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**Gas Regional Initiative
GRI Coordination Group**

GRI Progress Report

Spring 2014

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1 Context

The entry into force of the Third energy package and the commitment of the Member States to complete the internal energy market by 2014 set a firm regulatory, institutional and political background to achieve this goal. The date initially planned for this ambitious target is now about to be reached. This requires a reinforced commitment to the goal of integrating the regions into a single market and the actual mobilisation of stakeholders through the Regional Initiatives process.

National regulatory authorities (NRAs) and ACER have given a new impetus to regional and cross-regional work through the Gas Regional Initiative (GRI) since ACER took over its coordination in 2011. In 2013 NRAs revised their Work Plans 2011-2014, reflecting the updated status of regional projects and their planned deliverables and milestones.

In parallel to the work done at regional level, an important step forward was taken last year towards a higher cross-regional integration with the publication on 1 March 2013 of the Roadmap for the early implementation of the Network Code on capacity allocation mechanisms (CAM Roadmap). The CAM Roadmap, a joint effort by ACER and ENTSOG, aims to facilitate the early application of the provisions from the CAM Network Code before it becomes legally binding in November 2015, identifying pilot projects at cross-border interconnection points in EU Member States and supporting their implementation.

2 From Quarterly to Progress reports: rationale and objectives

In 2014, the Agency has decided to shift from the former practice of issuing quarterly reports to progress reports on a biannual basis, to be released in the spring and in the autumn. This stems from a decision to reprioritise internal resources in a more effective way and to increase the efficiency in reporting on progress in GRI developments. This new way of regional reporting is implemented both in ERI and GRI and goes in the direction of a proposal raised by GRI members in the past. If proved useful, this new practice will be extended beyond 2014.

The online GRI Progress reports will keep on monitoring progress in the implementation of regional activities planned in the regional Work Plans¹, with a focus on the priority areas determined by the Lead NRAs under the guidance of the European Commission and ACER. These reports will also serve to keep track of work on the early implementation of Network Codes, such as in the area of Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (CAM) through the CAM Roadmap².

The GRI Progress reports will remain focused on the main developments and achievements made throughout the regions during the period at hand and will therefore not include all information on the background, previous developments and main features of the regional projects. For further information about these features, please consult the regional Work Plans 2011-2014¹ and previous GRI Quarterly reports³ on the ACER website.

¹ http://www.acer.europa.eu/Gas/Regional_%20Intiatives/Gas_regional_work_plan/Pages/Gas-Regional-Work-Plans.aspx

² http://www.acer.europa.eu/Gas/Regional_%20Intiatives/CAM_roadmap/Pages/default.aspx

³ http://www.acer.europa.eu/Gas/Regional_%20Intiatives/Pages/Reports.aspx

3 Relevant developments in this period

Leadership of the NW region

In December 2013, the Authority for Competition and Markets (Dutch NRA) decided to step down from the position of Lead NRA from the NW region, after performing this role for more than seven years. In subsequent months, the Agency approached the NRAs in that region in order to identify NRAs potentially volunteering to take up such role. A final call for candidates was launched on 28 February 2014, giving a one-month time period to receive expressions of interest from NRAs in the region. The deadline was reached without any NRA volunteering to become NW Lead NRA.

As a consequence, the NW region has been formally declared inactive as of 1 April 2014 and no further planning or reporting on this region will be carried out from then on. However, the region is not officially dissolved and could be reactivated to work on certain topics as the case may be.

Reassessment of the geographical composition of the SSE region

In ACER's Regional Initiatives Status Review Report 2013⁴, the Agency recommended opening up a debate in the SSE region about its optimal geographical configuration and the possibility to split it into several regions, involving all relevant parties and authorities and including a consultation of stakeholders.

Following this recommendation, the SSE co-Lead NRAs started the process of reassessing the current geographical composition of the region with a survey among all NRAs in the region in February-March 2014. The results obtained from this survey were discussed among NRAs at an RCC meeting held on 27 March and are expected to be presented and consulted to stakeholders at the upcoming SG meeting of 27 May in Warsaw.

