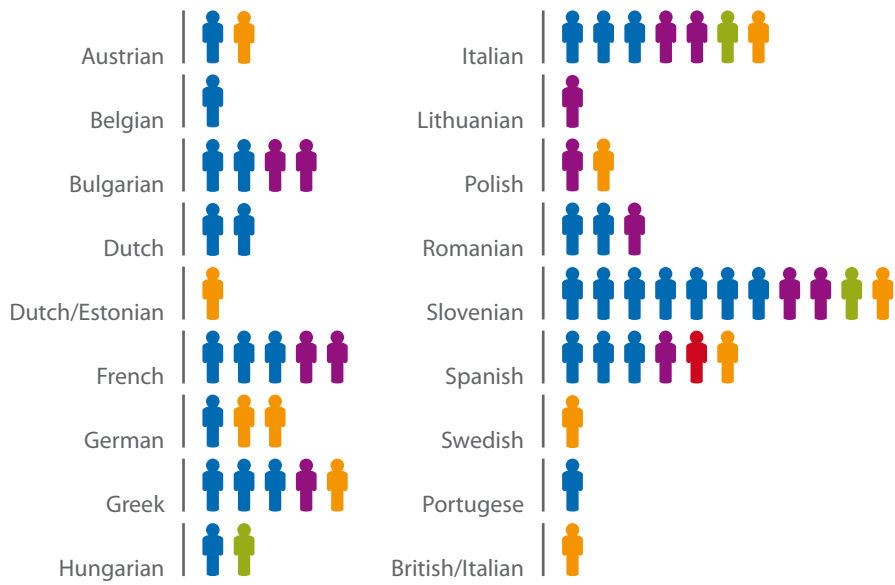
Employees by nationality and gender



Employees by grade and country

The table and graph below present an overview of the Agency's staff by country of origin and grade as of 31 December 2012, including those to whom offer letters have been sent and offers accepted and SNEs whose secondment was agreed with the seconding institutions

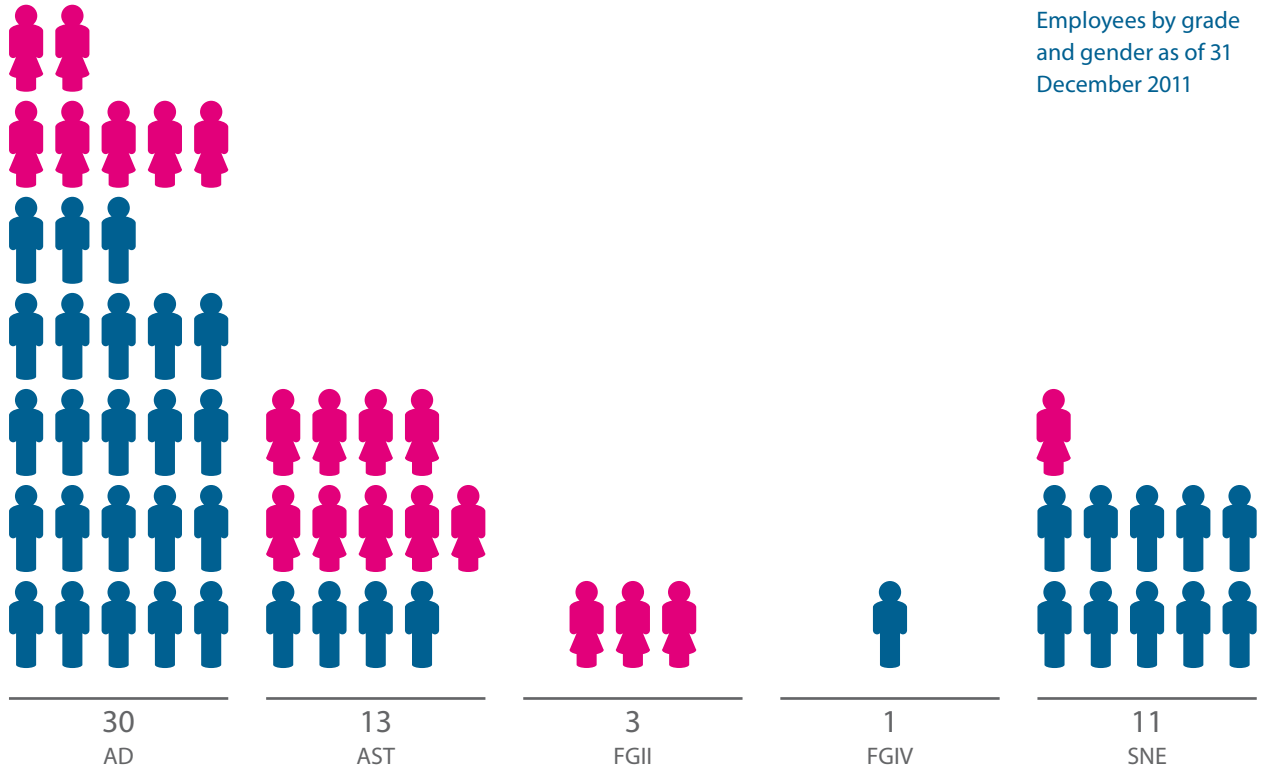
	AD	AST	FGII	FGIV	SNE	Grand Total
Austrian	1				1	2
Belgian	1					1
Bulgarian	2	2				4
Dutch	2					2
Dutch/Estonian					1	1
French	3	2				5
German	1				2	3
Greek	3	1			1	5
Hungarian	1		1			2
Italian	3	2	1		1	7
Lithuanian		1				1
Polish		1			1	2
Romanian	2	1				3
Slovenian	7	2	1		1	11
Spanish	3	1		1	1	6
Swedish					1	1
Portuguese	1					1
British/Italian					1	1
Grand total	30	13	3	1	11	58



Gender balance

In accordance with Article 1d of the Staff Regulations and Articles 12(1) and 82(1) of the CEOS, ACER applies an equal opportunities policy for its staff, adopting measures and taking actions to promote equal opportunities for men and women. The graph below presents

an overview of the Agency's staff by grade and gender as of 31 December 2012, including those to whom offer letters have been sent and offers accepted and SNEs whose secondment was agreed with the seconding institutions.



