

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT (RfA) BY THE GREECE-
ITALY CCR REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AGREED AT
THE GREECE-ITALY ENERGY REGULATORS'
REGIONAL FORUM**

ON

**THE GREECE-ITALY CCR TSOs' PROPOSAL FOR A
METHODOLOGY FOR A MARKET-BASED ALLOCATION
PROCESS OF CROSS ZONAL CAPACITY FOR THE
EXCHANGE OF BALANCING CAPACITY OR SHARING
OF RESERVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 41 OF
THE
COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2017/2195 OF 23
NOVEMBER 2017 ESTABLISHING A GUIDELINE ON
ELECTRICITY BALANCING**

1 July 2020

I. Introduction and legal context

This document elaborates an agreement of the Greece-Italy CCR Regulatory Authorities (in the following: Greece-Italy RAs) made at the Greece-Italy Energy Regulators' Regional Forum on 1 July 2020, on the Greece-Italy CCR TSOs' (in the following: Greece-Italy TSOs) proposal for a methodology for a market-based allocation process of cross zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves (in the following: MB Proposal), in accordance with Article 41 of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing (in the following: EBGL)

The MB Proposal was received by the last Regulatory Authority on 3 January 2020. Article 5(6) of the EBGL requires relevant Regulatory Authorities to consult and closely cooperate and coordinate with each other in order to reach an agreement, and make decisions within six months following receipt of submissions of the last relevant Regulatory Authority concerned, i.e. by 3 July 2020. This agreement of Greece-Italy RAs shall provide evidence that a decision on the MB Proposal does not, at this stage, need to be adopted by ACER pursuant to Article 5(7) of the EBGL. However, this agreement is intended to constitute the basis on which the Greece-Italy RAs will each subsequently request an amendment to the MB Proposal pursuant to Article 6(1) of the EBGL.

The legal provisions that lie at the basis of the MB proposal and this Greece-Italy RAs' agreement on the RfA to the above-mentioned methodology can be found in Articles 3, 5, 6, 38 and 41 of the EBGL. They are set out here for reference.

Article 3 Objectives and regulatory aspects

1. This Regulation aims at:

- (a) fostering effective competition, non-discrimination and transparency in balancing markets;*
- (b) enhancing efficiency of balancing as well as efficiency of European and national balancing markets;*
- (c) integrating balancing markets and promoting the possibilities for exchanges of balancing services while contributing to operational security;*
- (d) contributing to the efficient long-term operation and development of the electricity transmission system and electricity sector in the Union while facilitating the efficient and consistent functioning of day-ahead, intraday and balancing markets;*
- (e) ensuring that the procurement of balancing services is fair, objective, transparent and market-based, avoids undue barriers to entry for new entrants, fosters the liquidity of balancing markets while preventing undue distortions within the internal market in electricity;*

(f) facilitating the participation of demand response including aggregation facilities and energy storage while ensuring they compete with other balancing services at a level playing field and, where necessary, act independently when serving a single demand facility;

(g) facilitating the participation of renewable energy sources and support the achievement of the European Union target for the penetration of renewable generation.

2. When applying this Regulation, Member States, relevant regulatory authorities, and system operators shall:

(a) apply the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination;

(b) ensure transparency;

(c) apply the principle of optimisation between the highest overall efficiency and lowest total costs for all parties involved;

(d) ensure that TSOs make use of market-based mechanisms, as far as possible, in order to ensure network security and stability;

(e) ensure that the development of the forward, day-ahead and intraday markets is not compromised;

(f) respect the responsibility assigned to the relevant TSO in order to ensure system security, including as required by national legislation;

(g) consult with relevant DSOs and take account of potential impacts on their system;

(h) take into consideration agreed European standards and technical specifications.

Article 5 Approval of terms and conditions or methodologies of TSOs

1. Each relevant regulatory authority in accordance with Article 37 of Directive 2009/72/EC shall approve the terms and conditions or methodologies developed by TSOs under paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. [...]

