

ACER Decision on the third amendment to the implementation framework for the European platform for the exchange of balancing energy from frequency restoration reserves with automatic activation:

Annex I

Third amendment of the implementation framework for the European platform for the exchange of balancing energy from frequency restoration reserves with automatic activation

in accordance with Article 21 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing

18 September 2026

All TSOs, taking into account the following:

Whereas

- (1) This amendment to the Implementation framework for a European platform for the exchange of balancing energy from frequency restoration reserves with automatic activation in accordance with Article 21(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing ("EB Regulation") is based on the ACER decision 02-2020 of 24 January 2020, amended by ACER decision 15-2022 of 30 September 2022 and ACER decision 08-2024 of 5 July 2024 (hereafter referred to as the "aFRRIF").
- (2) Article 20(2)(g) of the aFRRIF provides that "all TSOs shall submit an amended aFRRIF including the common harmonisation proposal no later than 36 months after the aFRR-Platform becomes operational."
- (3) In accordance with Article 20(2) of the aFRRIF, this amendment fulfils all TSO obligations regarding the submission of an amended aFRRIF including the common harmonisation proposal.
- (4) According to Article 18(1) of the EB Regulation, terms and conditions related to balancing are a responsibility of each TSO. According to Article 18(3)(b) of the EB Regulation and Article 20(1) of the aFRRIF they have to respect a framework for harmonisation pursuant to Article 21(3)(f) of the EB Regulation. All TSOs acknowledge this aFRRIF provision and support the harmonisation of terms and conditions related to balancing, in order to ensure a level playing field for all market participants in an integrated European market. Due to the delayed connection of TSOs to the European balancing platforms, the integration of balancing energy markets has not proceeded as envisaged by the EB Regulation. Therefore, the anticipated common European basis resulting from experience with the European Balancing Platforms and the EB Regulation-based market design, which was assumed to be available to run processes according to the framework for harmonisation of terms and conditions related to balancing, is not yet in place. As these developments are behind schedule, all TSOs have decided to maintain a general level of the common harmonisation proposal for now, with the aim of limiting the necessary implementation efforts and avoid disturbing national developments to establish the EB Regulation target design. The framework for harmonisation of terms and conditions related to balancing foresees an iterative approach where all TSOs will stepwise work on the targeted and gradually more detailed harmonisation of terms and conditions related to balancing.
- (5) This amendment results from the taken efforts of all TSOs to fulfil the obligations of Article 20(2) of the aFRRIF by identifying a short list of prioritised harmonisation needs, identifying harmonisation options for each prioritised harmonisation need and consultation of the harmonisation options with the stakeholders.
- (6) All TSOs support the process of harmonising terms and conditions related to balancing to facilitate the integration of European balancing markets. While proceeding according to Article 20(2) of the aFRRIF, all TSOs experienced that the established process is not efficient due to the repeated stakeholder surveys every year and leaves too little time for the preparation of the common harmonisation proposal. For this reason, in addition to the common harmonisation proposal, this amendment to the aFRRIF also includes an amendment to the process for harmonising the terms and conditions related to balancing.
- (7) All TSOs are of the opinion that the common harmonisation proposal should not be placed in the implementation frameworks of the European platforms as its provisions are out of scope the European platforms. Therefore, the common harmonisation proposal should be added as

an Annex to the implementation frameworks of the European platforms to enable easier transition to effective future regulation (e.g. as a separate Methodology in a revised EB Regulation, focusing on the harmonisation).

