

Framework Guidelines for the joint  
scenarios to be developed by ENTSO for  
Electricity and ENTSO for Gas  
“Scenarios Guidelines”

**DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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This Document contains the Framework Guidelines on the joint scenarios to be developed by ENTSO for Electricity and ENTSO for Gas, which the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) has prepared pursuant to Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/869

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#### Reference documents [to be completed at the end]

- Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013
- Regulation (EC) No 715/2009
- Regulation (EU) 2019/943
- ACER recommendation 05/2015
- ACER opinions 21/2014, 12/2016, 10/2018, 06/2020 and 06/2022
- ACER-CEER position paper on TEN-E (March 2021)
- Communication from the Commission on The European Green Deal, Brussels, 11.12.2019. COM(2019) 640 final.
- Energy Efficiency Directive.
- EU Fit for 55 Package, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en)
- REPowerEU Package, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repower-eu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repower-eu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en)

# Contents

Executive summary [to be completed at the end].....	4
1. Introduction/preamble .....	5
1.1 Legal basis, objective and scope of the Scenarios Guidelines .....	5
1.2 Development process .....	6
1.3 Organisation of the Guideline.....	7
2. Criteria for a timely scenario preparation process .....	7
3. Criteria for robust objective-driven scenarios .....	8
4. Criteria for a transparent, inclusive and streamlined development process .....	10
5. Ensuring independent scrutiny.....	11
6. Guidance for establishing a quick-review process.....	12
7. Compliance reporting.....	13

## Executive summary [to be completed at the end]

- (1) In these Framework Guidelines for the network development scenarios (“Scenarios Guidelines”), the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (‘the Agency’) puts forward guidance for the joint scenarios to be developed by ENTSO for Electricity and ENTSO for Gas in the context of the trans-European network for energy (TEN-E) Regulation’s Article 12.
- (2) The Guidelines describe main procedural elements which shall be followed by the ENTSOs and other involved stakeholders when developing scenarios for network development purposes. The aim is to standardize the process where possible and ensure it is fully transparent, inclusive and streamlined.
- (3) The Guidelines introduce stakeholder involvement in two steps, firstly for stakeholders mentioned in TEN-E Article 12(1) through a Stakeholder Reference Group, a body organised by the ENTSOs to help bring these stakeholders closer to the scenario development process and introduce data/assumption scrutiny, and secondly for the general public through a public consultation.
- (4) A quick review process is introduced to help mitigate situations which require urgent, last minute amendments of scenarios, which could not be achieved through a standard scenario development process within the given TYNDP cycle.
- (5) The process also establishes Compliance Reporting, both in respect to these Guidelines and expectations they put forward, and regarding the implementation of the Energy Efficiency First principle and meeting the latest Union policy targets for 2030 and 2050.

# 1. Introduction/preamble

- (7) In these Framework Guidelines for the joint scenarios for the Ten-Year Network Development Plans (hereafter “Scenarios Guidelines” or “Guidelines”) to be developed by ENTSO-E and ENTSOG (hereafter “ENTSOs”), the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (‘the Agency’) establishes criteria for a transparent, non-discriminatory and robust development of scenarios in the context of energy networks development.
- (8) Besides establishing the aforementioned criteria, the guidelines shall also aim to ensure that the ENTSOs’ TYNDP scenarios are fully in line with the energy efficiency first principle and with the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and its 2050 climate neutrality objective.

## 1.1 Legal basis, objective and scope of the Scenarios Guidelines

- (9) The Agency develops the Scenarios Guidelines pursuant to Article 12(1) of the TEN-E Regulation<sup>1</sup>.
- (10) The Guidelines focus on streamlining the scenario-development process, taking into consideration that:
  - Stakeholders must have the opportunity to engage meaningfully through effective consultations and have access to the documents and information. The inputs, assumptions and models that underpin the scenarios must be disclosed, while safeguarding confidential information;
  - Scenarios must be based on comprehensive information and prepared in an unbiased manner;
  - Scenarios must be informative and understandable to decision makers, stakeholders and the public, and be aligned with the assessments that support decision processes driven by them.
- (11) These Guidelines have a particular focus on the scenarios to be used in the TYNDP assessment, for identifying long-term infrastructure gaps and assessing individual projects (as per recital (24) of the TEN-E Regulation). In ACER’s view, the TYNDP scenarios are to support the selection of PCs and enable the achievement of the Union’s energy and climate objectives for 2030 and 2050. As such, these scenarios need to be fully in line with the most recent policy objectives.
- (12) In addition, as defined by Article 16 of the TEN-E Regulation, the TYNDP scenarios are to be used for the project-specific cost benefit analysis accompanying investment requests<sup>2</sup>.
- (13) The TEN-E Regulation also sets out that the ENTSO for Electricity shall consider the non-binding agreements<sup>3</sup> referred to in Article 14 for the development of the TYNDP scenarios.
- (14) These Guidelines put forward the criteria to be followed by the ENTSOs when developing the network development scenarios. That does not preclude parts of the guidance covering the scenario development in more detail.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013, OJ L 152, 3.6.2022.