3. The proposals for the following terms and conditions or methodologies shall be subject to approval by all regulatory authorities of the concerned region: [...]

(h) for each capacity calculation region, the methodology for a market-based allocation process of cross-zonal capacity pursuant to Article 41(1); [...]

5. The proposal for terms and conditions or methodologies shall include a proposed timescale for their implementation and a description of their expected impact on the objectives of this Regulation. The implementation timescale shall not be longer than 12 months after the approval by the relevant regulatory authorities, except where all relevant regulatory authorities agree to extend the implementation timescale or where different timescales are stipulated in this Regulation. Proposals on terms and conditions or methodologies subject to the approval by several or all regulatory authorities shall be submitted to the Agency at the same time that they are submitted to regulatory authorities. Upon request by the relevant regulatory authorities, the Agency shall issue an opinion within three months on the proposals for terms and conditions or methodologies.

6. Where the approval of the terms and conditions or methodologies requires a decision by more than one regulatory authority, the relevant regulatory authorities shall consult and closely cooperate and coordinate with each other in order to reach an agreement. Where the Agency issues an opinion, the relevant regulatory authorities shall take that opinion into account. Regulatory authorities shall decide on the terms and conditions or methodologies submitted in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3, within six months following the receipt of the terms and conditions or methodologies by the relevant regulatory authority or, where applicable, by the last relevant regulatory authority concerned. [...]

Article 6 Amendments to terms and conditions or methodologies of TSOs

1. Where one or several regulatory authorities in accordance with Article 37 of Directive 2009/72/EC require an amendment in order to approve the terms and conditions or methodologies submitted in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 5, the relevant TSOs shall submit a proposal for amended terms and conditions or methodologies for approval within two months following the requirement from the relevant regulatory authorities. The relevant regulatory authorities shall decide on the amended terms and conditions or methodologies within two months following their submission. [...]

Article 38 General requirements

1. Two or more TSOs may at their initiative or at the request of their relevant regulatory authorities in accordance with Article 37 of Directive 2009/72/EC set up a proposal for the application of one of the following processes:

- (a) co-optimised allocation process pursuant to Article 40;
- (b) market-based allocation process pursuant to Article 41;
- (c) allocation process based on economic efficiency analysis pursuant to Article 42.

Cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves before the entry into force of this Regulation may continue to be used for that purpose until the expiry of the contracting period.

2. The proposal for the application of the allocation process shall include:

- (a) the bidding zone borders, the market timeframe, the duration of application and the methodology to be applied;
- (b) in case of allocation process based on economic efficiency analysis, the volume of allocated cross zonal capacity and the actual economic efficiency analysis justifying the efficiency of such allocation.

3. *By five years after entry into force of this Regulation, all TSOs shall develop a proposal to harmonise the methodology for the allocation process of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves per timeframe pursuant to Article 40 and, where relevant, pursuant to Articles 41 and 42.*
4. *Cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves shall be used exclusively for frequency restoration reserves with manual activation, for frequency restoration reserves with automatic activation and for replacement reserves. The reliability margin calculated pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 shall be used for operating and exchanging frequency containment reserves, except on Direct Current ('DC') interconnectors for which cross-zonal capacity for operating and exchanging frequency containment reserves may also be allocated in accordance with paragraph 1.*
5. *TSOs may allocate cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves only if crosszonal capacity is calculated in accordance with the capacity calculation methodologies developed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 and (EU) 2016/1719.*
6. *TSOs shall include cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves as already allocated cross-zonal capacity in the calculations of cross-zonal capacity.*
7. *If physical transmission right holders use cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity, the capacity shall be considered as nominated solely for the purpose of excluding it from the application of the use-it-or-sell-it ('UIOSI') principle.*
8. *All TSOs exchanging balancing capacity or sharing of reserves shall regularly assess whether the cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves is still needed for that purpose. Where the allocation process based on economic efficiency analysis is applied, this assessment shall be done at least every year. When cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves is no longer needed, it shall be released as soon as possible and returned in the subsequent capacity allocation timeframes. Such cross-zonal capacity shall no longer be included as already allocated cross-zonal capacity in the calculations of cross-zonal capacity.*
9. *When cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves has not been used for the associated exchange of balancing energy, it shall be released for the exchange of balancing energy with shorter activation times or for operating the imbalance netting process.*

