

1st Meeting of the Expert Group on the EU-wide flexibility needs assessment

Tuesday, 29 April 2025 | 09.30 – 12.30

Online, MS Teams

DRAF MINUTES FOR REVIEW BY EXPERTS (V1)

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1. OPENING

The first meeting of the new Expert Group on the EU-wide flexibility needs assessment ('the Group') in a virtual format was opened.

ACER introduced the meeting's objective, agenda and ground rules for the meetings. An introduction session followed, when experts briefly presented themselves.

A short poll was conducted as ice break and to assess the level of familiarity of the experts with the topics of the meeting.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

ACER proceed with a presentation on:

- its new mandate under the Electricity Market Design Reform ('EMD') to assess EU-wide flexibility needs;
- the ACER team working on the assessments as well as its collaborators working for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Open Energy Transition (OET);
- the scope and expectations for the Group;
- the underlying methodology of the newly established flexibility needs assessment (FNA) process.

Short polls were conducted to assess whether the information presented was clear and understood. A question and answer (Q&A) session followed, aiming at clarifying experts' doubts.

Q&A SESSION

The discussion focused primarily on the objectives of the EU-wide assessment and the topics within the scope of the Group and how it can contribute.

Experts raised concerns over the FNA methodology proposed by ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity, asking ACER to present it to the Group for discussion. Experts flagged that the methodology and ACER's EU-wide assessment are closely related, with the latter being at risk of biases linked to the FNA methodology. Hence, experts flagged their contribution to the Group might be limited.

ACER acknowledged the points raised, explaining that the development of the FNA methodology sits outside the scope of the Group. Instead, its main focus will be on supporting ACER in the implementation of the methodology through its modelling tool. ACER also shared the relevant contact for experts to get in touch with the relevant team assessing the proposed FNA methodology.

The discussion then moved on other topics such as whether the Group will also focus on flexibility market barriers, the required consistency between the ACER's flexibility assessment, the national flexibility assessments, the European Resources Adequacy Assessment (ERAA).

3. OVERVIEW OF ACER MODEL DESIGN

In the second part of the meeting, ACER presented the high-level design of the modelling tool under development.

The presentation was followed by an open Q&A session, and a more targeted feedback discussion on the proposed design.

Q&A SESSION

The discussion was lively, and several experts took the floor to ask clarification questions on technical aspects of the proposed modelling approach.

Questions verted on three main topics: the modelling of multiple market timeframe, the economic viability assessment, and the consistency between the EU-wide flexibility assessment, the national flexibility assessments, and the ERAA. ACER highlighted that some of topics raised will be discussed in more detail in future meetings of the Group.

FEEDBACK SESSION

ACER asked experts to provide early feedback on the proposed high-level modelling approach, focusing on the main risks or concerns they might have. Once again, the discussion was lively with many interventions from the experts.

The concept of consistency across various assessments was raised again, considering that ACER's assessments will build on the baseline methodology proposed by ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity. Experts noted that ACER will have to explain any difference in the modelling approach followed and its modelling assumptions to ensure transparency and replicability.

An expert stressed that it will be important to take enough time to understand the meaning of the modelling results and to develop the required sensitivities to draw the right conclusions.

Another expert suggested that ACER should clearly identify the underlying objectives of its assessment. In this way, experts can provide targeted support in narrowing down which are the main aspects of ACER's modelling we should focus on.

Experts shared insights on other detailed modelling topics such as the EVA, the representation of different market timeframes, the market behaviour of various technologies.

4. CLOSING SESSION

The ACER team provided experts with a short information surrounding the next steps and the topic of the next meeting of the Group. Specifically, ACER will:

- share the meeting minutes for experts' review;
- share an online form for experts to provide any additional feedback on the questions asked, and signal their interest to be included in detailed modelling discussions going forward;
- collect questions that were not answered during the meeting and provide written responses.

ACER also indicated that the indicative date for the next meeting is 5 June 2024.