4 Early implementation of Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (CAM)

4.1 CAM Roadmap

The CAM Roadmap in a nutshell

The CAM Roadmap jointly developed by ACER and ENTSOG aims at facilitating the early implementation of the provisions from the Network Code on capacity allocation mechanisms (CAM NC), before it becomes legally binding in November 2015, by identifying pilot projects at cross-border interconnection points in EU Member States and monitoring their implementation. These projects allow testing the NC provisions, exchanging experiences between the parties involved and drawing lessons from the process, and paving the way towards the timely implementation of the CAM NC across Europe as a step towards the IEM. The early implementation is a voluntary process and relies on the commitment of TSOs and NRAs involved in the pilot projects, as well as on the support of ACER, ENTSOG, the European Commission and stakeholders.

⁴ http://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Publications/Pages/Publication.aspx

The CAM Roadmap was drafted by ACER and ENTSOG with the valuable contribution from TSOs and NRAs over the second half of 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 and was published on 1 March 2013. It was subsequently updated and a new version was published on 11 October 2013 on the ENTSOG⁵ and ACER websites⁶. The CAM Roadmap will be regularly updated on an annual basis in order to reflect progress in the projects and take stock of the experience gained and the lessons learned in the process.

Progress review

ENTSOG and ACER had planned to carry out a 'light' update of the CAM Roadmap during the first quarter of 2014, in order to present it at the 25th Madrid Forum in May 2014. However, due to constraints in internal resources, ENTSOG asked to postpone this update. A full update of the CAM Roadmap (including up-to-date information about the status of the issues identified in 2013, and about the CAM NC implementation status per IP) is expected to be completed for presentation at the 26th Madrid Forum in Q4 2014.

The main developments in CAM pilot projects over this period were as follows:

Pilot projects	Countries involved	Progress achieved during by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
PRISMA platform	AT, BE, DK, DE, FR, GB, IT, NI, NL ⁷	<p>In March 2014, PRISMA organised its first auctions of yearly capacity according to the calendar set out in the CAM NC. Capacities for the coming 15 years were auctioned for cross-border and in-country IPs. All 1,224 auctions but 7 ended after the first bidding round at the regulated tariff. The remaining capacity - not sold at these yearly auctions – will be offered as quarterly capacity in accordance with the NC CAM in June 2014.</p> <p>The main results of the monthly and daily auctions⁸ so far in 2014 have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January: 751 daily and 33 monthly auctions (out of which 72 bundled), 460 GWh/h allocated. - February: 632 daily and 25 monthly auctions (out of which 31 bundled), 333.1 GWh/h allocated. - March: 866 daily and 31 	<p>No issues reported from the development of the auctions in 2014.</p> <p>The platform is offering a secondary capacity functionality as of January 2014 and the first yearly auctions according to the CAM NC calendar have been run successfully.</p> <p>Next envisaged steps are introducing multicurrency trading later in 2014 and launching within-day trading in 2015.</p> <p>According to PRISMA, new TSOs are expected to join the platform in 2014 and 2015 (as shareholders or via pilot projects).</p>

⁵ <http://www.entsog.eu/public/uploads/files/publications/CAM%20Network%20Code/2013/CAP0395-13%20CAM%20Roadmap%20Update%20October%202013%20FINAL.pdf>

⁶ http://www.acer.europa.eu/Gas/Regional_%20Intiatives/CAM_roadmap/Pages/default.aspx

⁷ TSOs from Poland, Portugal and Spain are also currently using the platform.

⁸ PRISMA publishes monthly reports with the detailed results of the auctions run at the platform: <https://primary.prisma-capacity.eu/trading/reports.xhtml?conversationContext=1>