<sup>2</sup> Any additional scenarios used for the process under Article 16 shall also be in line with the most recent policy objectives and be subject to the same level of consultation and scrutiny as the process provided for in Article 12 of the same Regulation (as per the requirements laid out in Article 16).

<sup>3</sup> On cooperating on goals for offshore renewable generation to be deployed within each sea basin by 2050, with intermediate steps in 2030 and 2040, in line with individual national energy and climate plans, and the offshore renewable potential of each sea basin.

- (15) The Agency can review the performance of its Guidelines relying on all information it may gather to carry out its tasks, and in particular through its Opinions on the scenarios pursuant to Article 12(5) of the TEN-E Regulation.
- (16) The Agency can, upon its own initiative and/or taking into account stakeholders' requests, initiate an update of the Scenarios Guidelines.

## 1.2 Development process

- (17) The Agency launched a proceeding on 8 July by public notice to adopt Scenarios Guidelines pursuant to Article 12 of the TEN-E Regulation.
- (18) The Agency complied with the requirements laid out in Article 12(1) regarding the development process of the Guideline, in particular the consultation of :
- Targeted consultation of the representative industry associations and civil society organisations, the European Commission and the ENTSOs in the format of (online) workshops held on 20, 26 and 29 July and 2 and 5 August;<sup>4</sup>
  - Targeted consultation of Member States (October)
  - Public consultation between 6 October and 14 November
- (19) The Agency also took into account the guidance on scenarios in Annex I of its Recommendation 05/2015 and the Opinions it issued since 2014 covering TYNDP scenarios.
- ACER Opinion<sup>5</sup> 21-2014 on the Draft ENTSO-E Scenario Outlook & Adequacy Forecast 2014-2030;
  - ACER Opinion<sup>6</sup> 12-2016 on the ENTSO-E Draft TYNDP 2016 Scenario Development Report;
  - ACER Opinion<sup>7</sup> 10-2018 on the ENTSO-E and ENTSG Draft TYNDP 2018 Scenario Report;
  - ACER Opinion<sup>8</sup> 06-2020 on the ENTSO-E and ENTSG Draft TYNDP 2020 Scenario Report;

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<sup>4</sup> Summary notes and presentations of the workshops can be accessed at: <https://www.acer.europa.eu/events-and-engagement/news/acer-will-adopt-new-framework-guidelines-scenarios-network-development>.

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%201-2014.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%201-2014.pdf) .

<sup>6</sup>

[https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2012-2016.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2012-2016.pdf) .

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[https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2010-2018%20on%20the%20ENTSO-E%20and%20ENTSG%20draft%20TYNDP%202018%20Scenario%20Report.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2010-2018%20on%20the%20ENTSO-E%20and%20ENTSG%20draft%20TYNDP%202018%20Scenario%20Report.pdf) .

<sup>8</sup>

[https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2006-2020%20on%20ENTSO-E%20and%20ENTSG%20draft%20TYNDP%202020%20Scenario%20Report.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2006-2020%20on%20ENTSO-E%20and%20ENTSG%20draft%20TYNDP%202020%20Scenario%20Report.pdf) .

- ACER Opinion<sup>9</sup> 06/2022 on the key elements of the ENTSO-E and ENTSOG draft TYNDP 2022 Scenario Report.

### 1.3 Organisation of the Guidelines

- (20) These Guidelines put forward criteria and guidance on:
- A timely scenario preparation process
  - Robust “objective-driven” scenarios<sup>10</sup>;
  - Transparent, inclusive and streamlined development;
  - A process for stakeholder scrutiny;
  - A quick-review process.
- (21) The Guidelines furthermore tackle compliance reporting.
- (22) These topics have been identified based on the targeted-consultation workshop discussions and past ACER Opinions.