Article 41 Market-based allocation process

1. *By two years after entry into force of this Regulation, all TSOs of a capacity calculation region may develop a proposal for a methodology for a market-based allocation process of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves. This methodology shall apply for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves with a contracting period of not more than one day and where the contracting is done not more than one week in advance of the provision of the balancing capacity. The methodology shall include:*

(a) the notification process for the use of the market-based allocation process;

(b) a detailed description of how to determine the actual market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves, and the forecasted market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of energy, and if applicable the actual market value of cross-zonal capacity for exchanges of energy and the forecasted market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves;

(c) a detailed description of the pricing method, the firmness regime and the sharing of congestion income for the cross-zonal capacity that has been allocated to bids for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves via the market-based allocation process;

(d) the process to define the maximum volume of allocated cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves pursuant to paragraph 2.

2. *Cross-zonal capacity allocated on a market-based process shall be limited to 10 % of the available capacity for the exchange of energy of the previous relevant calendar year between the respective bidding zones or, in case of new interconnectors, 10 % of the total installed technical capacity of those new interconnectors. This volume limitation may not apply where the contracting is done not more than two days in advance of the provision of the balancing capacity or for bidding zone borders connected through DC interconnectors until the cooptimised allocation process is harmonised at Union level pursuant to Article 38(3).*

3. *This methodology shall be based on a comparison of the actual market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves and the forecasted market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of energy, or on a comparison of the forecasted market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves, and the actual market value of cross-zonal capacity for the exchange of energy.*

4. *The pricing method, the firmness regime and the sharing of congestion income for cross-zonal capacity that has been allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves via the market-based process shall ensure equal treatment with the cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of energy.*

5. *Cross-zonal capacity allocated for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves via the market-based allocation process shall be used only for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves and associated exchange of balancing energy.*

II. Greece-Italy TSOs' proposal

A draft MB Proposal was consulted by Greece-Italy TSOs through ENTSO-E from 11 October 2019 to 11 November 2019¹, in line with Article 10 of the EBGL. Along with the draft MB Proposal, Greece-Italy TSOs published an explanatory document. In the public consultation, Greece-Italy TSOs were seeking input from stakeholders and market participants on the draft proposal.

Greece-Italy RAs closely observed, analysed and continuously provided feedback and guidance to Greece-Italy TSOs during meetings and through a shadow opinion, dated 11 November 2019.

The final version of the MB Proposal, dated 18 December 2019, was received by the last Regulatory Authority on 3 January 2020, together with an updated explanatory document giving background information and rationale for the MB Proposal.

III. Greece-Italy RAs assessment

Greece-Italy RAs welcome the MB Proposal submitted by the Greece-Italy TSOs. However, as far the technical contents are concerned, Greece-Italy RAs have identified a number of issues with respect to the MB Proposal and thus request Greece-Italy TSOs to amend the MB Proposal and to take into account the following assessment. The assessment contains a part with general remarks and a part going into detail, assessing each article of the MB Proposal, that is deemed important to be amended individually.

General remarks

Greece-Italy RAs acknowledge that due to similarities in the requirements of the EBGL for the different proposals for cross zonal capacity allocation, according to Art. 41 or Art. 42 or also Art. 40, the TSOs tried to align these proposals by using the same layout for the legal submission.