- (8) The common harmonisation proposal attached to this methodology mainly aims at harmonising and simplifying the prequalification process for FRR providing RPGs and RPU. It additionally contains general provisions related to the interaction of BSPs and connecting TSOs as well as provisions on switching of RPUs between BSPs. The common harmonisation proposal considers differences between TSOs applying central and self-dispatching models. This amendment continues to fulfil the objectives of EB Regulation. In particular, it
- a. fosters effective competition, non-discrimination and transparency in balancing markets as well as the efficiency of European and national balancing markets and the liquidity of balancing markets while preventing undue distortions within the internal electricity market;
 - b. supports the integration of balancing markets by harmonised processes and requirements such as prequalification or standardised IT protocols and allows for the exchange of balancing energy on a European level while ensuring operational security in real-time;
 - c. contributes to the efficient long-term operation and development of the electricity transmission system and electricity sector in the Union while facilitating the efficient and consistent functioning of balancing markets by setting harmonised rules and improving the process for continuous harmonisation of terms and conditions for BSPs;

- (9) Article 21(1) of the EB Regulation requires all TSOs to develop the aFRRIF. All TSOs who are responsible for the development of the proposal and for its submission to ACER are the following: APG - Austrian Power Grid AG, VÜEN-Vorarlberger Übertragungsnetz GmbH, Elia - Elia Transmission Belgium S.A., ESO – Electroenergien Sistemen Operator EAD, HOPS - Croatian Transmission System Operator Ltd, ČEPS - ČEPS, a.s., Energinet - Energinet, Elering - Elering AS, Fingrid - Fingrid Oyj, Kraftnät Åland Ab, RTE - Réseau de Transport d'Electricité, S.A, Amprion - Amprion GmbH, TransnetBW -TransnetBW GmbH, TenneT GER - TenneT TSO GmbH, 50Hertz - 50Hertz Transmission GmbH, IPTO - Independent Power Transmission Operator S.A., MAVIR ZRt. - MAVIR Magyar Villamosenergia-ipari Átviteli Rendszerirányító Zártkörűen Működő Részvénytársaság ZRt., EirGrid - EirGrid plc, Terna - Terna SpA, Augstsprieguma tīkls - AS Augstsprieguma tīkls, LITGRID - LITGRID AB, CREOS Luxembourg - CREOS Luxembourg S.A., TenneT NL - TenneT TSO B.V., PSE - PSE S.A., REN - Rede Eléctrica Nacional, S.A., Transelectrica - C.N. Transelectrica S.A., SEPS - Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava, a.s., ELES - ELES,d.o.o, REE - Red Eléctrica de España S.A.U, Svenska Kraftnät - Affärsverket Svenska Kraftnät, SONI System Operator for Northern Ireland Ltd.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BALANCING ENERGY FROM FREQUENCY RESTORATION RESERVES WITH AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION TO ACER

Article 1
Framework for harmonisation of terms and conditions related to balancing

Article 20 – Framework for harmonisation of terms and conditions related to the aFRR-Platform – of aFRRIF shall be amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 2 shall be amended and be read accordingly:

«2. The framework for harmonisation shall take into account the differences between TSOs applying central and self-dispatching models and respect the following process:

- a) all TSOs shall continuously evaluate the terms and conditions for BSPs in order to identify harmonisation needs. A stakeholder survey shall be organised every twenty four (24) months, with the first survey occurring during the first operational year of the aFRR-Platform. This survey shall support the identification by all TSOs of a short list of prioritised harmonisation needs with close involvement of all relevant regulatory authorities;
- b) in case justified harmonisation needs were identified, all TSOs shall then identify harmonisation options for each prioritised harmonisation need with close involvement of stakeholders and regulatory authorities;
- c) all TSOs shall publicly consult the harmonisation options identified under point (b) above with the stakeholders for a period of two (2) months and no later than nine (9) months after the stakeholder survey is launched in accordance with point (a) above;
- d) all TSOs shall evaluate the public consultation results and develop a common harmonisation proposal for the identified issues, to harmonise terms and conditions for BSPs; this common harmonisation proposal shall also include the necessary implementation time for the amendment of terms and conditions for BSPs;
- e) all TSOs shall submit a proposal for an amended aFRRIF including the common harmonisation proposal in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EB Regulation no later than thirty six (36) months after the aFRR-Platform becomes operational. The next aFRRIF amendment proposal including the common harmonisation proposal shall be submitted no later than thirty six (36) months after the previous aFRRIF amendment, in case justified harmonisation needs were identified;
- f) In order to implement the provisions on the harmonisation of terms and conditions for BSPs according to Article 18(5) of the EB Regulation, each relevant TSO shall propose the relevant amendments to its relevant national regulatory authority. »

Article 2

Common harmonisation proposal

A new Annex I as attached to this amendment shall be added to the aFRRIF.