## 2. Criteria for a timely scenario preparation process

- (23) The TEN-E Regulation sets out (albeit not explicitly) a two-year frequency for the network development scenarios, as the TYNDP is requested with a two-year frequency. The current practice foresees the TYNDPs by the end of even-numbered years.
- (24) The TEN-E provisions do not explicitly define the timing and deadlines of scenario preparation. However, the TEN-E Regulation allows six months for the scrutiny of scenarios pursuant to articles 12(5) and 12(6), ending with the European Commission’s approval, plus six months for the ENTSOs to prepare the infrastructure gaps reports after the Commission’s approval, pursuant to Article 13(1). Given that the infrastructure gaps reports are prepared within the framework of the Union-wide ten-year network development plans which suggests their preparation by the end of the even-numbered years.
- (25) Based on the above, the Agency expects the draft TYNDP joint scenarios report to be published and submitted to the Agency, the Member States and the Commission by 31 December of the odd-numbered years (12 months before the infrastructure gaps and the TYNDPs).
- (26) This expectation is in line with a long-standing ACER recommendation on TYNDP scenarios (cf. ACER opinion 21/2014 and other opinions on TYNDP scenarios).
- (27) In its opinions on the draft TYNDP Scenario Reports, and in the ACER-CEER Position Paper on TEN-E of March 2021<sup>11</sup>, the Agency repeatedly called for a process allowing a timely preparation of scenarios, using assumptions as updated as possible.

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[https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2006-2022%20on%20draft%20TYNDP%202022%20Scenario%20Report.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2006-2022%20on%20draft%20TYNDP%202022%20Scenario%20Report.pdf) .

<sup>10</sup> Objective-driven scenarios are scenarios focused around the policy objective of achieving the Union’s energy and climate objectives for 2030 and 2050.

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Position%20Papers/ACER\\_CEEER\\_TEN\\_E\\_2021.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Position%20Papers/ACER_CEEER_TEN_E_2021.pdf)

- (28) For the first edition of the TYNDP scenarios pursuant to these guidelines (TYNDP 2024 scenarios), it appears essential that the draft National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), which are due by 30 June 2023 are taken into account in the scenario preparation to the extent possible. This calls for a streamlined scenario preparation process, especially for the TYNDP 2024 scenarios.
- (29) To facilitate a timely process and delivery, the Agency recommends that the storylines process<sup>12</sup> is carried out separately from the scenario preparation process and remains applicable for more editions of the TYNDP scenarios (see Section 3).

### 3. Criteria for robust objective-driven scenarios

- (30) The TEN-E Regulation requires that scenarios must be on-target, meaning that the decided energy and climate objectives are to be achieved in any scenario developed<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, the energy-efficiency-first principle (EE1st principle) must be taken into account. The EU policies thus form boundary conditions for the scenarios and the ENTSOs are expected not to deviate from those politically agreed policies, targets and objectives<sup>14</sup>. The scenarios shall also consider, where relevant, the national energy and climate plans (NECPs) and shall take into account the latest Commission scenarios.
- (31) To ensure the alignment of scenarios, the ENTSOs must detail how specific assumptions are included in the scenarios, covering, amongst other:
- The inclusion of the EE1st principle on the supply side and on the demand side of the energy system;
  - Setting the level of demand-side response; and
  - How sector integration is considered: e.g. electrification, heating, hydrogen and industry decarbonisation, digitalisation.
- (32) Scenarios and scenario development must be robust, which is achievable through a combination of stability and agility. Stability contributes to robustness by ensuring that the drivers (i.e. storylines) for developing scenarios are stable and do not unnecessarily deviate from one TYNDP cycle to the other. Agility, on the other hand, ensures that the most up-to-date assumptions are used. Scenario development should thus be agile in terms of adapting to changes while stable in terms of its direction.
- (33) Agility also comes into play when unexpected events happen which have a significant impact on inputs and assumptions used throughout the scenario development. To ensure scenarios remain meaningful despite an unpredictable alteration of assumptions, a quick-review process shall be established; this is dealt with in Section 6.
- (34) Scenarios shall build on feasible and broadly supported assumptions about the evolution of energy supply and demand. Such broad support in principle exists more for scenarios that are developed

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<sup>12</sup> i.e. development of qualitative storylines as concepts of potential futures which later serve to develop quantitative scenarios matching those storylines.

