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from : General Secretariat of the Council

to : Delegations

No. Cion prop. : 13049/07 ENER 225 CODEC 952

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks

- Draft common position of the Council

Delegations will find attached a revised version of the consolidated text¹ of the above proposal, as agreed by the TTE Council on 10 October 2008.

Text stemming from the current legislation is reflected in ordinary characters, all text stemming from the Council political agreement is in **bold characters**, including the renumbering of recitals, Articles and references in the text of the Articles and some other technical adjustments.

This document will be the basis for legal-linguistic revision in view of the common position.

¹ "Consolidated text" means that the Commission proposal including preamble and Articles as amended have been integrated into the current legislative text.

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation
(EC) No 1775/2005**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions³,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty⁴,

Whereas:

(1) The internal market in natural gas, which has been progressively implemented since 1999, aims at delivering real choice for all consumers in the Community, be they citizens or business, new business opportunities and more cross-border trade, so as to achieve efficiency gains, competitive prices, higher standards of service, and to contribute to security of supply and sustainability.

¹ OJ C , , p. .

² OJ C , , p. .

³ OJ C , , p. .

⁴ OJ C , , p. .

(2) Directive 2003/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas¹ and Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2005 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks² have made significant contributions towards the creation of such an internal market in natural gas.

(3) Experience gained in the implementation and monitoring of a first set of Guidelines for Good Practice, adopted by the European Gas Regulatory Forum (the **Madrid** Forum) in 2002, demonstrates that in order to ensure the full implementation of the rules set out in **those** Guidelines in all Member States, and in order to provide a minimum guarantee of equal market access conditions in practice, it is necessary to provide for them to become legally enforceable.

(4) A second set of common rules entitled "the Second Guidelines for Good Practice" was adopted at the meeting of the **Madrid** Forum on 24-25 September 2003 and the purpose of this Regulation is to lay down, on the basis of those Guidelines, basic principles and rules regarding network access and third party access services, congestion management, transparency, balancing and the trading of capacity rights.

(5) Article [15] of Directive [2003/55/EC]³ allows for a combined transmission and distribution system operator. Therefore, the rules set out in this Regulation do not require modification of the organisation of national transmission and distribution systems that are consistent with the relevant provisions of Directive [2003/55/EC] and in particular Article [15] thereof.

(6) High pressure pipelines linking up local distributors to the gas network which are not primarily used in the context of local distribution are included in the scope of this Regulation.

¹ OJ L 176, 15.7.2003, p. 57.

² OJ L 289, 3.11.2005, p. 1.

³ The references to the current Directive/Regulation will need to be updated by lawyer linguist.

- (7) It is necessary to specify the criteria according to which tariffs for access to the network are determined, in order to ensure that they fully comply with the principle of non-discrimination and the needs of a well-functioning internal market and take fully into account the need for system integrity and reflect actual costs incurred, insofar as such costs correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and are transparent, whilst including appropriate return on investments, and where appropriate taking account of the benchmarking of tariffs by the regulatory authorities.
- (8) In calculating tariffs for access to networks it is important to take account of actual costs incurred, insofar as such costs correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and are transparent, as well as of the need to provide appropriate return on investments and incentives to construct new infrastructure. In this respect, and in particular if effective pipeline-to-pipeline competition exists, the benchmarking of tariffs by the regulatory authorities will be a relevant consideration.
- (9) The use of market-based arrangements, such as auctions, to determine tariffs has to be compatible with the provisions laid down in Directive [2003/55/EC].
- (10) A common minimum set of third party access services is necessary to provide a common minimum standard of access in practice throughout the Community, to ensure that third party access services are sufficiently compatible and to allow the benefits accruing from a well-functioning internal market **in natural** gas to be exploited.
- (11) **At present, there are obstacles to sell gas on equal terms, without discrimination or disadvantage in the Community. In particular, non-discriminatory network access and an equally effective level of regulatory supervision do not yet exist in each Member State.**

(12) The Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council entitled "An Energy Policy for Europe" highlighted the importance of completing the internal market in natural gas and to create a level playing field for all gas companies in the Community. The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council on prospects for the internal gas and electricity market and the Communication from the Commission "Inquiry pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 into the European gas and electricity sectors (Final Report)" showed that the present rules and measures do not provide the necessary framework to achieve the objective of a well functioning internal market.

(13) Besides thoroughly implementing the existing regulatory framework, the regulatory framework of the internal market in natural gas set out in Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 should be adapted in line with these communications.