Article 3

Implementation timeline

All TSOs shall implement this amendment to the aFRRIF within 15 days after the publication of the decision by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

Article 4

Publication of the amendment

All TSOs shall publish this amendment to the aFRRIF without undue delay pursuant to Article 7 of EB Regulation after a decision has been taken by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators in accordance with Articles 5(1) and 5(2)(a) in joint reading with Article 6(3) of the EB Regulation as well as Article 5(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

Article 5

Language

The reference language for this amendment to the aFRRIF shall be English. For the avoidance of doubt, where TSOs need to translate this amendment to the aFRRIF into their national language(s), in the event of inconsistencies between the English version published by the all TSOs in accordance with Article 7 of the EB Regulation and any version in another language, the relevant TSOs shall be obliged to dispel any inconsistencies, by providing a revised translation of this amendment to the aFRRIF to their relevant national regulatory authorities.

Annex 1

Whereas

- (1) This Annex 1 sets out the Common Harmonisation Proposal for the harmonisation of terms and conditions (T&Cs) for Balancing Service Providers (BSPs) (hereafter referred to as “CHP”) in accordance with Article 20(3)(f), and Article 21(3)(f) of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing (hereafter referred to as “EB Regulation”).
- (2) The CHP takes into account the general principles and goals set in the Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (hereafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) 2019/943”).
- (3) The CHP takes into account the general principles, goals and other methodologies set out in EB Regulation. The EB Regulation lays down a detailed guideline on electricity balancing including the establishment of common principles for the procurement and the settlement of frequency restoration reserves and a common methodology for the activation of frequency restoration reserves and replacement reserves. It sets for this purpose requirements to harmonise the T&Cs related to balancing according to Article 18 of the EB Regulation.
- (4) The CHP takes into account the general principles, goals and other methodologies set out in the Article 158 and Article 159 of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (hereafter referred to as “SO Regulation”).
- (5) According to Article 18(3)(b) of the EB Regulation, T&Cs remain a responsibility of each TSO but have to respect a framework for harmonisation pursuant to Article 20, and Article 21 of the EB Regulation.
- (6) In accordance with Article 20, and Article 21 of the EB Regulation, TSOs shall develop a proposal for the Implementation Framework (IF) of each balancing platform. In accordance with Article 20 of the IF of the mFRR Platform (MARI) and Article 20 of the aFRR-Platform (PICASSO) respectively, all TSOs shall continuously evaluate the T&Cs for BSPs to identify harmonisation needs via a yearly stakeholder survey.
- (7) The first stakeholder survey took place in 2023, followed by a second survey in 2024. Based on the results of both surveys, all TSOs identified a short list of prioritised harmonisation needs, identified harmonisation options for each prioritised harmonisation need, and consulted the six identified harmonisation options with stakeholders between December 2024 and January 2025. Following the stakeholder’s feedback, all TSOs have developed the CHP considering the feedback received.
- (8) In accordance with Article 20 of the aFRRIF and mFRRIF, the CHP sets a framework for harmonisation of TSOs T&Cs of BSPs. The CHP considers ex-post verification and prequalification processes in different TSOs as well as differences between TSOs applying central and self-dispatching models in its provisions. Different models and processes may still lead to lack of harmonisation in prequalification processes. In specific, the CHP focuses on FRR related provisions stemming from Article 20 and Article 21 of the EB Regulation.
- (9) The CHP focuses on RPU/RPG prequalification and everything related to the BSP qualification is out of scope of this proposal. BSP qualification should take place as described in Article 16 of the EB Regulation.
- (10) In line with the objectives of the EB Regulation, and in particular Article 3(e), the harmonised FRR prequalification framework aims to strike an appropriate balance between facilitating faster market access and maintaining system reliability in the prequalification process. This framework aims to establishing a level playing field