		<p>monthly auctions (out of which 116 bundled), 509.3 GWh/h allocated.</p> <p>By spring 2014, around 370 companies with 1100 users were registered in the platform.</p>	
South CAM Roadmap	ES, FR, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South TSOs allocated cross-border capacities for the first time using PRISMA in March 2014. Yearly products were offered at two VIPs: VIP Pirineos (between France and Spain) and VIP Ibérico (between Spain and Portugal). Bundled capacity was allocated at VIP Pirineos from FR to ES for 2014, and at VIP Ibérico from Spain to Portugal, also for 2014. At VIP Ibérico unbundled capacity was also booked on the Portuguese side. - As regards internal capacity in France, yearly products were allocated at the IP between GRTgaz North and South at a premium for 2014 to 2017. 	<p>Quarterly products planned to be auctioned in June 2014, monthly products in September 2014 and day-ahead & within-day products as of November 2015. NRAs have taken the necessary steps to adapt their national regulatory frameworks in order to allow auctioning such products.</p> <p>Conditions to offer interruptible capacity have also been discussed by TSOs and NRAs. TSOs have already agreed on the principles.</p>
Bundled Product at Lasów IP	DE, PL	No significant developments reported during this period	The project is using the PRISMA platform since it started in 2013. Further auctions of yearly, quarterly, monthly and daily bundled products are planned to take place in 2014.
Hungary/Romania bundling project and platform	HU, RO	Auctions did not start yet. Preparatory work – both of operational and regulatory nature – has been undertaken by TSOs and NRAs since 2013, but the first auctions are still to be launched. The website, portal, and IT application of the platform have already been developed.	Auctions suffer from significant delay with respect to the initial date (Sept. 2013). Outstanding regulatory arrangements on the Romanian side seem to be the cause delaying the process.

5 Progress in regional projects – South region

5.1 CMP harmonisation proposal

The project in a nutshell

The goal of the South region on CMP for 2014 is having in place coordinated and harmonised CMPs at all interconnections in the region. The activities planned to reach this goal were the design of a CMP pilot project on the interconnection between France and Spain and the extension of this coordinated CMP mechanism to the cross-border capacity between Spain and Portugal. TSOs in the region would develop a detailed plan (Roadmap) in order to reach a harmonised approach for the implementation of the new CMP guidelines which entered into force on 1 October 2013.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
CMP harmonisation in the South region (Over-subscription and buy-back, capacity surrender, long-term UIOLI)	Completed in France and Spain, on track in Portugal	<p>Harmonised CMP implementation in France and Spain, compatible with CAM NC, has been completed. In 2013 and early 2014, the French and Spanish regulators approved in their respective countries pieces of legislation developed in a coordinated way to implement CMP at their interconnections. ERSE is still analysing the CMP implementation in Portugal, in line with the mechanisms approved in Spain and France.</p> <p>It is to be noted that the Information Memorandum developed by TSOs to sell yearly capacity products at VIP Ibérico already contained principles to apply CMP in a consistent way with what is already established in France and Spain.</p>	Full implementation of applicable CMP provisions in Portugal is expected soon
CMP harmonisation in the South region (including firm short-term UIOLI)	N/A	Not started yet	Implementation of short-term UIOLI (if necessary) aimed for July 2016

5.2 Investment in new Infrastructure

The project in a nutshell

The goal in this area of work is the creation of a permanent framework for cooperation between TSOs in the region, ENTSOG and stakeholders, for the elaboration of the Community-wide and Regional Investment plans, update of the South GRIP and its implementation and identification of the projects of common interest in the region.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Regular update and publication of project status of Open Seasons 2013 and 2015	Regular activity (yearly)	No publication was due over this period	The update and publication of status is expected for Q3 2014
Drafting of the South Regional Investment Plan (GRIP) 2013-2022	Completed	NRAs' issued an opinion on the GRIP by 31 January 2014. The final South GRIP for the period 2013-2022 was published ⁹ on 27 March 2014.	None

5.3 Security of supply

The project in a nutshell

The goal for 2014, defined in the updated Work Plan 2011-2014, is to contribute to the implementation of Regulation 994/2010, providing a forum where relevant authorities of the three countries can present progress on this issue and exchange experiences that can help them to reach this target. It also aims to promote both regional and cross regional cooperation in security of supply matters with an active participation of stakeholders.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Contribution to the implementation of Regulation 994/2010 and exchange of experiences	Permanent activity	No significant recent developments	None