The co-optimised allocation process of cross-zonal capacity (in the following: co-optimized CZCA methodology), pursuant to Art. 40 of the EBGL, has been amended and approved by ACER in May 2020 (according to ACER Decision 12/2020²). Moreover, ACER is taking a decision on the MB methodology submitted by Nordic TSOs pursuant to art.41. Greece-Italy RAs invite Greece-Italy TSOs to further align the MB proposal to the final methodology for the co-optimized CZCA and the Nordic MB methodology, , both in terms of layout and content, where relevant.

¹ https://consultations.entsoe.eu/markets/ebgl-art-41-a-market-based-proposal-of-czca-grit/consult_view/

²

https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Individual%20decisions/ACER%20Decision%2012-2020%20on%20a%20co-optimised%20allocation%20process%20of%20cross-zonal%20capacity.pdf

https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Pages/Annexes-to-the-DECISION-OF-THE-AGENCY-FOR-THE-COOPERATION-OF-ENERGY-REGULATORS-No-12-2020.aspx

Specific requirements

Article 1

According to Article 5(5) of the EBGL, each proposal shall include a proposed timescale for their implementation. The implementation timescale shall not be longer than 12 months after the approval by the relevant regulatory authorities, except where all relevant regulatory authorities agree to extend the implementation timescale or where different timescales are stipulated in this Regulation. Furthermore, Greece-Italy RAs would like to point out that the “application” of the methodology in accordance with Article 38(1) of the EBGL is out of scope of this specific proposal, as this follows from a separate proposal for application of the methodology.

The MB Proposal, on the other hand, does not contain a proposal for a timescale for implementation, and seems to interpret the “application” in accordance with Article 38(1)(b) of the EBGL as the actual “implementation” in accordance with Article 5(5) of the EBGL. Article 1(3) of MB Proposal provides a limit of 24 months for TSOs to request the application pursuant to art.38(1) of the EBGL, while does not provide any deadline for “making operative” the MB Proposal.

Greece-Italy RAs acknowledge that the implementation of the Market-Based allocation process can be a demanding process and that in the short run there are not balancing capacity cooperations foreseen. Still, Greece-Italy RAs consider the implementation of the methodology as mandatory, according to Article 5(5) of EBGL, while the application of the methodology should be by submitting a separate proposal in accordance with Article 38(1) of the EBGL, without any limit in time.

Therefore, Greece-Italy RAs request TSOs to include a concrete timescale for the implementation of the MB Proposal which ensures that the included methodology is implemented and available for the potential usage in future balancing capacity cooperation processes.

Article 2

Greece-Italy RAs ask TSOs to consider the necessity of introducing new definitions in cases where it would be easily possible to directly describe the related concept in the Article where it is used. This is even more the case where there already are specific provisions and the definition largely only repeats those.

Greece-Italy RAs suggest that whenever the term is used in the text with capitalized its first letter, it has to be included in the definitions, as it will be considered as a reserved word. If the TSOs consider it as more efficient, they could maintain the terms in Article 2 but delete their repeated content in the following Articles, where they are used.

Article 3

Greece-Italy RAs do not consider some of the listed principles of “balancing capacity cooperation” to be within the scope of this proposal, as the terms and conditions for TSOs mutually willing to exchange balancing capacity should follow from a separate proposal developed according to Article 33(1) of the EBGL and approved by the relevant regulatory authorities.

Greece-Italy RAs invite Greece-Italy TSOs to change this article into “Principles for applying the market-based cross-zonal allocation” and to replace the statement “Each balancing capacity cooperation shall....” with “when applying the MB CZCA proposal”.

Moreover, Greece-Italy RAs ask relevant TSOs to further align the content with the final version of the co-optimized CZCA methodology, as amended by ACER, removing the paragraphs that are out of scope of this MB proposal. In particular, paragraphs 1 to 4 and 10 to 11 seem out of scope, as they refer to terms and conditions for potential future cooperation between TSOs for the exchange of balancing capacity or sharing of reserves.