across Member States, reducing barriers to entry for different technologies and types of BSPs, while ensuring that the technical and operational requirements necessary for maintaining system reliability are duly met. To this end, the reserve connecting TSO shall ensure that the administrative burden associated with the requirements for the prequalification processes takes into consideration the size of RPU or RPGs and its impact on the system security and grid operation in case the delivery of the product deviates from what is required in the national terms and conditions for BSPs. Nevertheless, taking into account the limited operational experience of TSOs with harmonised prequalification processes, ACER considers that a certain degree of flexibility and national implementation discretion remains necessary at this stage. Once sufficient practical experience has been gained and the implementation of the harmonised FRR prequalification framework has been monitored across Member States, further harmonisation and convergence of practices should be pursued, where appropriate, to ensure a more consistent and efficient prequalification process across the Union.

Title 1

General provisions

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

1. The provisions of this Annex shall apply to the setup of TSO-TSO model, where the BSP provides balancing services to its reserve connecting TSO.
2. Grid prequalification shall not be considered part of the FRR Prequalification Process. The reserve connecting TSOs or the DSO may require grid prequalification ahead of finishing or during the FRR Prequalification Process. The reserve connecting TSOs or the DSO may take into consideration extensions from grid prequalification.

Article 2

Definitions and interpretation

1. Terms used in this document shall have the meaning of the definitions included in Article 2 of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing (EB Regulation), of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (SO Regulation), of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 of 24 July 2015 establishing a guideline on capacity allocation and congestion management, of the Regulation (EU) 2019/943, of the Directive (EU) 2019/944 of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and of the Commission Regulation (EU) 543/2013 of 14 June 2013 on submission and publication of data in electricity markets.
2. In addition, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the meaning below:
 - a. 'Activation test' means a test whereby the reserve connecting TSO sends an activation signal to verify that the RPU or RPG correctly responds to the signal and meets the

applicable product requirements, or an equivalent and verifiable process demonstrating that the RPU or RPG correctly responds to a predefined control signal in accordance with those requirements.

- b. 'Ex-post verification' means the evaluation by the reserve connecting TSO of the ability of a RPU or RPG to provide the relevant service based on the monitoring activities according to the Article 158(5) of the SO Regulation.
 - c. 'Re-prequalification' means the reassessment of qualification of RPUs and RPGs as defined in Article 159(6) of the SO Regulation.
 - d. 'Baseline' means a counterfactual reference about the electrical quantities that would have been withdrawn or injected if there had been no activation of any balancing services.
 - e. 'Baselining method' means the formula for the calculation of a specific baseline or the set of data constituting the specific baseline.
 - f. 'Controllable unit' or 'CU' means a single power-generating module or demand unit, when these units or an ensemble of these units are located behind the same (metering) point and these units are commonly controlled.
 - g. 'Product requirements' mean the technical and data exchange requirements set by the reserve connecting TSO for the delivery of a balancing service.
 - h. 'Switching an RPU' means reallocating this RPU from one BSP to a different BSP without any modification of its technical capabilities to the latter BSP while retaining its prequalification status.
3. In this Annex, unless the context requires otherwise:
- a. the singular indicates the plural and vice versa;
 - b. the table of contents and headings are inserted for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of the Annex; and
 - c. any reference to legislation, regulations, directive, order, instrument, code or any other enactment shall include any modification, extension or re-enactment of it then in force.

Article 3

English publication of terms and conditions

1. Each reserve connecting TSO shall, in addition to the version(s) as approved by the relevant national regulatory authority, publish a non-legally binding English version of the national terms and conditions for BSPs established pursuant to Article 18(1)(a) of the EB Regulation. The English version shall contain the complete national terms and conditions for BSPs, but not-necessarily encompassing the links to other documents included in the translated version. The reserve connecting TSO shall publish the version in English via the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform, via the TSO's website and, if applicable, a joint-TSO website. Each relevant TSO shall keep the English version up-to-date.