⁹ <http://www.entsog.eu/publications/gas-regional-investment-plan-grips#SOUTH>

5.4 Balancing

The project in a nutshell

This project aims to allow the region to be in full compliance with the provisions of the Balancing Network Code, by contributing to the finalisation of the code with the experience gained at national and regional level, investigating the use of gas markets in the region for the procurement of gas for balancing purposes, analysing the current configuration of the balancing zones in the region and their possible integration and, as a result, launching a pilot project for a common balancing platform, integrating balancing systems in the region.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Contributing to FG-NC, with regional experience and lessons learned	Permanent activity	Identification of aspects to be harmonised simultaneously with CAM NC early implementation: - Gas day - Nomination / renomination schedule	These issues are not yet crucial, but will become more relevant when day-ahead and intra-day capacity will be auctioned
Investigation of the use of the gas markets in the region for balancing purposes	Expected	Not started by the end of this period	The feasibility and timing of this analysis will depend on the timely and successful development of the gas hub in the Iberian peninsula
Analyse the current configuration of balancing zones and possible merging of areas	Ongoing	A process is ongoing for analysing the integration of market areas in France, on two time horizons: creation of a trading region in the South of France by April 2015 and integration of the three balancing zones by 2018. Another process is ongoing for analysing market integration between and Spain and Portugal.	CRE has submitted to public consultation during this period the proposals for market integration in the South of France as of April 2015 ¹⁰ and for integration of the three balancing zones by 2018 ¹¹ . The results of both public consultations are expected to be announced in Q2 2014
Pilot project for a common balancing platform in the three countries	Expected	Not started by the end of this period	

¹⁰ <http://www.cre.fr/en/documents/public-consultations/creation-of-a-joint-grtgaz-tigf-marketplace-as-of-1-april-2015>

¹¹ <http://www.cre.fr/en/documents/public-consultations/creation-of-a-single-gas-marketplace-in-france-in-2018>

5.5 Tariffs

The project in a nutshell

The objective is the harmonisation of transmission tariff structures, initially at cross-border points between Portugal and Spain, through the realisation of a joint study for comparing the current tariff regimes in both countries, and in particular for gas consumed in one country with entry in the adjacent one, to analyse the existence of “*pancaking*” and to identify other possible obstacles and proposals for improvement.

Each country will be working on developing a national entry-exit system following European guidelines. A common task for launching tariff harmonisation proposals is to be initiated after these national regulatory processes are concluded.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Joint study on tariff regimes in Spain and Portugal	Yes	Completed (in 2012)	None
Proposal for tariff harmonisation in Spain and Portugal	Yes	A “ <i>CNMC Circular</i> ” (legal act) establishing the new methodology for tariffs in Spain is under preparation.	The “ <i>Circular</i> ” was submitted to public consultation in January 2014, until 22 March 2014. The responses received are under analysis. The applicable tariffs in Portugal (in place until July) are reviewed during Q2 2014.
Further studies to evaluate the current tariff structures and propose improvements	Expected	Planned progress at national level in line with the results of the previous study	

5.6 Interoperability

The project in a nutshell

The project seeks to contribute to the development of the NC in this area, building on the regional experience and harmonising interoperability aspects in line with the outcome of the FG and the NC developed on this area.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Contribution with regional experience to the development	Permanent activity	Contribution to FG-NC process through ACER groups	None

of FG-NC			
Analysis of interoperability aspects and procedures that need to be harmonised among the three countries (in line with FG-NC)	Ongoing	Identification of aspects to be harmonised simultaneously with CAM NC early implementation, BAL NC and INT NC: - Gas day - Combustion reference temperature: capacity and nomination - Data exchange - Nomination / renomination procedures at IPs	The harmonisation of the gas day is being discussed at national level in Spain and Portugal. These issues will become more relevant when day-ahead and intra-day capacity will be auctioned
Harmonisation of communication protocols between TSOs, gas day, programming and nomination schedules, quality standards, etc.	Ongoing	Developments in internal TSOs IT systems are in progress	Harmonised data exchange for nomination and renomination schemes will be established by November 2015.

5.7 Developing hub-to-hub trading in the South region

The project in a nutshell

The goal of the project is the promotion and endorsement of organised gas markets (hubs) and the development of hub-to-hub gas trading in the region. Spanish and Portuguese NRAs are analysing possible models for the creation of an organised gas market (hub) in the Iberian Peninsula (MIBGAS).

