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SECURITY OF SUPPLY IN THE LIMELIGHT

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» *The Association had to cope with extraordinary*

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The electricity network has become a focal point of interest: After an exceptionally hot summer with electricity shortages in some European regions, and after blackouts in the USA and in Europe, the security of supply issue has come to largely dominate the discussion in terms of energy policy. Transmission system operators' functions and activities have never before been a matter of such considerable interest to politics and public. Basically, the point in question is to what extent transmission system operators are responsible for the security of supply within the scope of synchronous interconnection. As UCTE we have played an important part in this discussion, and we will continue to do so in future. After all, it is imperative to ensure that the two most important requirements for the security of supply, i. e.

1. adequate coverage of electricity demand,
2. high-performance network assets

are satisfied, and to be thus prepared to answer relevant questions and take part in the discussion.

This shows that the security of supply cannot be ensured by the network alone. It is rather based upon each of the aforementioned pillars. Each of them must make its contribution, function independently and be self-supporting.

However, due to its crucial importance, the network can provide relevant information to the market, just like UCTE has done for instance in its *Adequacy Forecast*.

Within the scope of the security of supply issue, the Association had to cope with extraordinary challenges during the past year. After the blackout in Italy in September 2003, the UCTE was faced with the extremely difficult task to analyze the reasons, and to provide information on how to prevent similar occurrences in future. All parties involved undertook great efforts to cope with this challenge; their timely and substantial analysis was highly appreciated, and large tribute was paid for this to the Association as a whole. The work on recommendations for the future has not been finalized yet.

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Martin Fuchs,
President of UCTE



challenges during the past year.«

>>> All stakeholders also expected a great deal of the activities regarding the *Operation Handbook*. Especially the market-relevant elements of our regulation inventory are in the focus of interest. In this context, we have come to realize that it is indispensable to make the *Operation Handbook* legally binding, thus providing a central basis for the well-functioning co-operation of all transmission system operators in the UCTE.

In May 2003, the UCTE family enlarged by two new members: after years of preparations and after upgrading their systems to UCTE standards, Bulgarian and Romanian companies *NEK* and *Transelectrica* joined UCTE as full members.

This achievement consolidated the UCTE organisation and enabled progress in the discussion about the extension of synchronous interconnection has also made progress. The European Commission and in particular the Russian government having underlined their interest in such a co-operation, IPS/UPS and UCTE developed common ideas on the investigation of this enormous project. The discussion about the security of supply will continue to play an important role in planning of this project. We have always pointed out that we will never enter into experiments that may jeopardize network security.

The aforementioned examples of our fields of activity also outline future prospects. This makes us note that the UCTE has become an esteemed interlocutor in the discussion about essential framework conditions and development prospects in the electricity market. This entails obliga-

tions and new challenges which we will take up true to our maxim »quality first«.

Let me finally extend my thanks to the experienced experts from among the transmission system operators. Without their valuable work, UCTE would not have been able to accomplish its work in 2003 so successfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Fuchs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Fuchs