<sup>13</sup> Article 12(1), second paragraph: The guidelines shall also aim to ensure that the underlying ENTSO for Electricity and ENTSO for Gas scenarios are fully in line with the energy efficiency first principle and with the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate and its 2050 climate neutrality objective and shall take into account the latest available Commission scenarios, as well as, when relevant, the national energy and climate plans.

<sup>14</sup> As it may be difficult to develop scenarios which are exactly on target, ENTSOs are allowed to deviate from these targets up to a reasonable, pragmatically agreed amount. The deviation should be explained in the report accompanying the submission of draft scenarios for the Agency's opinion,



through bottom-up processes where the inputs have already gone through a process of consultation and validation at the national level.

- (35) The ENTSOs shall consider the NECPs as a basis for developing scenarios. NECPs underwent local scrutiny and cover in principle the energy and climate actions planned at national level. As they follow their own updating cycle (indicatively every five years), they may be out of sync with the policies, targets and objectives in force at the moment of developing the scenarios. The ENTSOs shall extend and amend the assumptions derived from the NECPs to build scenarios that are on-target.
- (36) To further enhance support of the scenarios in a robust and non-discriminatory way, the ENTSOs shall ensure a process for independent scrutiny of scenario inputs and assumptions; this is further dealt with in Section 5.
- (37) Stability and continuity of the scenarios across TYNDP cycles are further ensured by defining a limited set of scenarios that cover the main uncertainties driving network planning. The choice of scenarios pertaining to this set shall not be revisited unless there are strong reasons to do so.
- (38) Stability and comparability must be further enhanced by building scenarios around consistent time horizons, fixed around '0 and '5 years. Scenarios shall be developed at least for the short-term (indicatively up to year 7 after the TYNDP year), the mid-term (approximately up to 10 years after the TYNDP year) and the long-term horizon (approximately 15 years after the TYNDP year). The (very) long-term perspective until 2050 is inherently subject to great uncertainty and would largely have an indicative value allowing the definition of trajectories spanning the mid-term, long-term and very long-term<sup>15</sup>.
- (39) The set of scenarios shall include at least a most-likely central scenario and at least low-economy and high-economy variants<sup>16</sup>. The Agency finds economic growth an important driver for network development that resonates to decision makers. The Agency recommends that a single (best estimate) scenario for the short-term is prepared to help streamline the scenario preparation activities. For the mid-term and long-term time horizons (approximately 7 to 15 years after the TYNDP year), the ENTSOs can, besides economic growth, propose additional drivers around which scenarios could be developed<sup>17</sup>. Before including such additional scenarios to the set, the ENTSOs shall consult the stakeholders on these drivers and the corresponding storylines. If a driver is selected, contrasting scenario variants along the selected driver shall be included<sup>18</sup>.
- (40) The Agency expects consistency to be maintained as much as possible between the near-term horizon of the TYNDP scenarios (approximately up to 7 years) and the inputs used for the ERAA.
- (41) The set of scenarios must be balanced and informative for decision makers, stakeholders and the public. Decision makers, stakeholders and the public must understand in general how the scenario variations affect the cost-benefit assessment and how the different assessment outcomes relate to each other. In other words, the set of scenarios must be objective-oriented and must cover the main uncertainties that drive network development. The Agency emphasises that a further sensitivity analysis, which would best fit the process of cost-benefit assessment, could provide even more insights to the decision makers regarding how a change of a single assumption would affect the

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<sup>15</sup> While acknowledging the importance of considering trajectories up to year 2050 in the definition of the appropriate assumptions for the intermediate years, "n+25" assumptions are of limited usability for the purpose of network planning. In addition, huge uncertainties affect the period between the long term, approximately 15 years from the TYNDP year, and the very long term up to 2050.

<sup>16</sup> Conceptual and modelling work would have to be carried out to de-construct how specific assumptions regarding energy demand and supply depend on economic growth, e.g. historical reference data could inform how the adoption of innovative technologies progresses under low/high economic growth or how the shares of private versus public investment would vary.

