

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 Ia

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 ~~1220~~ – 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 ~~36~~ twenty four (24) months ~~and no earlier than six months following the date of the preceding ACER decision on the common harmonisation proposal~~, 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 Article 20(2) point (b) of this aFRRIF above, ~~if any~~, 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 Article 20(2) point (a) of this aFRRIF above;
- d) all TSOs shall evaluate the public consultation results and develop a common harmonisation proposal for the identified issues, ~~if any~~, 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 ~~as an Annex~~ 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) ~~each relevant TSO shall~~ In order to implement the provisions on the harmonisation of ~~t~~Terms and ~~c~~Conditions for ~~Balancing Service Providers~~ BSPs according to Article 18(5) of the EB Regulation, ~~as set out in Annex I~~ each relevant TSO shall by proposing an the relevant amendments of the terms and conditions for BSPs to its relevant national regulatory authority ~~NRA where necessary no later than one (1) year after the relevant ACER decision.~~ »

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 ~~and as well as~~ Articles [5\(2\)\(b\) of](#) Regulation (EU) 2019/942 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

Article 5

Language

~~1.~~ The reference language for this amendment to the aFRRIF shall be English.

~~2.~~ 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, ~~if necessary~~ by providing a revised translation of this amendment to the aFRRIF to their relevant national regulatory authorities.

Annex 1

**~~Annex 1 : All TSOs Common harmonisation
proposal~~**

~~18 December 2025~~

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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 ~~the~~ Article 20 of the IF of the mFRR Platform (MARI) and ~~the~~ 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.
- ~~(9)(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 RPUs 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 Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) for a Common Harmonisation Proposal (CHP) contains a framework for harmonisation of T&Cs related to Frequency Restoration Process (FRR) to be further specified following the process as defined in the Automatic Frequency Restoration~~

Process (aFRR) Implementation Framework (IF) and Manual Frequency Restoration Process (mFRR) IF. Besides general provisions, it specifies six (6) areas for harmonisation:

- ~~b. English Publication of T&Cs;~~
- ~~c. Permission of English communication between TSOs and Balancing Service Providers (BSPs);~~
- ~~d. Harmonisation of FRR Prequalification Process;~~
- ~~e. Switching of reserve providing units (RPU) between BSPs;~~
- ~~f. Re-Prequalification; and~~
- ~~g. Data exchange standards.~~

1. The provisions of this ~~CHP 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.
- ~~3. TSOs may delegate all or part of any tasks under this IF to a third party. The reserve connecting TSO shall remain responsible for ensuring compliance with the obligations in this CHP. Such assignment shall be limited to tasks and obligations executed at national level. The limitations to the assignment should not lead to unnecessary changes to the existing national arrangements.~~

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 ~~ensure verify~~ that the RPU or RPG ~~correctly responds to the signal is capable of being activated~~ 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, ~~if at least one of the conditions of Article 10 (1) is met.~~
 - 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 ~~and/or demand unit or an energy storage module~~, when these units or an ensemble of these units are located behind the same (metering) point and these units are commonly controlled.
~~"RPU" means a reserve providing unit as defined in Article 3(2)(10) of SO Regulation.~~
~~"RPG" means a reserve providing group as defined in Article 3(2)(11) of SO Regulation.~~
- g. 'Product requirements' mean the technical and data exchange requirements set by the reserve connecting TSO for the delivery of a balancing service.
- g.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~~~~CHP~~, 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~~~~CHP~~; 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 ~~NRA~~ national regulatory authority, publish a non-legally binding English version of ~~the national terms and conditions T&Cs~~ for BSPs established pursuant to Article 18(1)(a) of the EB Regulation. The English version shall ~~be a full~~ contain the complete national terms and conditions ~~version of the T&Cs 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 ~~Harmonised FRR Prequalification Process~~

