

# President's Foreword

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## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

*»Though we had set ourselves ambitious goals, we*

As Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity we had proposed for the year 2002 to place greater emphasis than hitherto on the discussion about the refinement of the European electricity infrastructure. We wanted to make clear that the functioning of the market platform of the European interconnected power system is based on the smooth concurrence of our electricity networks.

Looking back at the year 2002, I can draw the following conclusion: Though we had set ourselves ambitious goals, we have managed to achieve them. The UCTE as guarantor of the reliability and availability of the interconnected power system on the European mainland is partaking in numerous important discussions about the future of the European electricity environment:

- In the context of the »Florence Process«/Electricity Regulation Forum, we have been explicitly entrusted with specific tasks by the European Commission, such as the development of binding rules for the interconnected operation between electricity networks.
- We are taking an active part in the Commission's formation of opinion concerning the promotion of infrastructure measures and the refinement of the technical foundations of the common European energy market.
- The European Commission has put us in charge of the lead in political discussions when it is necessary to assess from a technical point of view whether and, if applicable, in which way today's interconnection extending from Poland to Portugal can be expanded beyond this region, as proposed by UPS/IPS\*. Apart from the European Union, the UCTE is thus the essential force to assess the Russian desire for an extension of interconnection to Russia and associated countries like Belarus and Kazakhstan up to Mongolia.

Especially the question concerning the attitude of the UCTE towards an extension of interconnection far beyond the Ural Mountains and finally as far as to the Western Chinese border has been a matter of priority in our internal discussions. At the General Assembly in Bratislava in April 2002, there was already a consensus of opinion that such a proposal of extension entails first of all a substantial need for technical investigations. This resulted in a schedule which >>>

\* UPS/IPS – the Unified Power System is composed of Interconnected Power Systems (IPS) of Russia and Power Systems (PS) of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries except Armenia, and PS of Baltic states

Martin Fuchs  
President of UCTE



experience in this respect through the extensions realised during the past 10 years. Decision-taking bodies in Europe are increasingly using this experience as a basis for their decisions.

The reorganisation of our structures, in particular tightening-up of the committees' activities, has proven to be successful during the first whole year after entry into force! Through the results of

*have managed to achieve them.«*

>>> describes the further steps to be taken by the UCTE with a view to examining the Russian desire for synchronous interconnection.

In the context of an intensive strategic discussion at the end of November we agreed on the prospects of development in the light of today's electricity interconnection on the European mainland:

Our common standard for any kind of development is the current excellent security and availability level of our interconnected power system. The high reliability of our network which has not been affected by any major disturbance was again impressively manifested during the year 2002. This reliability is the basis for a secure, efficient and increasingly competitive electricity supply to more than 400 million customers in 21 European countries. It is an important location factor in view of the economic and social efficiency in these countries. We consider it to be our mission and challenge to maintain this high standard. We will test the appropriate tools and implement them in the scope of our activities.

In the current process of reconnection of the South East European countries, we will for instance soon extend our interconnection to new powerful partners. Romania, Bulgaria and the Western part of Ukraine are successfully undertaking considerable efforts to join this system in synchronous interconnection. In view of the present value, any other form of extension needs to be critically measured against the security standard achieved. We have gained valuable

their work, the Working Groups have contributed to a considerable strengthening of UCTE's outstanding expertise. Its spectrum covers a wide variety of subjects, ranging from statistical analyses and forecasts over the draft of an operational handbook for the operation of related fields of activity of network operators, the pre-feasibility study on a connection of UPS/IPS, improvement of the UCTE's external appearance and of international communication within the Union, to first proposals regarding the legal relationship between the Union's members.

Thus, in the final analysis, the UCTE committees have helped to achieve the ambitious targets that we had set ourselves: Strengthening of our internal and external profile so as to ensure that well-functioning electricity transmission across European power highways, which is supposed to be a matter of course, is conceded the importance it actually deserves as an extremely complex process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Fuchs', written over a white background.

Martin Fuchs