Article 4

Permission of English communication between TSOs and BSPs

1. Each reserve connecting TSO shall allow written and verbal working-level communication in English between BSPs and TSOs. This requirement shall not apply to legally binding documents.
2. Communication with TSO's control room operators shall be in a national language, if not specified otherwise.

Title 2

Harmonisation of FRR prequalification

Article 5

Pre-conditions and applicability of the prequalification processes for reserve providing units and reserve providing groups

1. The prequalification process, for RPU and RPGs of the applicant BSP, pursuant to Article 159 of the SO Regulation, for a standard product for aFRR balancing energy, according to Article 25(1) of the EB Regulation, shall follow the Harmonised FRR Prequalification Process consisting of a prequalification with activation test as referred to in Article 6 or a prequalification with ex-post verification as referred to in Article 7. The prequalification process for RPU and RPGs connected to a DSO network shall meet the provisions of Article 182 of SO Regulation.
2. The RPU and RPGs of the applicant BSP participating in the integrated scheduling process shall be subject to prequalification with activation test in accordance with Article 6.
3. The Harmonised FRR Prequalification Process shall start with an application submission. The applicant BSP shall submit the following information to the provision of the balancing service by the respective RPU or RPGs in their application submission to the reserve connecting TSOs:
 - a. The Controllable Unit (CU) information shall include the identifier of the CU, the technology type, and the control band positive/ negative and information connection point and DSO name if CU is connected to DSO grid.
 - b. The confirmation by applicant BSP of compliance of RPU or RPG with the minimum technical requirements as stipulated in Article 158 of SO Regulation and in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
 - c. Where relevant, the confirmation by applicant BSP that the connecting DSO has been informed of the intent of the BSP to provide balancing services, if applicable.
 - d. The technical concept including baselining method(s), and State of Charge (SoC) management in case of RPU and RPGs assessed as limited energy reservoirs (LERs) or energy storage according to national terms and conditions for BSPs.
 - e. Where relevant, the standards for communication between the respective RPU and RPGs and TSO and between BSP and TSO.

The applicant BSP shall inform the reserve connecting TSO, without undue delay, of any change resulting in the information referred to in points (a) to (e) no longer being accurate or valid.

The reserve connecting TSO may further request the applicant BSP any additional information according to national terms and conditions for BSPs.

4. Within eight (8) weeks from receipt of the application, the reserve connecting TSO shall confirm whether the application, submitted in accordance with Article 5(3), is complete, pursuant to Article 159(3) of the SO Regulation. As part of the confirmation, the reserve connecting TSO shall assess the technical concept.
5. If the information provided under Articles 5(3) is deemed unsuitable for the requirements of the reserve connecting TSO, or is rejected by the reserve connecting TSO due to errors or missing information, the BSP shall be required to submit additional or corrected information to supplement the application. Upon notification by the reserve connecting TSO,

the BSP shall provide the additional or corrected information within four (4) weeks from the receipt of the request in accordance with Article 159(3) of the SO Regulation. The reserve connecting TSO shall assess the updated application within ten (10) working days from receipt thereof. The reserve connecting TSO shall consider the application as withdrawn if the BSP fails to submit all of the requested information within the provided deadline.

6. When the reserve connecting TSO confirms the completion of the application according to Article 5(4), the reserve connecting TSOs shall carry out the prequalification of the RPU or RPG in accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs. Those terms and conditions shall provide for one or more of the following prequalification approaches and shall specify the circumstances under which each applicable approach is used:
 - a. an activation test as defined in Article 6;
 - b. an ex-post verification as defined in Article 7; or
 - c. the application of Article 5(7).
7. When the reserve connecting TSO confirms the completion of the application according to Article 5(4), and provided sufficient controls and incentives are in place in the national terms and conditions for BSPs to ensure the reliability of the submitted bids, a reserve connecting TSO may approve the prequalification of the RPU or RPG without any activation test or ex post verification, as defined in Article 6 and Article 7, respectively.
8. The relevant national regulatory authority may grant a derogation from the prequalification timeline for the reserve connecting TSO to assess the updated application referred to in Article 5(5), in order to account for the operational specificities of a TSO.