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 ~~for RPU and RPGs 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 ~~take into account~~ 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 be defined by the following mandatory steps:~~ A application submission: ~~Submission of an FRR prequalification application by the aspirant BSP to the reserve connecting TSO, providing an overview of the information relevant to the provision of the balancing service by the respective RPU and RPGs. The application shall contain the information to be specified by the reserve connecting TSO in accordance with Article 7.~~ 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 the Article 158 of SO Regulation and in the national T&C 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.
 - ~~a.d.~~ The technical concept shall include 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 T&Cs terms and conditions for BSPs.
 - e. Where relevant, the standards for communication between the respective RPU RPGs and TSO and between BSP and TSO ~~general communication requirements shall include a description of BSP and TSO communication.~~

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, ~~Confirmation of 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 on~~confirm whether the application submitted in accordance with Article 5(2)(a) is complete within four (4) weeks of its submission. In exceptional cases, the reserve connecting TSO may extend the confirmation process up a maximum of eight (8) weeks in accordance with Article 159 of the SO Regulation and notify the extension to the aspirant BSP.~~

- ~~1-5.~~ If the information provided under ~~any of the steps referred to in Articles 5(23)(c)~~ 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 TSOs, 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 ~~four (4) weeks~~ ten (10) working days from receipt thereof~~the updated application~~. 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).
- ~~2.~~
- ~~3-7.~~ When the reserve connecting TSO confirms the completion of the application according to Article 5(4), and P~~provided sufficient controls and penalties-incentives~~ are in place in the national terms and conditions for BSPs to incentivise the BSP to ensure the reliability of the submitted bids, a reserve connecting TSO may foresee in the national T&C for BSP to approve the prequalification of the RPU or RPG without any activation test or ex post verification, as defined in Article 5(2)(e) 6 and Article 7, respectively.
- ~~4-8.~~ The relevant national regulatory authority ~~National Regulatory Authority (NRA)~~ 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 Ex-Post Verification

1. ~~Technical evaluation: Within 3 months after the reserve connecting TSO confirms the completion of the application according to Article 5(2)(b),~~ 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 aspirant 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 RPU or RPGs under prequalification meets the criteria for prequalification as established under Articles 1598 and 159 of the SO Regulation. During the technical evaluation, ~~without prejudice to Article 5 (3),~~ the reserve connecting TSO shall request that the applicant BSP demonstrates by an activation test ~~or an ex-post verification~~ 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.

~~4.2.~~ 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, ~~without undue delay 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. Upon notification by the reserve connecting TSO of a negative result of the technical evaluation, the BSP can be requested to repeat the activation tests or provide supplementary information within the timeline established in Article 5 (4).~~

~~2.~~ Approval of Prequalification: ~~The reserve connecting TSO shall approve the prequalification of the RPU or RPG following the successful completion of the proceedings of Article 5(2)(c), respecting the timeline established under Article 5(4).~~

~~3.~~ If the information provided under any of the steps referred to in Article 5(2) 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 TSOs, the BSP shall provide the additional or corrected information within four (4) weeks in accordance with Article 159(3) of the SO Regulation. The reserve connecting TSO shall assess within four (4) weeks the updated application. The connecting TSO shall consider the application as withdrawn if the BSP fails to submit all of the requested information within the provided deadline.

~~4.3.~~ In the event of a negative result of the technical evaluation pursuant Article 5(2)(c), 6(1), the reserve connecting TSO ~~may grant an extension may request to~~ 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 ~~within four (4) weeks.~~ The reserve connecting TSO shall ~~assess the supplementary information or/and the requested activation test~~ notify the applicant BSP of its decision on the approval or rejection of the prequalification within four (4) weeks following its receipt. The total duration of the ~~extension evaluation of the technical characteristics of the application~~ shall not exceed ~~nine-three (93)~~ three (3) months from the date of the confirmation of the completion of the application according to Article 5(4). ~~from the date of submission of the FRR prequalification application pursuant to Article 5(2)(a).~~ After this period, the FRR prequalification request shall be considered withdrawn by the BSP in accordance with Article 11 ~~(2)(2)(a).~~

~~5.4.~~ 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:

6.a. simplify the prequalification of the RPU or RPG through an activation test, as defined in Article 6; and

~~a)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.

