

5th Meeting of the Expert Group on the EU-wide flexibility needs assessment

Thursday 24 September 2026 | 09.30 – 12.00 CEST

Online, MS Teams

MEETING MINUTES

CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

Name and Surname	Organisation
Andreas Ehrenmann	Engie Impact
Andreas Tirez	Febeliec
Cesar Martinez	Endesa
Daniel Davi Arderius	Enel
Eamonn Lannoye	EPRI Europe
Emmanuel Neau	EDF
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José Pablo Chaves Ávila	Instituto de Investigación Tecnológica, Madrid
Julie Dallard	IEA
Kristof De Vos	Elia
Leonard Goke	ETH Zurich
Lucier Meier	KU Leuven
Mariya Trifonova	Sofia University
Marko Aunedi	Brunel University of London
Michal Cabala	Veolia Energia
Pawel Czyzak	Ember
Sophie Yule-Bennett	Energy Unlocked
Sylvain Quoilin	University of Liege
Mathilde Carbonelle	EC
Edwin Haesen	ENTSO-e

Maria Sofia Ospina	ACER
Christos KOLOKATHIS	ACER
Felipe Gonzales Venegas	ACER
Leandro Lind	ACER
Riccardo Rosselli	ACER
Danko Vidovic	ACER

1. OPENING

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

ACER introduced the meeting's objective, agenda and ground rules for the meetings. The agenda was approved by the Group.

2. PROJECT STATUS UPDATE & FOCUS ON PUBLICATION OF A SHORT TEASER PAPER AND DEMO OF THE EU FLEX MODEL

A short presentation by ACER followed, introducing first topic of the meeting, namely, a short status update on the project and the publication in November of a teaser paper describing the key features of the EU-model, alongside the release of an early version of the model itself.

Experts asked questions regarding the interactions between the submission of the national Flexibility Needs Assessments (FNAs) and ACER's own EU-wide FNA, and the analysis and data that ACER has received so far. There was general interest in knowing more on the type of analysis and modelling tools Member States are using for the national assessments.

ACER then presented the planned publication of a short paper and of a demo of the EU Flex model planned for November. ACER explained that the demo will be an 'off-the-shelf' software that users can download and run easily on local machines, using the same test case ACER describes in the teaser paper. This demo will be compatible with open-source solvers.

3. UPDATE ON THE NO BARRIERS SCENARIO

ACER moved on providing an update on the workstream focusing on the development of a second scenario for the EU Flex model: the no-barrier scenario. This scenario is meant to replicate a power system where regulatory barriers to non-fossil flexibility sources are removed in order to capture their potential impact on the European power market.

The conversation focused on the types of Demand Side Response (DSR) categories that will be included in this scenario. Experts provided comments, broadly supporting ACER initial list of DSR categories but also suggesting the inclusion of additional ones, e.g. specific industrial processes, industry back-up generators, and waste heat. ACER acknowledged the suggestions and clarified that technologies such hydrogen and grid scale storage are not considered in the no-barrier scenario as they are mature enough. It was also pointed out that the EU Flex model simulates only the power system and does not integrate other energy vectors such as heat.

ACER then ask feedback from the Group on its proposed approach to model DSR participation in the day ahead and intraday-balancing market timeframes of the EU Flex model. Several experts provided their views, which were taken on board, and indicated to the ACER team possible sources of information to refer to.

4. MODEL TESTING

The conversation moved on the results of the testing of the EU-Flex model. ACER explained the results of the back testing runs, which are aimed at assessing whether the model produces outputs consistent with real market trends, using real historical inputs. ACER conclusions were that the model is structurally sound, capturing well average trends (e.g. actual generation, net positions, day ahead prices at region level, etc) but not performing as well in capturing the full spread of prices that can be seen in real markets, especially balancing reserve prices.

This was particularly true for the Nordic region, rich in hydro power resources, where modelled prices are particularly compressed because the 'value of water' of hydro reservoirs in the model is close to zero. Another possible cause identified by ACER was that EU Flex aggregates generation units by technology type (e.g. coal, gas, nuclear) rather than modelling them individually as it would be too demanding computationally. ACER then provided an overview of the areas of improvement to tackle and fixes to implement.

Various experts commented on the results, acknowledging it is challenging to reflect historical values through modelling tools like the EU Flex one, especially at country level and considering aggregation of units. This applies also to the value of water, which is used strategically by market agents. The experts suggested ACER to consider the trade-off between model simplifications and quality of the results.

The discussion moved on plausibility testing results. Plausibility testing entailed a full-scale run of the EU-Flex model. ACER explained that the testing proved to be extremely valuable, despite an error in the input dataset that affected results. The testing indicates that the capacity expansion module can reach convergence, although some improvements are needed. A few experts commented but due to time constraints the conversation moved to the last topic for the day. Experts were encouraged to provide any further comments via the survey that ACER circulates after each meeting.

5. NEGATIVE PRICE FORMATION

ACER described its proposed approach to capture negative prices in the EU Flex model, based on observations of historical data of renewable energy sources (RES) capacity reacting to market prices in various Member States.

Experts asked ACER to ensure sanity checks on the data used, and pointed out that negative prices are not only related to "price responsiveness" of RES and support mechanisms, but also constraints on conventional generation. The level of aggregation of generation units in

the model can affect the price formation. Some experts also suggested to differentiate ACER proposed approach between the two market timeframes of the EU Flex model.

ACER acknowledged the comments provided and clarified that has already asked NRAs to comment on the data used for this modelling feature.

6. CLOSING SESSION

The ACER team provided experts with information on 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;
- collect questions that were not answered during the meeting and provide written responses.