Article 6

Requirements and process for prequalification with activation test for reserve providing units and reserve providing groups

1. Where the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs provide for the prequalification of the RPU or RPG through an activation test, the reserve connecting TSO, in coordination with the applicant BSP, shall evaluate the technical characteristics of the application in comparison with the corresponding FRR requirements of Articles 158 and 159 of the SO Regulation and any additional requirements defined in national terms and condition for BSPs. The reserve connecting TSO shall then decide whether the RPUs or RPGs under prequalification meet the criteria for prequalification as established under Articles 158 and 159 of the SO Regulation. During the technical evaluation, the reserve connecting TSO shall request that the applicant BSP demonstrates by an activation test the ability of the RPU or RPG to provide the relevant balancing service. A communication test shall be carried out, within the technical evaluation timeline, according to Article 158(1)(e) of the SO Regulation, and may be included in the activation test.
2. In the event of a positive result of the technical evaluation pursuant to Article 6(1), the reserve connecting TSO shall notify its decision to the applicant BSP, within three (3) months after the reserve connecting TSO confirms that the application is complete, according to Article 5(4), the reserve connecting TSO shall evaluate the information provided and decide whether the potential RPU or RPG meet the criteria for a FRR prequalification, in accordance with Article 159(4) of the SO Regulation.
3. In the event of a negative result of the technical evaluation pursuant Article 6(1), the re-

serve connecting TSO may request the applicant BSP to provide supplementary information or repeat the activation test. The applicant BSP shall submit the requested supplementary information or perform the repeated activation test requested. The reserve connecting TSO shall notify the applicant BSP of its decision on the approval or rejection of the prequalification. The total duration of the evaluation of the technical characteristics of the application shall not exceed three (3) months from the date of the confirmation of the completion of the application according to Article 5(4). After this period, the FRR prequalification request shall be considered withdrawn by the BSP in accordance with Article 11(2).

4. When a potential RPU or RPG exclusively consists of small controllable units, controllable units that are identical to controllable units being part of other RPUs or RPGs previously prequalified by the same BSP for the relevant balancing product, or a combination of both, the reserve connecting TSO shall:
 - a. simplify the prequalification of the RPU or RPG through an activation test, as defined in Article 6; and
 - b. perform the activation test pursuant to paragraph 1, on all of the RPU/RPG or on a subset of RPU/RPG, further specified in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
 - c. establish the definition of ‘small controllable units’ and ‘small RPUs’ in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.

Article 7

Requirements and process for prequalification with ex-post verification for reserve providing units and reserve providing groups

1. A reserve connecting TSO shall allow for ex-post verification for RPUs or RPGs during the first time prequalification process mentioned in Article 5(1) only for participation in the balancing energy market if provided by the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
2. Where the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs provide for the prequalification of the RPU or RPG through an ex-post verification, the reserve connecting TSO shall grant the temporary prequalification to the potential RPU or RPG. This temporary prequalification status allows the preliminary provision of the corresponding FRR service by participating in the corresponding balancing energy market with a temporary prequalification status. The temporary prequalification status will remain valid until the reserve connecting TSO verifies whether the potential RPU or RPG proves full compliance with the verification criteria defined in Article 7(4). A communication test may be included within the timeline as defined in Article 7(5) and according to Article 158(1)(e) of the SO Regulation.
3. The reserve connecting TSO will enable the RPU or RPG to participate in the corresponding market. The reserve connecting TSO may limit the volume of the RPU or RPG with temporary prequalification status participating in the market according to applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs.
4. The national terms and conditions for BSPs shall define the verification criteria and any additional requirements needed for the ex-post verification process.
5. In the event of a positive result of an ex-post verification conducted under the temporary prequalification pursuant to Article 7(2), the reserve connecting TSO shall notify its decision for approval of the prequalification to the applicant BSP within three (3) months in accordance with Article 159(4) of the SO Regulation, after the reserve connecting TSO confirms the completion of the application according to Article 5(4).