(14) In particular, increased cooperation and coordination among transmission system operators is required to ensure creation of network codes for providing and managing effective access to the transmission networks across borders, and to ensure coordinated and sufficiently forward looking planning and sound technical evolution of the transmission system in the Community, with due regard to the environment. Network codes should adhere to framework guidelines developed by the Agency. It is considered appropriate for the Agency to have a role in reviewing draft network codes, including their compliance with framework guidelines, and it may recommend them for adoption by the Commission. It is also considered appropriate for the Agency to assess proposed modifications to the network codes and it may recommend them for adoption by the Commission. Transmission system operators should operate their networks according to these network codes.

(15) In order to ensure an optimal management of the gas transmission network in the Community a European network of the transmission system operators (hereinafter referred to as ENTSO) for Gas should be established. Its tasks should be carried out in compliance with Community competition rules which remain applicable to the decisions of the ENTSO for Gas. Its tasks should be well-defined and their working method should be such as to ensure efficiency, representativity and transparency. Network codes prepared by the ENTSO for Gas are not intended to replace the necessary national network codes for non cross-border issues. Given that more effective progress may be achieved through an approach at regional level, transmission system operators should set up regional structures within the overall cooperation structure, whilst ensuring that results at regional level are compatible with network codes and non-binding network development plans at Community level. Cooperation within such regional structures presupposes effective unbundling of network activities from production and supply activities in the absence of which regional cooperation between transmission system operators gives rise to a risk of anti-competitive conduct.

(16) All market participants have an interest in the work expected of the ENTSO for Gas. An effective consultation process is therefore essential and existing structures set up to facilitate and streamline the consultation process, such as the European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange (EASEE-gas), national regulators or the Agency should play an important role.

(17) To enhance competition through liquid wholesale gas markets, it is vital that gas can be traded independently of its location in the system. The only way to do this is to give network users the freedom to book entry and exit capacity independently, thereby creating gas transport through zones instead of along contractual paths. The preference for entry-exit systems to facilitate the development of competition was already expressed by most stakeholders at the 6th Madrid Forum on 30-31 October 2002. Tariffs should not be dependent on the transport route; therefore the tariff set for one or more entry point(s) should not be related to the tariff set for one or more exit point(s), and vice versa.

(18) References to harmonised transportation contracts in the context of non-discriminatory access to the network of transmission system operators do not mean that the terms and conditions of the transportation contracts of a particular system operator in a Member State must be the same as those of another transmission system operator in that Member State or in another Member State, unless minimum requirements are set which must be met by all transportation contracts.

(19) **There is substantial contractual congestion in the gas networks. The congestion management and capacity allocation principles for new or newly negotiated contracts are therefore based on the freeing-up of unused capacity by enabling network users to sublet or re-sell their contracted capacities and the obligation of transmission system operators to offer unused capacity to the market, at least on a day-ahead and interruptible basis. Given the large proportion of existing contracts and the need to create a true level playing field between users of new and existing capacity these principles need to be applied to all contracted capacity, including existing contracts.**

(20) Although physical congestion of networks is rarely a problem at present in the Community, it may become one in the future. It is important therefore to provide the basic principle for the allocation of congested capacity in such circumstances.

(21) **Market monitoring undertaken over recent years by the national regulatory authorities and by the Commission has shown that current transparency requirements and rules on access to infrastructure are not sufficient.**

(22) **Equal access to information on the physical status of the system is necessary to enable all market participants to assess the overall demand and supply situation and identify the reasons for movements in the wholesale price. This includes more precise information on supply and demand, network capacity, flows and maintenance, balancing and availability and usage of storage. The importance of this information for the functioning of the market requires alleviating existing limitations to publication for confidentiality reasons.**

(23) Confidentiality requirements for commercially sensitive information are however particularly relevant where data of a commercial strategic nature for the company are concerned, where there is only one single user for a storage facility, or where data are concerned regarding exit points within a system or subsystem that are not connected to another transmission or distribution system but to a single industrial final customer where the publication of such data reveals confidential information as to the production process of this customer.

(24) To enhance trust in the market, its participants need to be sure that abusive behaviour can be sanctioned. Competent authorities should be enabled to effectively investigate allegations of market abuse. Therefore access to data by the competent authorities is necessary that provides information on operational decisions made by supply undertakings. In the gas market all these decisions are communicated to the system operators in the form of capacity reservations, nominations and realised flows. System operators should keep this information available to the competent authorities for a fixed period of time.

