

**THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN GAS REGULATORY FORUM**

23-24 October 2019

CONCLUSIONS

EU internal gas market upgrading

The Forum welcomes ACER's work on monitoring the performance of wholesale gas markets in its yearly market monitoring report. The Forum invites the Commission and ACER to continue measuring market functioning and progress towards decarbonisation, and to consider the need for further development of indicators and inform the Forum, as a basis for taking measures to improve the performance of these markets where necessary.

The Forum invites the Commission to consider capacity and/or commodity release programs as part of targeted measures applicable to specific situations in order to achieve overall improvements of the market.

Facilitating regional gas market mergers and integration

The Forum underlines that market merger initiatives should be market-driven, of bottom-up nature, as transparent as possible, and must not endanger security of supply. They should be based on a cost-benefit analysis, taking into account the impact on neighbouring markets and available firm entry capacity. They should be broadly consulted with both market participants and adjacent Member States. The Forum invites all involved in market mergers, both on regional and national level, to share their experience regularly with the Forum to enable further discussions and the Commission to consider providing guidance on the facilitation of market mergers.

LNG

The Forum highlights the need to look into potential remaining market barriers and inefficiencies and acknowledges the variety of regulatory approaches at the local and regional level concerning access to and utilisation of LNG terminals. The Forum invites the Commission to further investigate upgrading the regulatory framework for European LNG terminals, taking into account national/regional specificities as adequate. The Forum invites GLE to further investigate the readiness of LNG terminals to receive hydrogen.

Network Code implementation

The Forum agrees that the implementation and enforcement of existing Network Codes remains a key priority to improve market functioning. The Forum encourages further engagement from

all Member States, NRAs and market participants, supported by ACER and the Commission, to ensure full and proper implementation.

The Forum welcomes the ACER report on the implementation of the Tariff Network Code. It shares the assessment that the Code improved transparency on tariff methodologies. The Forum calls upon ACER to come forward with guidance based on best practices and concrete recommendations on allowed revenues and benchmarking to improve the implementation of the Tariff Network Code.