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ATHENS MEMORANDUM 2002

Towards a regional electricity market in Southeast Europe

On 15 November 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Regional Electricity Market in Southeast Europe and its integration into the European Union's Internal Electricity Market («The Athens Memorandum – 2002») was signed at governmental level, a.o. by all Southeast European UCTE members and all parties synchronously connected to the UCTE interconnected systems in Southeast Europe.



The document sets up ambitious goals:

»To establish an integrated regional electricity market in Southeast Europe by 2005 and ensure its integration into the European Union's Internal Electricity Market. This market will be based on the principles set out in the Electricity Directive and other legislation relating to the operation of the European Union's Internal Energy Market«.

The more specific missions assigned by »The Athens Memorandum – 2002« to the countries and the represented TSO associations UCTE and ETSO were:

- »To implement Grid Codes by June 2004, that have common elements across the region that allow basic operation of the grid and do not discriminate against regional trade«;*
- »To identify all relevant technical norms for the operation of national markets, under the co-ordination and control of the European Transmission System Operators and the Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity by June 2003«;*
- »To implement, in collaboration with the European Transmission System Operators and the Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity, an appropriate method for collaboration and information exchange between national dispatch centres by June 2003«;*
- »To implement the SECI Working Group Plan for Tele-information Systems among national dispatch centres with the agreement of European Transmission System Operators and the Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity, by 2005«.*

UCTE sees its main contribution to the »Athens process« in the co-ordination of activities aiming at the resynchronisation of the two separated zones which will substantially improve security of supply in the countries of Southeast Europe with a positive impact on market development. Furthermore, UCTE mandated its regional organisation SUDEL to take an active part in this process. In this respect, UCTE designates the President of SUDEL as UCTE representative in the Regulatory Forum for Southeast Europe. <<<