ANNEX V

Situation regarding implementing rules adopted by the agency consistent with its staff policy

ACER's objective is to adopt all the implementing rules consistent with its Staff Policy. The first adoption procedures began at the beginning

of 2011 and continued in 2012. The table below gives a provisional guide to the adoption of the Implementing Rules:

STAFF REGULATIONS	DECISION	YEAR OF ADOPTION
Art. 1 V§4 - Definition of the handicap	C(2004)1318 69-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 42bis – Parental leave	C(2010)7572	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 42ter – Special leave in case of serious illness of a family member	C(2010)7494	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 59, 60 and Art. 16, 59, 60 and 91 du RAA - Vademecum for sick leave	C(2004)1597 92-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 67 and Art.1§2 d) of Annex VII – Household Allowance	C(2004)1364 51-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 2 §4 of the Annex VII – Allowances for persons considered as dependent children	C(2004)1364 50-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 3 of the Annex VII – School Allowance	C(2004)1313 53-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 7§3 of the Annex VII – Place of Origin	C(2004)1364 57-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 8 of the Annex VII – Refund of travel expenses to place of origin	C(2004)1588 56-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Article 4 of Annex VIII concerning the taking into account, for purposes of calculating pension rights, of periods of activity previously completed by staff	C(2004)1364 61-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Articles 11 and 12 of Annex VIII to the Staff Regulations on transferring pension rights	C(2011)1278	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Article 26 of Annex XIII to the Staff Regulations on transferring pension rights – transitional provisions	C(2004)1588 62-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Article 22 (4) of Annex XIII to the Staff Regulations	C(2004)1588 59-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Articles 67 and 68 of the Staff Regulations and Articles 1, 2 and 3 of Annex VII	C(2004)1364 52-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011

STAFF REGULATIONS	DECISION	YEAR OF ADOPTION
Transitional measures required by the revision of the Staff Regulations and CEOS	C(2004)1613 88-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 253 of Annex IX (cf. Art. 30 of the same annex) – Disciplinary procedure	C(2004)1588 86-2004	Adopted in 2013: Decision AB n° 02/2013
Art. 29, 30, 31 and 32 of the Staff Regulations and Art. 15 of CEOS – Entry grade and step	C(2004) 1313 55-2004	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 12/2011
Art. 71 and Art. 11 to 13a Annex VII – Missions Guide	C(2008)6125	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 39 of CEOS – Early retirement (temporary agents)	C(2004)1588 63-2004	Planned for 2013
Art. 55bis Annex IVbis – Part-time	C(2010)7573	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 55ter – Job sharing	C(2004)1314 67-2004	Not applicable, since ACER does not foresee any shared posts.
Art. 15 – Outside Activities	C(2004)1597 85-2004	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 23/2012
Art. 40 – Leave on personal grounds	C(2004)1597 82-2004	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 51 – Underperformance	C(2004)1597 87-2004	Not applicable since no officials are forecast to join ACER.
Art. 57 and 58 – Vademecum of leaves	C(2010)7495	Adopted by analogy in 2011: Decision AB n° 09/2011
Art. 2, 4, 5, 7 and 29 – Middle Management	C(2004)1597 73-2004	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 24/2011
Art. 752 – Interim for management posts	C(2004)1597 83-2004	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 07/2012
Art. 9 – Staff Committee	Decision of 23/12/97	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 27/2011
Art. 12 bis – Moral or Sexual Harassment	C(2006) 1624/3	Adopted in 2013: Decision AB n° 01/2013
Art. 24 bis – Training	IA 839/94 (no decision of the Commission)	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 06/2012

STAFF REGULATIONS	DECISION	YEAR OF ADOPTION
Art. 43 – Evaluation	DGE du 23/12/2004 / C(2008) 3026/ Decision concerning the appraisal for the director	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 25/2011 (staff) Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 26/2011 (Director)
Art. 45 – Promotion or reclassification	DGE du 23/12/2004 / C(2008) 3028	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 11/2012 (temporary agents)
Art. 45bis – Certification	C(2005)1940 51-2005 / C(2007) 5694	Not applicable since no officials are forecast to join ACER.
Art. 10§3 of Annex XIII – Attestation	C(2006) 5788	Not applicable since no officials are forecast to join ACER.
Art. 8 and Art. 12 of CEOS – New policies in terms of recruitment of temporary agents		Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 10/2011
Art. 79§2 and Art. 82 of CEOS – contract agents (Recruitment)	C(2004)1313 49-2004	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 11/2011
Art. 87 § 1 of CEOS – Evaluation of contract agents	Decision similar to that for temporary agents	Adopted in 2011: Decision AB n° 25/2011
Art. 5 of SR and Art.10 of CEOS – Types of employment of temporary agents	Model of decision to be established	Planned for 2013
Art. 80§3 of CEOS – Job Descriptions of contract agents	Model of decision to be established	Planned for 2013
Art. 87§3 of CEOS – Reclassification of contract agents	Model of decision to be established	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 12/2012 (contract agents)
Teleworking	C(2009)10224	Adopted in 2012: Decision AB n° 21/2012

ACER



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