Article 4

In line with the comment provided to Article 3, Greece-Italy RAs invite Greece-Italy TSOs to replace the statement “Each balancing capacity cooperation [...] implementing ...” with “when applying the MB CZCA proposal”.

Article 5

Greece-Italy RAs acknowledge that two different approaches for market-based allocation can provide Greece-Italy TSOs with some flexibility in the process of balancing capacity cooperation. According to Greece-Italy RAs understanding, the inverted market-based approach foresees the implementation of the CZCA within the Single Day Ahead Coupling, in the same way as provided by the co-optimized CZCA methodology according to Art. 40 of the EBGL. Greece-Italy RAs understand also that the difference between using the co-optimization, according to art. 40, and the inverted market based, following the MB proposal, lies in the request for application according to art. 38(1), where TSOs shall indicate which process they intend to use.

Therefore, Greece-Italy RAs invite Greece-Italy TSOs to consider the comments above regarding the implementation of the methodology and to take into account the current process for the implementation of the co-optimized CZCA methodology when defining the implementation time-scale. Moreover, Greece-Italy TSOs are asked to justify (in the proposal or in the explanatory document) the legal background and the added value of the inverted market based approach, ensuring also that its implementation does not affect or preclude the implementation of the market based approach.

Articles 6 and 7

Greece-Italy RAs ask relevant TSOs to better clarify which CZC values are used in the process of market-based approach.

Article 9

Greece-Italy RAs assume that TSOs will define some sort of metrics to assess the performance of the “basic forecasted value”, based on the reference day, and some criteria to trigger the inclusion of the adjustment factors. Therefore Greece-Italy RAs invite TSOs to investigate whether the level of detail of this article can be improved, at least for what concerns the general procedure to assess the performance of the “basic forecasted value” and the criteria to include the adjustment factors.

Greece-Italy RAs invite also Greece-Italy TSOs to cooperate with the TSOs of other CCRs to explore possible alignment of details and high-level principles of this article across the regional proposals, still respecting the regional specificities.

Article 11 and 12

Greece-Italy RAs acknowledge that Greece-Italy TSOs included in these articles a reference to the avoided cost of procuring balancing capacity in case of sharing of reserves, but the proposal does not clarify how this value is calculated and considered in the economic surplus calculation.

In case the market based method and the co-optimization follow the same approach for including the avoided costs in the economic surplus, Greece-Italy RAs invite TSOs to consider the wording of the co-optimized CZCA methodology, where the balancing capacity demand of a TSO is dependent on the available cross zonal capacity.

Article 14

Greece-Italy RAs request Greece-Italy TSOs to clarify the concept of “uncongested area” and that it results from the CZC allocation optimization function, defined in the MB Proposal.

Article 15

Article 15(4) of the MB Proposal is unclear for Greece-Italy RAs, especially regarding the “additional costs from the procurement of balancing capacity due to the non-availability of the balancing capacity given the curtailment of CZC”. Greece-Italy TSOs are invited to explain what these costs entail.

Moreover, Greece-Italy RAs suggest that there has to be a further elaboration on the need of including a cap to the compensation costs. Greece-Italy TSOs are invited to align this article with the co-optimized CZCA methodology approved by ACER and to remove such cap, or to provide a justification for including it, proving that this does not negatively affect any balancing capacity cooperation.

III. Conclusion

Greece-Italy RAs have assessed, consulted and closely cooperated and coordinated to reach agreement that **they request an amendment to the MB Proposal submitted by Greece-Italy TSOs**, pursuant to Article 6(1) of the EBGL.

The amended proposal shall take into account the Greece-Italy RAs' assessment stated above and it shall be submitted by Greece-Italy TSOs no later than two months after the last national decision of Greece-Italy NRAs to request an amendment has been made, in accordance with Article 6(1) of the EBGL.

Greece-Italy RAs should issue their national decisions to request an amendment to the MB Proposal on the basis of this agreement within 6 months after the receipt of the proposal by the last RA, according to Article 5(6) of the EBGL, e.g. by 3 July 2020.