6. In the event of a negative result of an ex-post verification where the applicant BSP is unable to meet the verification criteria as defined in Article 7(4), the reserve connecting TSO shall request the applicant BSP to provide supplementary information or perform the activation test. The applicant BSP shall submit the requested supplementary information or perform the requested activation test. The reserve connecting TSO shall notify the applicant BSP of its decision on the approval or rejection of the prequalification, after the applicant BSP has submitted the requested supplementary information or perform the requested activation test. The total duration of the temporary prequalification status shall not exceed three (3) months from the date of the confirmation of the completion of the application according to Article 5(4). After this period, the FRR prequalification request shall be considered withdrawn by the BSP in accordance with Article 11(2).
7. The reserve connecting TSO may also request additional data from the BSP about the RPU or RPG, in case the reserve connecting TSO's monitoring is based on aggregated RPG data.

Article 8

Switching of reserve providing units between balancing service providers

1. To switch an RPU to a different BSP, such a BSP shall notify the switching request to the reserve connecting TSO upon consent of the relevant system user(s).
2. After receiving the switching request, the reserve connecting TSO shall be entitled to perform a communication test and assess the RPU as referred to in Article 5(3), in accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs. When there is direct communication between the RPU and the reserve connecting TSO, the RPU shall be entitled to switch between different BSPs while retaining their prequalification status, if the communication infrastructure between the BSP and the corresponding RPU of both the previous BSP and the new BSP is compatible.
3. The switching of an RPU to a different BSP shall be carried out within fifteen (15) working days since the switching request pursuant to paragraph 1.
4. A reserve connecting TSO may further define in the national terms and conditions for BSPs the process and conditions for switching RPUs from one BSP to another while retaining their prequalification status. The reserve connecting TSO may propose a shorter timeline as referred to in paragraph 3 for approval by the competent national regulatory authority in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
5. If allowed in the national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connection TSO may consider switching an RPU to a different BSP as a re-prequalification of the concerning RPU where Articles 9 and 10 would become applicable instead of Article 8.

Article 9

Re-prequalification notification and process

1. The BSP shall inform the reserve connecting TSO no later than four (4) weeks before the planned implementation date of any changes pursuant to Article 10(1) to their RPU(s) or RPG(s) via the reserve connecting TSO communication interface.
2. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, within fifteen (15) working days after receiving the notification pursuant to paragraph 1, the reserve connecting TSO shall perform a communication test where such a test is required following the notified change and assess the affected parts of the concerning RPU or RPG as referred to in Article

- 5(3), and shall notify the BSP whether a re-prequalification pursuant to Article 10(1) is required. If a re-prequalification is required, the reserve connecting TSO shall formally notify the BSP whether the process pursuant to Article 6 or Article 7 applies, specifying the scope and boundaries of the reassessment, as specified in paragraph 4.
3. If a re-prequalification is required pursuant to paragraph 2, the BSP shall be entitled to continue providing the relevant balancing service with the unaffected part of the concerning RPU or RPG if the minimum requirements according to Article 158 of the SO Regulation are still met.
 4. If a re-prequalification is required pursuant to paragraph 2, the reserve connecting TSO shall:
 - a. adopt the re-prequalification process to assess the type of changes to the RPU or RPG that triggered the conditions set out in Article 10(1); and
 - b. allow for a re-prequalification process with ex-post verification pursuant to Article 7 or allow for the process pursuant to Article 5(7) when an RPG consists of identical CUs or small or identical RPUs.
 5. The reserve connecting TSOs may define limits to the amount of RPUs being added to the existing RPG in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
 6. The reserve connecting TSO may propose for a shorter timeline as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 for approval by the competent national regulatory authority in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.