<sup>17</sup> E.g. centralised versus distributed generation, low versus high shares of hydrogen, etc.

<sup>18</sup> Indicatively, variants in addition to the central scenario could be developed along maximum two drivers, which includes the economic growth driver.

outcome of a project assessment. Such sensitivity analysis may be particularly suited to deal with near-term uncertainties.

## 4. Criteria for a transparent, inclusive and streamlined development process

- (42) The development of scenarios shall follow as much as possible an open process to involve stakeholders, enabling a broad participation. However, in line with the provisions of the TENE Regulation, for reasons of streamlining the process, and enabling a participation commensurate with the technical nature of the work, the ENTSOs shall ensure to involve at least the representative stakeholders described in Article 12(3) ('key stakeholders').
- (43) To ensure key stakeholders are appropriately consulted and have the opportunity to interact between themselves, the ENTSOs shall create a Stakeholder Reference Group ('SRG'), comprised of (at least) the key stakeholders. After its creation, the ENTSOs shall then act as observers and facilitators of this group. In addition, ACER, the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre and the European Union's Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (hereafter 'Scientific Advisory Board') can become observers to the SRG.
- (44) The members of the SRG shall choose a convener of the Group, who would be responsible to convene the SRG meetings<sup>19</sup>, take minutes of meetings and ensure a non-discriminatory dialogue within the SRG.
- (45) An open process means that the ENTSOs shall publish at the start of the scenarios-building cycle a comprehensive process timeline and a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan that identifies the key moments for stakeholders to provide input. That plan shall explain to the stakeholders the specific elements on which input is expected from them by when and must be drawn up taking into account legitimate expectations of the stakeholders and different capabilities of the stakeholders:
- Allowing the stakeholders enough time to evaluate the key inputs and provide input on the assumptions driving and influencing the results;
  - Giving the opportunity to the stakeholders to enhance the robustness of the process by providing external assessment (cf. independent scrutiny of Section 5);
- (46) The design of the stakeholder engagement plan, which puts forward a shared vision on how the ENTSOs and the SRG want to work together, shall be done before starting the scenario-building cycle. The plan can be updated between TYNDP scenarios cycles based on the evaluation by the ENTSOs and/or the SRG.
- (47) An open and streamlined stakeholder engagement plan shall, besides the regular engagement with the SRG, include at least one broad public consultation on the draft scenarios.
- (48) The ENTSOs shall record all stakeholder interactions in terms of the parties, the topic discussed and how the interaction has been considered in the development of the scenarios; a clear overview of these interactions shall be made available to the public.
- (49) An open and streamlined process relies on clear communication about the assumptions and proper documentation of the inputs, assumptions, models and scenarios. When publishing this documentation, the ENTSOs shall respect justified confidentiality claims signalling which data is confidential and providing a sufficient explanation that allows stakeholders to understand what the

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<sup>19</sup> Which could be hosted on virtual platforms or (on a voluntary basis) by the ENTSOs or any of the Group's members

data is about, why it is confidential and how the ENTSOs have considered the data in the development of the scenarios.

- (50) The ENTSOs shall adopt academic standards for the presentation of inputs, assumptions, models and final scenarios, in terms of consistency of units and having a list of the sources for the different inputs;
- (51) The ENTSOs must make available information adjusted to different stakeholder needs and capabilities:
- For informed stakeholders, the ENTSOs shall publish all data sets, in an appropriate and predefined format<sup>20</sup> and technical documentation of the models for those wishing to replicate and reproduce the scenario building; the way in which data sets are shared shall remain as much as possible consistent across cycles to increase robustness;
  - For the wider public, the ENTSOs shall publish visual, as well as simplified information about the scenario-building process, ensuring comprehensibility of the data and the results.
  - This information shall include at least:
    - i. Regarding the inputs, the sources of the data, information on the pre-processing of data, a differentiation of endogenous and exogenous variables, and technology cost data;
    - ii. Regarding the assumptions, an explanation of uncertain factors considered, information about the construction of the set of scenarios, assumptions for processed data, and the key assumptions emphasised in (31);
    - iii. Regarding the methodologies (including models), the output data, model-specific properties and documentation;
      - .iii.1. Information on supply per technology and Member State (bidding zone);
      - .iii.2. Information on installed capacity per technology and Member State (bidding zone);
      - .iii.3. Information on demand per sector and Member State (bidding zone);
    - iv. Regarding the final scenarios, a detailed description, visual information and communication about the underlying uncertainties.
- (52) The ENTSOs shall explain the main drivers of each scenario in the set of scenarios, and how the different scenario variants relate to each other.