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Hub development: Models for integration of Spain and Portugal in an Iberian gas hub	Expected	Ongoing analysis of possible models for the Iberian gas hub. Starting analysis of LNG role and flows in the interconnection between the two countries.	A document outlining the advantages and drawbacks of the possible models and the requisites in regulatory harmonisation for their implementation has been drafted by CNMC and ERSE. A public hearing with stakeholders is planned during Q2 2014. An implementation roadmap will be defined following this consultation.
Hub-to-hub gas trading in the region	Expected	Working Group established in Spain with stakeholders' participation to revise regulation in order to foster the development of the Iberian gas hub.	A document is submitted to public consultation in May 2014

6 Progress in regional projects – South South-East region

6.1 Interoperability

The projects in a nutshell

Adoption of common standards

In order to improve system interoperability, all the regional systems within the GRI SSE should adopt, based on EASEE-gas common business practices (CBPs), the same units for measuring gas as well as a harmonized definition of the gas day, also taking into account possibilities for early NC/FG implementation with regard to interoperability and other areas.

Sub-regional integration / Harmonisation of procedures

On the route from the Slovak border to Germany via the Czech Republic, there is no harmonisation or agreement between TSOs regarding units for bookings and allocation, OBAs, ISO norms for measuring / allocating gas or nomination procedures based on a single definition of the gas day, which causes risks and imbalances for shippers. The aim of this project is to harmonise procedures on the route from Velké Kapušany to Germany and back to Slovakia or Austria (Baumgarten).

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
All TSOs adopt standards with special reference to gas-day definition, units and OBAs.	Expected	No significant developments during this period	Early implementation of Interoperability will start once the NC Interoperability is mature enough.
Harmonisation of TSO's procedures decreasing shippers' risk and imbalances in CZ/SK/DE	Expected	No significant developments during this period	No actions are planned until the end of 2014

6.2 Enabling market integration

The projects in a nutshell

Cross-border Regional Balancing Platform

In the framework of this pilot project, CEGH planned to work on establishing a cross-border regional balancing platform to create more liquidity for all market participants by offering balancing possibilities for adjacent TSOs.

Structure of future regional balancing and trading zones in the SSE region & implementation of the Gas Target Model

This analysis is undertaken through two studies: a “macroeconomic” study on possibilities for cross-border market integration in Europe, focussing on an analysis of macroeconomic welfare benefits of market integration evaluating two case regions (AT-SK-CZ and AT-IT);

and a second study on the identification of possible implementation steps of the measures proposed in the Gas Target Model in the GRI SSE region, from an institutional and practical perspective (analysis of the creation of a Trading region in CEE, called CEETR).

Development of a Roadmap towards the creation of a common regional gas market in V4 countries

This project aims to analyse market integration within the Visegrad Region (V4 - Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) leading to the elaboration of a 'Roadmap towards the common regional V4 gas market'. Following the endorsement of the Roadmap by V4 Prime Ministers in June 2013, the implementation phase shall be carried out within the GRI SSE region ensuring consistency with other projects in the region on the same field.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Cross-border Regional Balancing Platform	Closed	The project is considered concluded by the project promoter (CEGH)	The project promoter (CEGH) considers the project closed, given that its platform is already providing trading and system services (including balancing) to Slovak TSO (Eustream), since it became a shareholder of CEGH in September 2012. No further actions or activities are planned.
Structure of future regional balancing and trading zones in the SSE region & implementation of the Gas Target Model (CEETR project)	First phase completed Second phase delayed	No developments during this period	Delay in the launch of phase 2 due to lack of clarity about overlap with other projects in the region and to lack of involvement by some of the project participants.
Roadmap towards the creation of a common regional gas market in V4 countries	Expected	At the Gas Forum meeting held on 17 February 2014, the V4 programme and work schedule was discussed. It was decided to focus on the harmonised implementation of network codes and the creation of conditions which support an increased usage of non-conventional gas supplies. It was also agreed to put special emphasis on licensing regimes and on the harmonisation of interruptible product standards.	Next steps planned are: - Stock-taking document and action plan for NC implementation by June 2014, by V4 TSOs. - Detailed work plan to be presented by HU presidency. Coordination between V4 and CEETR projects needs to be monitored.