(25) Access to gas storage facilities and LNG facilities is insufficient, and therefore rules need to be improved. Monitoring by the European Regulators' Group for electricity and gas (ERGEG) concluded that the voluntary guidelines for good third party access practice for storage system operators, agreed by all stakeholders at the Madrid Forum, are being insufficiently applied and therefore need to be made binding.

(26) Non-discriminatory and transparent balancing systems for gas, operated by transmission system operators, are important mechanisms, particularly for new market entrants which may have more difficulty balancing their overall sales portfolio than companies already established within a relevant market. It is therefore necessary to lay down rules to ensure that transmission system operators operate such mechanisms in a manner compatible with non-discriminatory, transparent and effective access conditions to the network.

(27) The trading of primary capacity rights is an important part of developing a competitive market and creating liquidity. This Regulation should therefore lay down basic rules on that issue.

(28) National regulatory authorities should ensure compliance with the rules contained in this Regulation and the guidelines adopted pursuant to it.

(29) In the Guidelines annexed to this Regulation, specific detailed implementing rules are defined on the basis of the second Guidelines for Good Practice. Where appropriate, these rules will evolve over time, taking into account the differences of national gas systems.

(30) When proposing to amend the Guidelines laid down in the Annex to this Regulation, the Commission should ensure prior consultation of all relevant parties concerned with the Guidelines, represented by the professional organisations, and of the Member States within the **Madrid** Forum.

(31) The Member States and the competent national authorities should be required to provide relevant information to the Commission. Such information should be treated confidentially by the Commission.

(32) This Regulation and the guidelines adopted in accordance with it are without prejudice to the application of the Community rules on competition.

(33) **The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission¹.**

(34) **In particular the Commission should be empowered to establish or adopt the guidelines necessary for providing the minimum degree of harmonisation required to achieve the aim of this Regulation. Since those measures are of general scope and are designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation, by supplementing it with new non-essential elements, they must be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny provided for in Article 5a of Decision 1999/468/EC.**

¹ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p. 11).

(35) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely the setting of fair rules for access conditions to natural gas transmission systems, **storage and LNG facilities** cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

(36) **Given the scope of the amendments that are being made to Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005, it is desirable, for reasons of clarity and rationalisation, that the provisions in question should be repealed and a new Regulation be adopted,**

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

This Regulation aims at:

- (a) setting non-discriminatory rules for access conditions to natural gas transmission systems taking into account the specificities of national and regional markets with a view to ensuring the proper functioning of the internal gas market.
- (b) **setting non-discriminatory rules for access conditions to LNG facilities and storage facilities taking into account the specificities of national and regional markets.**
- (c) **facilitating the emergence of a well functioning and transparent wholesale market with a high level of security of gas supply; it provides mechanisms to harmonise the rules for cross-border exchanges in gas.**

This Regulation, with the exception of Article 19(4), shall only apply to storage facilities falling under Article 32(3) or (4) of Directive [2003/55/EC].

The objective referred to in the first subparagraph shall include the setting of harmonised principles for tariffs, or the methodologies underlying their calculation, for access to the network, **but not to storage facilities**, the establishment of third party access services and harmonised principles for capacity allocation and congestion management, the determination of transparency requirements, balancing rules and imbalance charges and facilitating capacity trading.

The Member States may establish an entity or body set up in compliance with Directive [2003/55/EC] for the purpose of carrying out one or more functions typically attributed to the transmission system operator, which shall be subject to the requirements of this Regulation. This entity or body shall be subject to certification according to Article 3 of this Regulation and shall be subject to designation according to Article 10 of Directive [2003/55/EC].

Article 2

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:
 - 1) "transmission" means the transport of natural gas through a network, which mainly contains high pressure pipelines, other than an upstream pipeline network and other than the part of high pressure pipelines primarily used in the context of local distribution of natural gas, with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply;
 - 2) "transportation contract" means a contract which the transmission system operator has concluded with a network user with a view to carrying out transmission;
 - 3) "capacity" means the maximum flow, expressed in normal cubic meters per time unit or in energy unit per time unit, to which the network user is entitled in accordance with the provisions of the transportation contract;
 - 4) "unused capacity" means firm capacity which a network user has acquired under a transportation contract but which that user has not nominated by the deadline specified in the contract;