~~7-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.~~ Following the process defined in Article 5(2)(a) and Article 5(2)(b), the reserve connecting TSO may apply ex post verification as an alternative to the activation test according to Article 5(2)(c). Prequalification with an activation test shall be considered the standard process for prequalification of an RPU or RPG.

~~2.1.~~ A reserve connecting TSO ~~may~~ shall allow for ex-post verification for RPUs or RPGs during the first time prequalification process mentioned in Article 5(~~21~~)(~~b~~), only for participation in the balancing energy market –if provided by the national ~~T&C~~ terms and conditions for BSPs.

~~8.~~ The reserve connecting TSO may allow for ex post verification for RPU or RPGs in one or more cases, for the balancing energy and capacity markets:

~~— Switching between BSPs according to Article 8(1); or —~~

~~— Changing the RPU or RPG in accordance to Article 10(1)(a); or —~~

~~— Re prequalifying at the end of the validity period in accordance to Article 10(1)(d); or —~~

~~— Prequalifying an identical RPU previously prequalified; or —~~

~~— Prequalifying a RPU with the same technology previously prequalified; or —~~

~~14.2.~~ 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. During ex post verification, the RPU or RPG will have a temporary prequalification status. 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 be given 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. within the timelines of Article 6(5)(c) after the notification from the reserve connecting TSO of the start of the ex post verification process as per Article 5(2)(c)

~~14.~~ The reserve connecting TSO will conduct the ex post verification of the RPU or RPG according to the below steps:

~~b.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 ~~the reserve connecting TSO applicable~~ national ~~T&C~~ terms and conditions for BSPs.

~~— The reserve connecting TSO shall conduct its monitoring activities of the RPU or RPG according to the Article 158(5) of the SO Regulation after the temporary~~

- ~~prequalification status is provided.~~
- ~~— If the ex post verification is not finalised with a positive result within a maximum of three (3) months from the moment the temporary prequalification is issued by the reserve connecting TSO, an activation test shall be mandatory.~~
- 17.4. ~~The reserve connecting TSO's T&Cs for BSPs~~ The national terms and conditions for BSPs shall further define the verification criteria and any additional requirements needed for the ex-post verification process.:
- ~~— the verification criteria, including minimum timeframes according to the minimum requirements of the standard product;~~
 - ~~— a minimum number of activations needed for ex post verification;~~
 - ~~— minimum requirements regarding activation quality; 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. ~~—~~
- 8.7. 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.
1. ~~The National Regulatory Authority (NRA) may grant a derogation from ex post verification timeline of Article 6 (5) in order to account for the operational specificities of a TSO.~~

Article 7

Application Submission requirements

- ~~1. The BSP shall submit the following information to the provision of the balancing service by the respective RPUs or RPGs in their application submission to the reserve connecting TSOs:~~
- ~~f. 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.~~
- ~~g. The confirmation by BSP of compliance of RPU or RPG with the minimum technical requirements as stipulated in the Article 158 of SO Regulation and in the national T&C for BSPs.~~

- ~~h. The confirmation by BSP that the connecting DSO has been informed of the intent of the BSP to provide balancing services, if applicable.~~
- ~~i. The technical concept shall include 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 T&Cs.~~
- ~~1. The general communication requirements shall include a description of BSP and TSO communication.~~ The reserve connecting TSO may further request, by non-discriminatory treatment of the BSP, the below information to be submitted via the reserve connecting TSO respective means of submission:
 - ~~k. Fundamental BSP information that may describe the name of the BSP, the address of the company, the key contact person information, the operational contact and the settlement contact.~~
 - ~~l. The CU information details may further include the capacity, location of the CU, RPU/RPG owner and/or CU authorisation proof of legal title, activation dynamics, the measurement accuracy, power output, allocation point information, measurement chart, test reports or certificate, BSP certificate if it already exists, among other requirements based on each TSO's T&Cs.~~
 - ~~m. The technical requirements may further include the delivery, market type participation, redundancy requirements, combined activation of different balancing services, primary commercial purpose, handling of possible compensation and rebound effects, energy efficiency during negative balancing provision, among other requirements based on each TSO's national T&Cs for BSPs.~~
 - ~~n. The general communication requirements may further include a description of exchange and processing of measurement data, data granularity, and archive requirements. Additional data items that are not currently foreseen, where such data is deemed necessary for technical evaluation or system security requirements.~~
- ~~2. The reserve connecting TSOs shall check whether these criteria are met according to Article 5(2)(c).~~