Pilot project to analyse licensing regimes in V4 countries	New project	At the SSE RCC meeting of 27 March, it was decided to set up a pilot project to analyse licensing regimes in the V4 group (based on the study already planned under the V4 initiative). The Hungarian NRA was nominated as coordinator of this project.	The first step towards the harmonisation of licensing regimes will consist of a survey among V4 members. Its results shall allow the project team to identify the main obstacles and challenges that the V4 region will have to face in addition to creating a common system for licensing regimes. On the basis of such results it will be decided whether the project is extended to the entire SSE region.
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6.3 Infrastructure

The project in a nutshell

The work developed under this area in the GRI SSE aims, on the one hand, at getting involved in the PCI selection process organised within the new TEN-E Regulation and, on the other hand, at sharing information at regional level regarding the GRIPs developed in the region and submitting input to the TSOs involved in their preparation.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Check investment plans against the background of future market architecture scenarios	CEE GRIP 2014-2023 SC GRIP 2014 - 2023	No developments reported during this period	No further actions are planned under this topic because it was decided to deal with infrastructures issues in other dedicated working groups.
Consultation of the GRIPs	CEE GRIP 2014-2023 SC GRIP 2014 - 2023	Information on the drafting process for the second edition of the CEE GRIP and SC GRIP was presented to SSE stakeholders at the last SG meeting in December 2013.	No further actions are planned under this topic because it was decided to deal with infrastructures issues in other dedicated working groups.

6.4 Security of Supply

The project in a nutshell

Member States and NRAs use the GRI SSE as a forum to exchange experiences on security of supply and in particular on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 994/2010, regarding the risk assessments, preventive action plans and other obligations stemming from it.

Progress review

Project / activity	Meeting the deadline in the WP 2011-14?	Progress achieved by Spring 2014	Pending issues / actions
Exchange best practice and consult SoS preventive action plans within the GRI SSE	Permanent activity	No significant developments during this period	A joint Risk Assessment for the V4 countries is planned to be presented in the framework of the V4 Roadmap project. The initial publication date (June 2014) has been postponed.

7 Progress in regional projects – North-West region

The NW region is currently inactive. For more details, see section 3 of this report.

8 Conclusion and way forward

This first edition of the GRI Progress report, which can be seen as a continuation in a somewhat different form in 2014 of the GRI Quarterly reports previously released until 2013, has been carried out in close cooperation with national regulatory authorities. The Agency thanks them for their collaboration and appreciates their contribution to this report.

Progress is observed in some areas of work throughout the regions and milestones of their regional projects according to the regional Work Plans will be reached until the end of 2014. Planning of future work is expected to be undertaken in the SSE and South regions during the upcoming months. The Agency will offer its guidance for that planning process where relevant, and will also pay special attention to the outcome of the ongoing debate on the configuration of the SSE region.

Next to the projects at regional level, the Roadmap for the early implementation of the CAM NC (CAM Roadmap), a joint effort by ACER and ENTSOG, is expected to be updated again in the next months, taking stock of the main developments and issues raised in the implementation of CAM pilot projects and providing an up-to-date picture of the extension of the CAM NC early implementation per IP and the prospects until full implementation due by 1 November 2015.

In spring 2014, the second Network Code in the field of natural gas was published, on the area of Balancing¹². This is an important landmark that gives full certainty regarding the rules on gas balancing that have to be set up in the gas systems of EU Member States by the date for their application (1 October 2015, with possible extension to 1 October 2016 if the NRA allows so, or subsequent 5 years if interim measures are implemented).

Following the publication of the Balancing NC, the Agency sees a clear opportunity for TSOs and NRAs to undertake work on pilot projects to early implement the provisions in the Network Code, in order to learn from the experience and identify potential issues at an early stage. The Agency will provide support where necessary with a special focus on those areas of cross-border relevance where cooperation between adjacent NRAs is required.

Another Network Code that will soon be entering its final stage of development is the one on Interoperability and Data Exchange. The final Network Code on this topic is expected to be adopted before the end of 2014.

The present ACER online GRI Progress report aims to describe in a streamlined way the progress in GRI projects and activities with a special focus on the achievements reached during the period between January and April 2014. The next GRI Progress report is scheduled to be released in autumn 2014.

¹² Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 of 26 March 2014, establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.091.01.0015.01.ENG



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