



# WORKGROUP SYSTEM STRATEGY

## 2008 Progress towards TSO Coordination Services

Coordination at international level is fundamental for the security and reliability of the UCTE synchronous area. An improved TSO coordination will result in improved reliability. In 2008 UCTE progressed towards a system-wide coordination, both in operation and planning in order to increase the security and reliability of the system.

In 2008, System Strategy WG including experts from Operation and Security and Legal Affairs WGs carried out further investigations about the Coordination Service. The results were in particular:

- From system security point of view, to propose certain predefined Regions which form appropriate areas for a Coordination Service.
- In each region, the proposal is, first of all, to create a common IT-platform among the involved TSOs. Furthermore, if more than one TSO is willing to take advantage of a centralized coordination service, a physical center for one region gathering the data and performing the system reliability functions will be created.
- A preliminary legal and organizational analysis of the proposal for a Coordination Service was also examined.

In September 2008, UCTE established a dedicated Project Group on UCTE coordination service, in charge of the preparation of a detailed proposal taking advantage of coordination service initiatives launched by several TSOs so far.

## Strategy towards “UCTE System Extension” was adapted and revised in 2008

### Background

Today UCTE coordinates the operation and development of the electricity transmission grid from Portugal to Poland and from the Netherlands to Greece. The extension of this system since the first interconnections to the present status has been a success story. The reason for this success is that all extension steps have always been well planned and studied, and that all systems of UCTE members share the same, strict, technical standards and rules.

Currently UCTE is facing the challenge of extension requests – synchronous interconnections – in several directions, i.e.:

- To the south – east with the request for the interconnection of Turkey.
- To the south towards Africa with the request for the interconnection of Tunisia – Libya which, if successful, would bring the UCTE frequency up to Syria.

The request of Ukraine and Moldova for synchronous interconnection.

## UCTE - Besides History I

It was a long process of pondering about what sort of tie to pick up for my brand new suit selected and bought especially for my first UCTE WG Communication meeting in Rome. My flight was after sunset and I was like a mole the whole day browsing the hell out of google to choose from plenty of Roman sights worth seeing. The plane took off and landed just by the book. As soon as it touched the ground I already pictured myself showing off in my new suit, which to me was supposed to have a 'baptism-of-fire' kind of symbolic meaning to accompany my first appearance in WG Communication.

I love Rome, that's an indisputable fact. My baggage, however, obviously does not. Why? Well, no amount of my trying to find it before the meeting yielded any success. And it wasn't the airport 'lost baggage' staff to blame. They really did their best to hunt it down, but to no avail. This, plus the fact that I was dressed up in a T-shirt and motley coloured short panties instead of wearing my famous suit, which meanwhile was probably having an adventurous ride with the suitcase bound for an unknown destination, drove me angry, very angry. To chill the situation out a bit, I was politely given a dressing-bag lavishly stuffed with a tube of toothpaste, a soap, some vitally important toothpicks and, last but not least, a snow-white, beautiful T-shirt with the 'Sky Chiefs' sign on it. Plus the assurance that my luggage will be found in two days, which was exactly when my flight back home was scheduled to go. And I thought to myself, what a wonderful world... My taxi got me to the hotel at 11.00 p.m. so going out for shopping at that time was out of question. Fortunately, I was able to find a compromise solution to the urgent 'short panties' problem thanks to the pair of jeans that I had in my rucksack. Anyway, now I had a delicate choice to make as to what to wear at the meeting. Either the white 'Sky Chiefs' T-shirt, which was astonishingly clean and devoid of natural odours, or the black-blue one I was wearing by default, which wasn't. However, the latter had similar colours as those found on the UCTE logo and that tipped the balance in favour of it. After having a long relaxing shower and some espresso, I was ready and still keen on showing up at the meeting, which I did but trying to keep a low profile for obvious reasons. Against all odds, everything went cool and I met some nice people out there.

Back at the airport, my self-willed baggage was patiently waiting for me, in the company of other defectors alike, at a storage facility and we both took off each happy about having his own mission accomplished. I did not kick it, at least not very hard. By the way, not that I'm a conspiracy theorist or suspicious, but just can't help mentioning the solid fact that the meeting actually took place on April 1st...

### **General strategy towards UCTE System Extension**

In particular, three pillars of the UCTE Strategy towards UCTE System Extension are developed hereafter :

1. Reliability of the UCTE synchronous area is the issue of primary consideration and top priority importance when considering new interconnections. Secure operation and high quality of electricity delivery in the long-run should not be jeopardized by any new extension
2. UCTE is today the only competent body responsible for the synchronous extension of its synchronous area. However besides the technical aspects associated with a new Interconnection other non-technical aspects – such as Market Structure and Unbundling in the applicant's country, Environmental Issues, Wind Production issues etc – are becoming very important. UCTE shall provide the widest possible publicity on any new extension examined, in order to inform and collect opinions and consult with its stakeholders, both from the European political level and from the European electricity business.
3. In each case of synchronous interconnection request a DC connection investigation may be carried out in parallel to the AC investigation, to provide a viable alternative in case the AC connection is not found feasible

### **In 2008, System Strategy WG proposed a UCTE position paper on HVDC link projects**

HVDC links can provide a very reasonable alternative versus AC links for UCTE system enhancement and extension to other networks. The typical large-scale investigation which includes studies, measurements and tests done for AC extensions is not required since HVDCs can link systems with different control philosophy, frequency quality and AGC performance.

Technical matters related to HVDC connections, i.e. impact of concurrent failure of such links and poor coordination of controllers can be dealt with by affected TSOs on a local basis or, depending on the size of the link by the TSOs in a region.

In principle, a UCTE decision is not needed for such links, unless the size and the number of links in a specific geographical area are very large. The issue can be decided on a specific project-per-project basis and lead to system wide investigation. In accordance with this procedure, such HVDC expansion to external systems shall be governed by an Interface Agreement, between the concerned TSO and the external counterpart.

Other than technical matters, such as compliance with EU regulations on market, environmental safety, fair competition, etc, (although very important) are beyond the responsibility of UCTE.