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). After obtaining prequalification as defined in Article 5, RPUs may be switched between different BSPs under the same TSO while retaining their prequalification status, provided that the switching complies with the harmonised conditions set out below:~~
 - ~~b. The communication infrastructure between BSP and RPUs of both the previous BSP and the new BSP shall be compatible;~~
 - ~~c. The new BSP shall have a valid qualification status as defined by Article 16 of the EB Regulation;~~
 - ~~d. The new BSP shall have demonstrated the ability to control an RPU of the same technology for the provision of the same service; and~~
 - ~~e. 1. The RPU switching between BSPs has a prequalified capacity less than the threshold defined in the reserve connecting TSO national T&Cs for BSPs.~~
- ~~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.

- ~~1. In case of fulfilling all above mentioned conditions, the reserve connecting TSO may perform an ex post verification of the BSP's newly added RPU, as defined in Article 6.~~
- ~~2. In case of non fulfilment of at least one condition of Article 8(1), the new BSP and the reserve connecting TSO, pursuant to Article 158(1)(e) of the SO Regulation, shall decide whether a prequalification process with activation test or ex post verification is necessary. The timeframe shall be in accordance with Article 5(2) (c) and Article 6(5)(c).~~
- ~~3. The provisions of Article 7 shall remain valid for the process of switching.~~
- ~~4. In case the communication infrastructure between BSP and TSO has been modified to include additional data exchange, a communication test shall be conducted specifically for the newly implemented components either prior to applying the ex post verification or as part of the activation test.~~
- ~~5.3. The switching of an RPU to a different BSPs, as mentioned in Article 8 (1), shall be carried out within fifteensix (156) weeksworking days since the switching request pursuant to paragraph 1.~~
- ~~6. When an RPU switches from one BSP to another, the reserve connecting TSO shall determine the validity period of the prequalification status in a way that maximizes operational efficiency. This may involve retaining the validity period of the previous or adapting it to the validity period of the new RPU's prequalification status, aligned to the provisions of Article 159(6)(a) of the SO Regulation.~~
- ~~7. A reserve connecting TSO may further define in the national T&Cs terms and conditions for BSPs the process and conditions for switching RPUs from one BSP to another while retaining their prequalification status.~~
- ~~8.4. The National Regulatory Authority (NRA) may grant a derogation from the switching timeline of Article 8 (4), in order to account for the operational specificities of a TSO. 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.~~
- ~~9.5. 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. Subject to the applicable national T&Cs for BSPs, t~~The BSP shall inform the reserve connecting TSO no later than ~~six (6) 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. Subject to the applicable national T&Cs for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO shall w~~ In accordance with the national terms and conditions for BSPs the applicable national terms for BSPs and conditions, w~~Within four (4) weeks of fifteen (15) working days after receiving the notification pursuant to Article 9(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 shallassess notify the BSP whether a re-prequalification on RPU or RPG level 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 of this requirement, as established under Article 5(2)(c), specifying the scope and boundaries of the reassessment, as specified in Article 9(4). Alternatively, the TSO can provide an (API) interface that allows the BSP to query the duration of a prequalification independently. The reserve connecting TSO may limit the scope of the reassessment to evaluate specifically the changes to the RPU or RPG based on the conditions being triggered under Article 10(1). The reserve connecting TSO shall decide if an activation test or an ex-post verification shall be needed according to Article 5(2)(c) under the scope of the reassessment.

~~3.~~

~~3.~~ If a re-prequalification is required pursuant to Article 10(1)(a) paragraph 2, the BSP shall be permitted 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 TSO may limit the process of re-prequalification of an RPG when identical RPUs are added to the existing RPG to the steps in Article 5(2)(a) and Article 5(2)(b). The reserve connecting TSOs may define limits to the ~~volume amount~~ of the RPUs being added to the existing RPG in the national ~~T&C~~ terms and conditions for BSPs.