Article 10

Conditions for re-prequalification

1. If allowed in the national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO may request a re-prequalification in any of the following cases:
 - a. The prequalified or verified capacity of the RPU or RPG changes by more than ten percent (10%) or three (3) megawatts (MW), whichever is lower, and at least 0.5 MW, compared to the prequalified capacity confirmed in the most recent prequalification;
 - b. The BSP replaces or modifies the ICT system controlling the RPU or RPG in a way that may materially affect the technical performance, reliability, or efficiency of the service;
 - c. The last prequalification occurred more than five (5) years ago;
 - d. The RPU or RPG has not delivered the service in line with the service requirements of Article 158 of the SO Regulation to its reserve connecting TSO within the last twelve (12) months.
2. The reserve connecting TSO shall propose what counts as a significant modification of the ICT system according to paragraph 1(b) for approval by the competent national regulatory authority in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.
3. If the reserve connecting TSO does not have information on the service provision at RPU or RPG level, it shall be entitled to request data from the BSP with the aim of assessing compliance with the requirements at RPU or RPG level.
4. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO may request a re-prequalification of a RPU or RPG where the respective RPU or RPG no longer complies with the technical service requirements under Article 158 of the SO Regulation and/or defined in the national terms and conditions for BSPs or causes a detrimental impact on system operation. The relevant re-prequalification process shall be limited to the TSOs' detected issue of the respective RPU or RPG. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO may further do an activation test to a RPU or RPG in order to maintain system security and ensure service reliability ahead of a request for re-prequalification.

Article 11

Termination of prequalification status or prequalification and re-prequalification process

1. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, if the prequalification process for a specific RPU or RPG pursuant to Article 10 fails, the reserve connecting TSO may contact the BSP requiring improvements. If the BSP does not show improvement to the standards of the service requirements according to Article 158 of the SO Regulation or/and in line with the national terms and conditions for BSPs within three (3) months or five (5) representative activations, the reserve connecting TSO may, in accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, terminate the prequalification status of this RPU or RPG.
2. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO shall consider any prequalification or re-prequalification process as withdrawn by the BSP if the BSP does not finalise the prequalification or re-prequalification process pursuant to the timelines set out in Articles 6 and 7.
3. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO may terminate the prequalification status of a RPU or RPG if the BSP did not deliver the corresponding service on RPU or RPG level to its reserve connecting TSO, in line with the service requirements of Article 158 of the SO Regulation and defined in the national terms and conditions for BSPs.

Title 3

IT Harmonisation

Article 12

Data exchange standards

1. By July 2027, ENTSO-E shall define and publish a list of European data exchange standards based on ETSI-CEN-CENELEC set of standards, with one standard defined per relevant data exchange used in the interactions between TSOs and BSPs with regard to standard balancing products excluding operational real-time data exchange. Such standards shall focus on market access, marked-based procurement, and settlement, and shall take into account specificities of the central dispatch model.
2. By twenty four (24) months after the publication of the list referred to in Article 12(1) of this Annex, each reserve connecting TSO shall implement and use of the European data exchange standards. Data exchange standards already implemented at the national level may continue to be applied, and existing, non-standardised data exchange interfaces may continue to be used.

Title 4

Final provisions

Article 13

Language

The reference language for this Annex shall be English. For the avoidance of doubt, where TSOs need to translate this Annex into their national language(s), in the event of inconsistencies between the English version published by TSOs in accordance with Article 7 of the EB Regulation and any version in another language, the relevant TSOs shall, in accordance with national legislation, provide the relevant national regulatory authorities with an updated translation of the Annex.

Article 14

Implementation timeline

Each TSO shall submit a proposal including the relevant amendments to the national terms and conditions for BSPs in accordance with Article 18(5) of the EB Regulation and in line with the requirements set out in this Annex, for approval by the competent national regulatory authority within six (6) months after approval by the Agency. The TSOs shall implement those amendments no later than twenty four (24) months after approval by the competent national regulatory authority.