
2nd Workshop on Scenario Guidelines

Ensuring An Inclusive Stakeholder Process

26 July 2022, from 14.00 to 17.00

AGENCY SUMMARY NOTES

Represented institutions	Remarks
ACER	
particular stakeholders* in the meaning of Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/869 *the Commission, the Member States, the ENTSO for Electricity, the ENTSO for Gas, the EU DSO entity and at least the organisations representing associations involved in electricity, gas and hydrogen markets, heating and cooling, carbon capture and storage and carbon capture and utilisation stakeholders, independent aggregators, demand-response operators, organisations involved in energy efficiency solutions, energy consumer associations and civil society representatives	An overview of participating organisations is published separately

Disclaimer: these ACER summary notes serve to inform stakeholders and the public in broad terms about the discussions taking place during the workshop. The notes are not a transcript of the discussion and do not represent final positions or views of either the Agency or the participating organisations.

1. OPENING

ACER opened the workshop on **ensuring an inclusive stakeholder process**, with the presentation of the agenda, followed by an introduction of the planned stakeholder interaction process (using the ECAPE¹ model) and clarifying the main objectives of the scenario guidelines process.

With respect to the main objectives, ACER emphasised that the scenario building process has to both sufficiently involve stakeholders and fit in the 2-yearly TYNDP cycles managed by ENTSO-E and ENTSG.

2. STAKEHOLDERS' IDEAS TO ENSURE AN INCLUSIVE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

ACER invited stakeholders to present their views and had circulated guiding questions to help stakeholders prepare their interventions. ACER also invited ENTSO-E and ENTSG to present their stakeholder engagement process.

The following stakeholders presented their views:

- E.DSO
- Eurelectric
- Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)
- Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe)

Presentation by E.DSO:

- Underlining the need of closer cooperation between DSOs and TSOs, while distinguishing the solutions on distribution and transmission networks.
- Emphasising the role of DSOs in developing dedicated solutions (e.g. flexibility, balancing)
- Emphasising to investigate and include all possible risks and threats in the network planning process; the scenarios and the TYNDP require a comprehensive view on complex processes.
- The participation of DSOs can be valuable in the process, and should not be limited to the innovation work flow, but be extended to the demand and supply work flows of the ENTSGs, whereas the current interaction in those work flows is limited to exchanging data.

Stakeholder comments on the issues raised in the E.DSO presentation:

- The scenarios assume a level of RES and it does not matter if a MW of PV is connected at transmission or distribution level.
- DSOs are only in the process of building capabilities to contribute to this EU-wide process.
- ENTSGs are interacting with the new EU DSO Entity.

¹ ECAPE stands for expectations, capacity/capability, agreement, performance and evaluation - which are to be set and agreed between the ones leading the activity and stakeholders.

Presentation by Eurelectric (on stakeholder engagement and on sector coupling):

- Underlined the lack of engagement of DSOs in the TYNDP process, even though DSOs have great knowledge on the flexibility sources and stated that less relevant stakeholders than the DSOs were engaged in 2022 TYNDP process.
- Suggested a better cooperation between DSOs and TSOs on a national level to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Illustrated the importance of including DSO knowledge as, e.g., 70% of RES connects at the distribution level, heat pumps connect to the distribution level.
- Early involvement of DSOs can help shape assumptions.
- Highlighted the lack of proper sector coupling modelling, which occasionally leads to the loss of energy synergies and critical infrastructure development (e.g. methane) (Note: ACER clarified that sector integration would be covered also in Workshop 5 dedicated to considering efficiency and aspects of sector integration).

Stakeholder comments on the issues raised in the Eurelectric presentation:

- Need to set clear responsibility for ensuring internal consistency of scenarios and for ensuring scenarios building uses the best assumptions based on evidence from research, from effective deployment.
- Regarding the role of DSO in the scenario development process, DSOs can help on the evaluation of data inputs on demand and supply.

Presentation by Renewables Grid Initiative:

- Expressing appreciation for the efforts of ENTSOs to improve the scenario building process; the points noted in the presentation depart from the questions circulated by ACER and RGI acknowledges that some of the suggestions it is providing, may already have been implemented by the ENTSOs.
- Suggesting that more clear information for stakeholders should be provided, as well as, exact definition of the scope and prior announcement (e.g. notify two weeks before stakeholders input is expected and offering visibility on longer timelines) on activities in the light of better stakeholder preparation.
- Greater stakeholder involvement in the storyline development process and better information about the governance process of scenario development like who is involved and who is responsible for different parts of the process.
- ENTSOs should address all the questions raised by stakeholders in the various stakeholder engagement activities, provide explanation and relevant documentation and finally, request feedback in order to improve the follow-up activities.
- Help stakeholders become capable to participate in the process.

Stakeholder comments on the issues raised in the RGI presentation:

- ENTSO commented that most stakeholders are able to reach them, and that documentation is provided and replies are prepared to any comment raised in the public consultation.

Presentation by Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe):

- Expressing appreciation for work done by ENTSOs; offering suggestions for improvement.
- Suggested that inclusion of expert review and EU's expert bodies in the process is necessary, for instance, EU climate modelling experts.
- Underlined the importance of stakeholder input provision as early as it can be during the process, including in defining contrasting storylines.
- Suggested ENTSOs to publish regular updates, adopt more clear timelines and to avoid to expert-centred communication to help stakeholders building up capability to contribute.
- Urged ENTSOs to be aware of biases and include independent assessments of any key assumptions.

Stakeholder comments on the issues raised in the CAN Europe presentation:

- ENTSOs stated that they have to be mindful of their capacity as resources are limited and the process may become too heavy.
- ENTSOs acknowledged that especially the modelling documentation may be difficult to grasp by non-modellers.

Description of current process by ENTSO-E and ENTSG

- The stakeholder process is kicked off in a 1st workshop which is mainly about raising awareness about the launch of the scenario development process
- In October, stakeholders could react to the supply and demand numbers
- In between the workshop and public consultation, bilateral meetings with stakeholders take place
- A final public consultation on the full scenarios is planned at the end of the scenario development process in June (+/- 12 months after kicking off the process)
- ENTSOs cautioned that all stakeholders have their particular interest and that it tries to as many stakeholders as possible; when many stakeholders share a view in the public consultation, it is easy, but when stakeholders have contradicting views on an assumption, it is more difficult for ENTSOs
- The usual input is modelling expertise, not numbers
- The responses to public consultations are factored into the scenario building as much as possible

Stakeholder comments on the issues raised in the RGI presentation

- The drawback of the public consultation is that it remains a kind of bilateral engagement without discussion involving the stakeholders
- In bilateral conversations, stakeholder experts may not be able to consider adequately the context of their input compared to other inputs and thus more extreme inputs may be provided

Further debate

ACER asked the stakeholders to share their views on how they can help with de-biasing information used in the current scenario process.

Stakeholders added that:

- Different stakeholders can assess the arguments raised by other stakeholders in order to limit biases.
- Test the extremities and include the full range of uncertainty within practical boundaries
- Ensure scenarios are well developed based on as much information and as many perspectives as possible.
- Engage expert groups, not involved in the data collection process, so data received can be validated in terms of applicability and quality.
- Avoid group think as no one knows the future.

3. CLOSING SESSION

During the closing session of the workshop, the topics for the remaining workshops were presented based on the schedule:

- 29/7: transparency of scenarios (inputs, models, assumptions, outputs);
- 2/8: scenario(s) alignment with NECPs, REPowerEU (incl. central scenario and variations);
- 5/8 considering efficiency, demand-side, hydrogen etc. (sector integration)