~~4.6.~~ 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, A BSP shall notify according to Article 9(1) the reserve connecting TSO of the implementation of any changes to their RPU or RPG upon which the reserve connecting TSO may request a re-prequalification pursuant to Article 9, if at least one of the following conditions are met 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; ~~The reserve connecting TSO shall define what counts as a significant modification in the national T&Cs. The BSP shall inform the reserve connecting TSO about any change in its ICT system with potential effect on the reliability and efficiency of its service provision. The reserve connecting TSO shall have the right to require the re-performance of a communication test, in accordance with Article 158(1)(c) of the SO Regulation, when the reliability of the service provision due to a significant change in the ICT system may be compromised, if defined in the national T&Cs for BSPs;~~

~~c. Information pursuant to Article 7(1) and Article 7(2) is no longer valid;~~

c. The last prequalification occurred more than five (5) years ago;

- d. ~~or If~~ the RPU or RPG has not delivered the ~~corresponding~~ 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. ~~If the RPU or RPG has delivered the corresponding service, the RPU or RPG may continue services without undergoing a new activation test or ex-post verification. If the reserve connecting TSO does not have the information of the service provision on RPU or RPG level, the reserve connecting TSO can request activation tests or a confirmation according to Article 7(1)(b) from the BSP as part of the re-prequalification with the aim of assessing compliance with the requirements on RPU and RPG level;~~
- a. ~~Modifies an existing RPU or RPG with CUs that use a different technology compared to the RPUs or RPGs already prequalified.~~
- b. ~~Further conditions may be defined in national T&C as far as duly justified and approved by the competent NRA(s).~~
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.
- 2.4. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, t~~The~~ reserve connecting TSO may request a re-prequalification of a RPU or RPG ~~if 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, or the situation in accordance with Article 11(1)(a) takes place.~~ The relevant re-prequalification process ~~will~~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, t~~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. ~~The reserve connecting TSO may terminate the prequalification status of a RPU or RPG if one of the following conditions takes place:~~
- b. ~~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 or/and in line with the national T&Cs. 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, T~~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 T&Cs 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~~condition for termination shall be deemed fulfilled;~~
- ~~or~~
- e.1. the condition of Article 10(2) is triggered.

- ~~2. In accordance with the applicable national terms and conditions for BSPs, the reserve connecting TSO ~~will~~ shall consider any prequalification or re-prequalification process as withdrawn by the BSP if ~~one of the following conditions takes place:~~~~
- ~~— the BSP does not finalise the prequalification or re-prequalification process pursuant to the timelines set out in Articles ~~65~~ and ~~Article 97~~; or~~
 - ~~2. the FRR qualification process takes longer than the TSO derogation to repeat the activation test according to Article 5(5).~~
- ~~a.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 ~~18 months after the approval of this proposal~~ 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 ~~balancing service providers~~ BSPs with regard to standard balancing products excluding operational real-time data exchange. Such standards shall focus on market access, marked-based procurement, ~~non-real-time activation~~, and settlement, and ~~should~~ 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 ~~the 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. ~~This implementation may be in addition to existing data exchange interfaces.~~

Title 4 Final provisions

Article 13 Language

The reference language for this ~~Annex CHP~~ shall be English. For the avoidance of doubt, where TSOs need to translate this ~~Annex CHP~~ 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 CHP.

Article 14

Implementation timeline

~~1. The TSOs shall publish the aFRR implementation framework without undue delay after a decision has been taken by the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, in accordance with Article 7 of the EB Regulation~~

Each TSO shall implement submit the Articles of the Annex 1 of the aFRR Implementation Framework 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, relevant to their dispatching model, self-dispatching or central dispatching, in accordance with Article 52(4) of the EB Regulation. The TSOs shall implement those amendments no later than sixty-two four (24) months after approval by the Agency competent national regulatory authority.