



# ELECTRICITY GRID RELIABILITY CONFERENCE

Although it wasn't carried out in 2008, the 1st European Electricity Grid Reliability Conference, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on January 8th, 2009, has its place in the 2008 Annual Report as its complete preparation has been done in the year under report.

The first Conference on Reliability of Power Grids in Europe proved to be a great success, as it was attended by about 380 participants from 42 countries. This impressive number alone proves that the achieved consensus in the key role of Transmission System Operators in the reliability of the European electricity grid and the achievement of the ambitious 20-20-20 targets of the European Commission are of great value for the future.

The conference addressed the issue about reliability of the European power grid in three panels. In the context of system operation, both stakeholders and TSOs underlined the key importance of reliability standards among others related to the smooth integration of the ongoing large-scale development of RES. Further the main challenge still remains to achieve as soon as possible enforceability of standards at Pan-European level. It was pointed out that diverging legal and regulatory frameworks may severely impact system operation. A fair share of duties and responsibilities among all players concerning system operation is also at stake. Besides system-wide operational standards, system operation remains an issue with a regional dimension calling for a flexible reinforcement of international cooperation. Related to transmission grid

development, the conference pointed at a dramatic need for speeding up well coordinated authorization procedures for grid infrastructures. This will be based on improved long term adequacy statements of both grid development and generation scenarios. Participants also emphasized in this context the need for consistent legislation and regulation guidelines allowing the transmission development needs to be taken into account when developing renewable energy sources. Participants' views converged on the fact that reliable grids are a key element for achieving the 20-20-20 targets. Related to interoperability, the role of TSOs of assessing the technical feasibility of requested system extensions was in the core of the debate. Main issues discussed related to potential limits of requested system developments, always perceived as pioneering European integration: potential limits to system interoperability, the interaction between interoperability and market design, technological developments and the interactions between interoperability and environment policies. "One of the key conclusions of the day is that system operation has numerous interacting interfaces that call for bundling our efforts towards developing a more flexible system", said Hans-Peter Aebi, UCTE Chairman, with a glance at necessary future activities.



..... UCTE 

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Grid Reliability Conference**