## 5. Ensuring independent scrutiny

- (53) To ensure a robust and non-discriminatory scenario development, scenarios must be based on comprehensive information and prepared impartially. Independent scrutiny of inputs, assumptions and methodologies (including models) contributes to those principles and for this purpose a process independent from the ENTSOs needs to be established. The SRG shall assist the ENTSOs in this independent scrutiny, by performing a balanced internal discussion on the inputs, assumptions and methodologies proposed by the ENTSOs. The time available to the SRG to discuss and reach a

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<sup>20</sup> To be agreed with the users of the data and consulted with the SRG.

majority view in their advice shall be defined in the agreed procedural time-plan for scenario development (cf. the process timeline and stakeholder engagement plan mentioned in Section 4).

- (54) The SRG shall provide its advice to the ENTSOs covering the main outcome of their discussions, reflecting the majority views and minority views. This advice shall be included in the draft Scenario Report submitted for ACER's Opinion and Commission's approval.
- (55) In case the SRG cannot reach a significant<sup>21</sup> majority view, the ENTSOs are encouraged to seek further independent advice from energy and climate scientists and independent experts.
- (56) The SRG can request all information and documents to carry out its tasks; the ENTSOs shall make available that information taking into account their duty to protect the confidentiality of information in line with legal requirements.
- (57) The ENTSOs remain at all times responsible for the inputs, assumptions and timely submission of the draft Scenario Report and are not bound to the advice of the SRG; however, this advice must be recorded and published in line with the transparency requirements established in Section 4.

## 6. Guidance for establishing a quick-review process

- (58) The quick review is meant to add agility to the scenario-development process if last minute changes need to be made to at least one of the main scenario assumptions.
- (59) To trigger the quick-review process, a sufficiently significant event<sup>22</sup> must occur, which was not foreseen at the beginning of the standard scenario-development process and which cannot be considered within its regular timeline. The quick-review process can be activated by the European Commission, ACER or either of the ENTSOs. If doing so, the entity activating this process must inform all other entities mentioned in this paragraph.
- (60) The activating entity of the quick-review process shall provide a list of the assumptions that need to be re-assessed by the ENTSOs. Within 1 month from the receipt of the activation note, the ENTSOs shall jointly propose how the indicated scenario assumptions are to be updated and in which timeline, by informing accordingly ACER, the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre, the Scientific Advisory Board and the SRG.
- (61) The SRG shall review the proposed amendments and within 3 weeks provide non-binding recommendations to the ENTSOs, taking due account of the process for independent scrutiny, defined in Section 5.
- (62) The ENTSOs shall decide on the scenario adaptations, taking account of the SRG's recommendations, and shall produce amended scenario(s) within 3 weeks after receiving the non-binding recommendations.
- (63) The quick review process shall be performed on the central scenario, unless time allows adaption also of its variants.
- (64) In case of a quick review process, the updated scenario(s) do not need to be publicly consulted, unless time allows such a consultation to be run. In this case, the public consultation can be shortened to 2 weeks.

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<sup>21</sup> Indicatively, a significant majority view could mean it is supported by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the SRG members who contributed to the discussion.

<sup>22</sup> Such an event has to clearly and sufficiently impact at least one of the assumptions that defines a scenario. In particular, if a scenario becomes at risk of not being aligned with the most recent policy targets.

## 7. Compliance reporting

- (65) The ENTSOs must transparently report on how the scenarios and the scenarios-development process ensure compliance with the Scenarios Guidelines. This report must appropriately cover all the criteria in these Guidelines and could be integrated in the Scenario Report submitted to the Agency for its Opinion according to Article 12(5) of the TEN-E Regulation.
- (66) Additionally, after the completion of the standard scenarios-development process the SRG shall formulate an advice that includes an evaluation of the scenarios-development process and recommendations for improvements for the next cycle.
- (67) The joint scenarios developed by the ENTSOs for the TYNDPs 2024 for electricity and for gas will be assessed against the Guidelines that will be adopted by 24 January 2023, while taking into account the timing limitations.