

Gas Network Codes Functionality Process Issue Solution

Issue details	
Number:	01/2019 and 03/2019 ¹
Name:	Missing harmonisation of interfaces on capacity platforms
Reporting party:	Equinor ASA and ENGIE
Network Code / Guidelines concerned:	Network Code on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules, Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703
Article of the Network Code / Guidelines	Chapter V
Category:	European Issue
<p>Abstract: In the common data exchange solutions table (CNOT) from ENTSOG it was decided that for capacity, interactive data exchange should be used. As an outcome, some of the processes are harmonised, but the data exchange and platforms are completely different. This makes it difficult for network users (Balancing Responsible Parties) to keep track of the capacity options available for transporting the gas in Europe, including costs involved. The absence of harmonisation among TSOs regarding capacity trading is in contradiction with the NC on Interoperability and Data Exchange ('INT&DE NC'). Capacity trading affects gas availability and gas prices, that is why [the issue poster] strongly believe that it should be harmonised via a document-based solution using Edig@s format.</p>	

Issue solution(s)	
Publication date:	<i>11 December 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACER and ENTSOG had an intensive stakeholder process ENTSOG & ACER organised a workshop on 24 September 2019 with representatives of the Capacity Booking Platforms, TSOs and EFET in order to get a better understanding of the formats and protocols currently used for the communication between Network Users and Capacity Booking Platforms. 	

¹ The issue was posted twice on the Functionality Platform by two separate users. On 1 July 2020 the Functionality Platform was updated, and all the issues previously posted on the old Platform were given new issue numbers. Issue 01/2019 was previously named 470-19-05-15-1056 and issue 03/2019 was previously named 496-19-06-03-0926

- Afterwards a Public Consultation was launched aiming at getting the market participants' input on their preferred format and protocol for the above-mentioned data exchange process.
- The structure of the public consultation was jointly agreed with the stakeholders participating in the workshop and was launched on 8 January 2020 and was open until 14 February 2020. 30 parties participated at the questionnaire, 15 of them indicated their role as Balance Responsible Party (Network User).
- The results of the Public Consultation and the possible impact of the proposed changes were discussed at a 2nd Workshop with key-stakeholders on 19 June 2020. Almost all participants were in favour of having a common format and protocol on European level. In particular the participants at the public consultation indicated Edig@s XML as their preferred format for the communication between Capacity Booking Platforms and Network Users. The AS4 protocol, as defined within the ENTSOG AS4 profile, was supported by the majority of the participants as the preferred common protocol.

Therefore, to achieve this harmonisation ACER and ENTSOG propose the following steps to be undertaken in order to provide a solution for the reported issue:

- ENTSOG will propose to change the Common data exchange solutions table (CNOT) and propose document-based exchange solution for capacity (interactions between Network Users and Capacity Booking Platforms) and leave the interactive data exchange as a voluntary option.
- An amendment of the INT&DE NC as detailed in Annex I. It is proposed to amend the following Articles: 1(2), 20 (1) & (2) and 23(1) & (2). The amendment reflects the proposals provided for the previous FUNC case on data exchange at VTP and storage.
- In the future further studies can be developed to assess the impact of higher-level harmonisation of this issue.
- The proposed amendments for the specific processes are described in the Common Data Exchange Solution Table as detailed in Annex II.
- Please note that ultimate outcome of the proposals may deviate from the proposed solutions described in Annex I & II because additional process steps outside the FUNC process are required. Annex I has to go through a comitology process lead by the European Commission. Annex II has to be publicly consulted as this is the part of the amendment process of the Common Network Operation tools as stated in INT & DE NC Art. 24 (2). The results of the consultation on the Common Data Exchange Solution Table may trigger further amendments of the INT & DE NC next to those proposed in Annex I.