- 5) "congestion management" means management of the capacity portfolio of the transmission system operator with a view to optimal and maximum use of the technical capacity and the timely detection of future congestion and saturation points;
- 6) "secondary market" means the market of the capacity traded otherwise than on the primary market;
- 7) "nomination" means the prior reporting by the network user to the transmission system operator of the actual flow that he wishes to inject into or withdraw from the system;
- 8) "re-nomination" means the subsequent reporting of a corrected nomination;
- 9) "system integrity" means any situation in respect of a transmission network including necessary transmission facilities in which the pressure and the quality of the natural gas remain within the minimum and maximum limits laid down by the transmission system operator, so that the transmission of natural gas is guaranteed from a technical standpoint;
- 10) "balancing period" means the period within which the off-take of an amount of natural gas, expressed in units of energy, must be offset by every network user by means of the injection of the same amount of natural gas into the transmission network in accordance with the transportation contract or the network code;
- 11) "network user" means a customer or a potential customer of a transmission system operator, and transmission system operators themselves in so far as it is necessary for them to carry out their functions in relation to transmission;
- 12) "interruptible services" means services offered by the transmission system operator in relation to interruptible capacity;
- 13) "interruptible capacity" means gas transmission capacity that can be interrupted by the transmission system operator according to the conditions stipulated in the transportation contract;
- 14) "long-term services" means services offered by the transmission system operator with a duration of one year or more;

- 15) "short-term services" means services offered by the transmission system operator with a duration of less than one year;
- 16) "firm capacity" means gas transmission capacity contractually guaranteed as uninterrupted by the transmission system operator;
- 17) "firm services" mean services offered by the transmission system operator in relation to firm capacity;
- 18) "technical capacity" means the maximum firm capacity that the transmission system operator can offer to the network users, taking account of system integrity and the operational requirements of the transmission network;
- 19) "contracted capacity" means capacity that the transmission system operator has allocated to a network user by means of a transportation contract;
- 20) "available capacity" means the part of the technical capacity that is not allocated and is still available to the system at that moment;
- 21) "contractual congestion" means a situation where the level of firm capacity demand exceeds the technical capacity;
- 22) "primary market" means the market of the capacity traded directly by the transmission system operator;
- 23) "physical congestion" means a situation where the level of demand for actual deliveries exceeds the technical capacity at some point in time.
- 24) '**LNG-facility capacity**' means capacity at an LNG-terminal for the liquefaction of natural gas or the importation, offloading, ancillary services, temporary storage and re-gasification of LNG;
- 25) '**'space'** means the volume of gas which a user of a storage facility is entitled to use for the storage of gas;
- 26) '**'deliverability'** means the rate at which the storage user is entitled to withdraw gas from the storage facility;

- 27) '**injectability**' means the rate at which the storage user is entitled to inject gas into the storage facility;
- 29) '**storage capacity**' means any combination of space, injectability and deliverability;
- 30) '**Agency**' means the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators established by Regulation (EC) No ...

- 2. **Without prejudice to the definitions in paragraph 1 of this Article** the definitions contained in Article 2 of Directive [2003/55/EC], which are relevant for the application of this Regulation, shall also apply with the exception of the definition of transmission in point 3 of that Article.

The definitions in points 3 to 23 in paragraph 1 of this Article in relation to transmission apply by analogy in relation to storage and LNG facilities.

Article 3

Certification of Transmission System Operators

- 1. (a) **Where the Commission has received a notification on the certification of a TSO as laid down in Article 10(6) of Directive [2003/55], it shall examine the notification as soon as it is received. Within two months after receiving a notification, the Commission shall deliver its opinion to the relevant national regulatory authority as to its compatibility with Articles 10(2) and 11, and 9(1) or Article 14(ISO), or Articles 17 to 23 (ITO) of Directive [2003/55].**
- (b) **When preparing the opinion referred to in littera (a) the Commission may request the opinion of the Agency on the decision of the national regulatory authority. In such case the two-month period mentioned in littera (a) shall be extended by two months.**
- (c) **In the absence of an opinion by the Commission within this two months period, the Commission is deemed not to raise objections against the decision of the regulatory authority.**

2. Upon receiving the opinion of the Commission, the national regulatory authority shall, within two months, adopt its final decision regarding the certification of the transmission system operator, taking the utmost account of the Commission opinion. The decision and the Commission's opinion shall be published together.
3. At any time during the procedure regulatory authorities and the Commission may request from transmission system operators and undertakings performing any of the functions of production or supply any information relevant for the fulfillment of their tasks under this Article.
4. Regulatory authorities and the Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
5. The Commission may adopt guidelines setting out the details of the procedure to be followed for the application of paragraphs 1 and 2. This measure designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation by supplementing it shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 28(2).
6. Where the Commission has received a notification on the certification of a TSO under Article 9(10) of Directive [2003/55/EC], the Commission shall take a decision under this Article. The regulatory authority shall comply with the Commission decision.

