

# Public consultation on ACER's Framework Guidelines on the joint scenarios for electricity and gas network development plans ("Scenarios Guidelines")

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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This consultation of the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators ('ACER') is addressed to all interested stakeholders.

The purpose of this survey is to collect specific and concrete views from the public on the draft Scenarios Guidelines and inform ACER's decision-making process for adopting the Guidelines by 24 January 2023.

The draft Guidelines are available [here](#). The consultation questions directly refer to this document. Replies to this consultation should be submitted by Monday **14 November 2022, 23:59 hrs (CET)**

## Data Protection and Confidentiality

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ACER will process personal data of the respondents in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#), taking into account that this processing is necessary for performing ACER's consultation tasks.

More information on data protection is available on [ACER's website](#).

### **ACER will not publish personal data.**

Following this consultation, ACER will make public:

- the number of responses received;
- organisation names, except those with a valid reason for not having their organisation name disclosed;
- all non-confidential responses;
- and ACER's evaluation of responses.

You may request that (1) the name of the organisation you are representing and/or (2) information provided in your response is treated as confidential. To this aim, you need to explicitly indicate whether your answers contain confidential information, and also provide a valid reason if you want that the name of your

organisation remains confidential.

You will be asked these questions at the end of the survey.

## 1. Respondent's Data

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\* 1. Name and surname

\* 2. Email

\* 3. Organisation

\* 4. Country of your organisation

- [xx] - All EU Member States
- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czechia
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- GR - Greece
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia
- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- [xx] - Other
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovak Republic
- SI - Slovenia

- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

\* 6. Activity

- Transmission System Operator (or association)
- Distribution System Operator (or association)
- Other market participant
- End-user (or association)
- Energy supplier (or association)
- Generator (or association)
- Utility (or association)
- Civil society organisation
- Other

## Confirmation

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I accept that ACER processes my data in line with its data protection rules

## 2. Consultation questions

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To help the Agency understand your concrete and specific input, we recommend that you connect your feedback as much as possible to the recital numbers in the draft Guidelines.

8. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the criteria proposed to ensure a timely scenario preparation process (Section 2 of the draft Guidelines).

9. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the proposed criteria to ensure robust objective-driven scenario development (Section 3 of the draft Guidelines).

We strongly believe that in order to enhance system optimisation, and reduce waste and losses, the EE1st principle – recital (30) and (31) - should be considered at the system level and not only on the supply and demand side as currently the case. In line with this, renewables-based, direct electrification should be prioritised as the most sustainable, cost- and energy-efficient way to decarbonise our economies. Furthermore, the rate of direct electrification should be monitored and reported against defined benchmarks, related to system efficiency gains.

10a. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the proposed criteria to ensure a transparent, inclusive and streamlined development process, focusing on the stakeholder engagement requirements (Section 4 of the draft Guidelines, recitals (42)-(48)).

10b. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the proposed criteria to ensure a transparent, inclusive and streamlined development process, focusing on the information and publication requirements (Section 4 of the draft Guidelines, recitals (49)-(52)).

11. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the process for ensuring independent scrutiny of inputs, assumptions and methodologies (Section 5 of the draft Guidelines).

12. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the proposed quick-review process to enable updating a scenario in case key assumptions change (Section 6 of the draft Guidelines).

13. Please write here your specific and concrete feedback on the proposed compliance reporting (Section 7 of the draft Guidelines).

14. Would you like to share anything else with us regarding the draft Scenarios Guidelines?

The revised TEN-E Regulation and the proposed Scenarios Guidelines require the scenarios to be 'on-target'. It is unclear though, whether only adopted, by the EU co-legislators, policies should be reflected in the 2024 TYNDP cycle or additionally those currently in negotiations (i.e., REPowerEU package). The Scenarios Guidelines should provide clear and sufficient guidance on excluding relevant policy files that did not reach a political agreement between the co-legislators and on how the energy and climate targets should be incorporated into the scenario-building process in that case. The uncertainty in the draft Scenarios Guidelines is further enhanced by the fact that they list the REPowerEU package among the Reference Documents as well as a clear reference to the NECPs 2023 thus increasing the gap between policy objectives and implementation plans. If the REPowerEU package is pursued, we run the risk of building the scenarios around targets that could become obsolete starting with the political agreement of the relevant policy file. This holds especially true for the 20 Mt of renewable hydrogen by 2030, proposed in the REPowerEU Plan. This inflated and unrealistic target for the 2030 time horizon, poses a strong challenge to the electricity sector, as it requires channeling the majority of RES capacity towards the production of renewable hydrogen. The fact that the REPowerEU has not been scrutinised by the co-legislators and thus, it could be subject to revision, coupled with the absence of clear rules regulating the supply chain of renewable hydrogen, and namely the additionality principle and geographical as well as temporal correlation should be taken into consideration and further assessed. Furthermore, the timeline for the NECPs update would prevent them from incorporating the upcoming policy changes and consequently, lead to obsolete investment plans leading to higher costs for consumers and higher emissions both within the European borders and globally, through import routes. Instead, resources should be directed at showcasing energy- and resource-efficient pathways of the energy system in the 2024 TYNDP cycle.

## Confidentiality

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- \* 15. Your response would be published on the Agency's public consultation web page. Please confirm that:
- My response and name of my organisation can be published
  - My response can be published without my organisation's name (You are asked to give a justification below)
  - My response contains confidential information; a redacted version may be published (Please ensure you marked the specific text by preceding and closing it with [CONFIDENTIAL]. In addition, you are asked to give a justification below)

Thank you!

## Background Documents

[Scenarios Guidelines\\_DRAFT](#)

## Contact

[Contact Form](#)

