


ACER

 Agency for the Cooperation
of Energy Regulators

Reconfiguration of GRI SSE region - summary of the discussion

17th GRI SSE SG – 12th December 2014

- **Gas Regional Initiatives** was established in 2006 by ERGEG;
- Three gas regions were created (North, South and South-South East)
- the main goal of GRIs was ***to speed up the integration of Europe's national gas markets;***
- GRIs represents bottom-up approach;
- *GRIs provide a forum for regulators, network operators and other stakeholders of neighbouring countries to discuss issues of common interest*
- Membership in the region is voluntary (as well as actions taken by regions);
- GRI SSE comprises of 12 countries: (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia);
- GRI SSE region has the widest geographical shape;

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND THE COUNCIL**

,The future Role of Regional Initiatives'

- European Commission run a study on regional initiatives. The study stated that

"Due to the heterogeneity in size and differing interests of members, the Region (South-South-East) has probably suffered more than others from the drawbacks of the voluntary and cooperative approach which characterises the RIs, that is to say a certain organisational looseness and lack of commitments"

- EC launched a first discussion on reconfiguration of a GRI SSE region in 2010;
- EC suggested to split SSE region into following regions:

New South region:
ES, PT, FR, IT

New Central-South region:
IT, AT, SK, SI, HU, RO, BG, EL

New Central-East region:
DE, PL, CZ, SK, AT

New BEMIP region:
SE, FI, EE, LV, LT,
PL, DE, DK

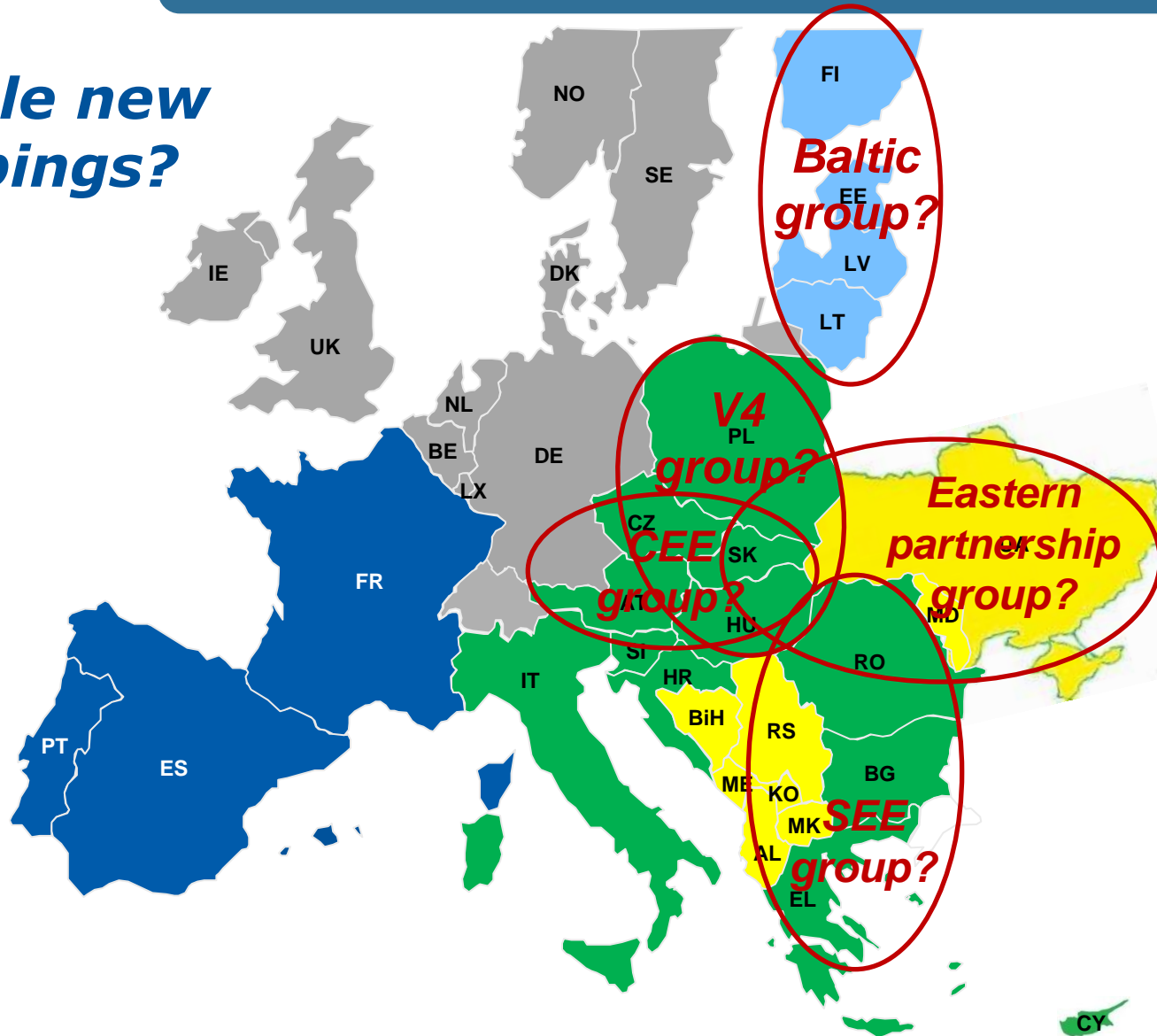


- The outcome of the consultation of the Communication proposals was:
 - On the suggested split of the South, South East Gas region, some respondents expressed reservation.
 - Some stakeholders were in favour of the definition of criteria to assess whether or not adjustments are necessary.
 - Most of the respondents would prefer a flexible way of setting the regions even if some of them would like a EU decision (annex of gas and electricity regulation).
- **It was decided not to change the geographical scope of SSE region and postpone the discussion on the matter to the time when the results of implementation of the GRI SSE Work Programme for 2011 – 2014 could be evaluated**

- Reasons for refresh the discussion on geographical scope of the GRI SSE region was stipulated as:
 - 1. a high level of heterogeneity in the degree of development of gas markets in the region;*
 - 2. participation from several countries in the region has been very poor (or practically non-existent) over the last years;*
 - 3. priorities for countries in the region may vary substantially, given the different key factors that are most relevant for each one of them;*

- To launch a discussion ACER presented during last GRI SSE SG meeting non-exhaustive list of proposals for new shapes of the splitted GRI SSE;

Possible new groupings?



- GRI SSE Co-Chairs run a survey in a matter of reconfiguration of GRI SSE region among RCC Members;
- The main summary was that ***the geographical reconfiguration is not a priority at the moment and that it probably will not help to focus more on the implementation of network codes***
- The outcome of discussion from the last SG meeting and further mail consultations with stakeholders:
 - some pilot projects may be taken/continued in subregions but GRI SSE in its current shape is a appropriate platform for discussion and co-ordination of pilot projects implementation;
 - SSE countries should develop efficient cooperation with other regions and neighbouring countries
 - The SSE region should start close cooperation with Energy Community Contracting Parties and include pilot projects between SSE and EnC into new GRI SSE Work Plan for coming years
- ***To close the discussion today all stakeholders present at the meeting are invited to express their final position***