Article 4

European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas

All Transmission system operators shall cooperate at Community level through establishing the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas in order to promote the completion of the internal market for gas and to ensure the optimal management and sound technical evolution of the natural gas transmission network.

Article 5

Establishment of the European Network for Transmission System Operators (ENTSO) for Gas

- 1. By [date of application] at the latest the Transmission System Operators for Gas shall submit to the Commission and to the Agency the draft of statutes, a list of future members and draft rules of procedure, including the rules of procedures on the consultation of other stakeholders, of the European Network for Transmission System Operators for Gas to be established.**
- 2. Within two months from the receipt, the Agency, after consulting the organisations representing all stakeholders, shall provide an opinion to the Commission on the draft statutes, list of members and draft rules of procedure.**
- 3. The Commission shall deliver an opinion on the draft statutes, list of members and draft rules of procedures within 3 months from the receipt of the opinion of the Agency.**
- 4. Within 3 months from the receipt of the Commission's opinion, the transmission system operators shall establish the European Network for Transmission System Operators for Gas, adopt its statutes and rules of procedure and publish them.**

Article 6

Establishment of Network Codes

- 1. The Commission shall, after consulting the Agency, ENTSO and relevant stakeholders establish an annual priority list identifying the areas mentioned in Article 8 paragraph 6 to be included in the development of network codes.**

2. The Commission may invite the Agency to submit to it within a reasonable period of time not exceeding six months a draft non-binding framework guideline setting out clear and objective principles, in accordance with Article 8(7), for the development of each network code relating to the areas identified in the priority list. Each framework guideline shall contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market. Upon a justified request from the Agency, the Commission may extend this deadline.
3. The Agency shall consult ENTSO and other relevant stakeholders on the draft non-binding framework guideline, during a period of no less than two months, in an open and transparent manner.
4. If the Commission considers that the draft non-binding framework guideline does not contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, it may request the Agency to review the draft non-binding framework guideline within a reasonable period of time and re-submit it to the Commission.
5. If the Agency fails to submit or re-submit a draft non-binding framework guideline within the deadline set by the Commission under paragraphs 2 or 4, the Commission shall elaborate the non-binding framework guideline in question.
6. The Commission shall invite ENTSO to submit a network code which adheres to the relevant framework guideline, to the Agency within a reasonable period of time not exceeding twelve months.
7. Within three months after receipt of a network code, during which period the Agency may carry out a formal consultation with relevant stakeholders, the Agency shall provide a justified opinion to ENTSO on the network code.
8. ENTSO may amend the network code in the light of the opinion of the Agency and re-submit it to the Agency.
9. Once the Agency is satisfied that the network code adheres to the relevant framework guidelines, the Agency shall submit the network code to the Commission and may recommend that it be adopted.

10. Where the ENTSO has failed to develop a network code within the period of time set by the Commission under paragraph 6, the Commission may invite the Agency to prepare a draft network code on the basis of the relevant framework guideline. The Agency may launch a further consultation in the course of preparing a draft network code under this paragraph. The Agency shall submit a draft network code prepared under this paragraph to the Commission and may recommend that it be adopted.
11. The Commission may adopt, on its own initiative where ENTSO, or the Agency have failed to develop a network code as referred to in paragraph 10, or upon recommendation of the Agency under paragraphs 9, one or more network codes in the areas listed in Article 8(6).

Where the Commission proposes to adopt a code of its own initiative, the Commission may consult the Agency, ENTSO and all relevant stakeholders on a draft code during a period of no less than two months.

These measures designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation by supplementing it shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 28(2).

12. This Article shall be without prejudice to the Commission's right to adopt and amend guidelines as laid down in Article 23.

Article 7

Modification of Network Codes

1. Draft modifications to any network code adopted under Article 6 may be proposed to the Agency by persons who are likely to be interested in that network code, including the ENTSO, TSOs, network users and consumers. The Agency may also propose modifications of its own initiative.

2. **The Agency shall establish, in its Rules of Procedure, efficient processes for assessment of and thorough consultation on draft modifications, including with the ENTSO and network users. Following this process, the Agency may make justified proposals for modifications to the Commission, explaining how any proposals are consistent with the objectives of the network codes set out in Article 6(2).**
3. **The Commission may adopt, taking account of the Agency's opinion, modifications to any code adopted under Article 6. These measures, designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation by supplementing it, shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 28(2).**
4. **Consideration of proposed modifications under the process envisaged in Article 28(2) shall be limited to consideration of the aspects related to the proposed modification. These modifications are without prejudice to other modifications which the Commission may propose.**

Article 8

Tasks of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas

1. **The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall elaborate network codes in the areas mentioned in paragraph 6 upon an invitation addressed to it by the Commission in accordance with Article 6(6);**
2. **ENTSO may elaborate network codes in the areas mentioned in paragraph 6 where these codes do not relate to areas covered by an invitation addressed to it by the Commission. These network codes shall be submitted to the Agency for an opinion.**
3. **ENTSO shall adopt:**
 - a) **common network operation tools and research plans;**
 - b) **a non-binding 10-year network development plan every two years;**

- c) an annual work programme;
- d) an annual report;
- e) annual summer and winter supply outlooks;

4. The supply outlook shall cover the overall adequacy of the gas system to supply current and projected demands for gas for the next five year period as well as for the period between five and 10 years from the date of the report. This European supply adequacy outlook shall build on national supply outlooks prepared by each individual TSO.

5. The annual work programme referred to in paragraph 3(c) shall contain a list and description of the network codes to be prepared, a plan on coordination of operation of the network, and research and development activities, to be realised in that year, and an indicative calendar.

6. The network codes shall cover the following areas, taking into account, if appropriate, regional specificities:

- a) Network security and reliability rules;
- b) grid connection rules;
- c) third party access rules;
- d) data exchange and settlement rules;
- e) interoperability rules;
- f) operational procedures in an emergency;
- g) capacity allocation and congestion management rules;
- h) rules for trading related to technical and operational provision of network access services and system balancing;
- i) transparency rules;
- j) balancing rules including network related rules on nominations procedure, rules for imbalance charges and rules for operational balancing between transmission system operators systems;

- k) rules regarding harmonised transmission tariff structures;
 - l) energy efficiency regarding gas networks.
- 7. The network codes shall only be developed for cross-border network issues and shall be without prejudice to the Member States' right to establish national codes for non-cross-border issues.
- 8. The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall monitor and analyse the implementation of the codes and the guidelines adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 6(11), and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration. ENTSO shall report its findings to the Agency and include the results of the analysis in the annual report referred to in paragraph 3(d).
- 9. ENTSO shall make available all information required by the Agency to fulfil its tasks under Article 9(1).
- 10. The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall adopt a Community-wide non-binding 10-year network development plan every two years and publish it. The network development plan shall include the modelling of the integrated network, scenario development, a supply and demand adequacy outlook and an assessment of the resilience of the system. The network development plan shall, in particular
 - a) build on national investment plans, regional investment plans as referred to in Article 12(1), and, if appropriate, on the Guidelines for Trans-European energy networks in accordance with Decision No 1364/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹;
 - b) regarding cross-border interconnections, also build on the reasonable needs of different network users and integrate long-term commitments from investors referred to in Articles 14 and 22 of the Directive [2003/55/EC];
 - c) identify investment gaps, notably with respect to cross border capacities.

1 OJ L 262, 22.9.2006, p.1.

11. Upon request of the Commission, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall give its views to the Commission on the adoption of the Guidelines as laid down in Article 23.

Article 9

Monitoring by the Agency

1. The Agency shall monitor the execution of the tasks referred to in Article 8(1) of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas, and report to the Commission.

The Agency shall monitor the implementation by the European Network of Transmission System Operators of network codes elaborated under Article 8(2) and network codes which have been established in accordance with Article 6(1) to (10) but which have not been adopted by the Commission under Article 6(11). The Agency shall provide a duly justified opinion to the Commission where the European Network of Transmission System Operators has failed to implement any such network codes.

The Agency shall monitor and analyse the implementation of the codes and the guidelines adopted by the Commission as laid down in Articles 6(11), and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration as well as on non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, and report to the Commission.

2. The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall submit the draft non-binding 10-year network development plan and the draft annual work programme, including the information regarding the consultation process, to the Agency for its opinion.

Within two months from receipt, the Agency shall provide a duly justified opinion as well as recommendations to ENTSO and to the Commission where it considers that the draft annual work programme or the draft non-binding 10-year network development plan submitted by ENTSO do not contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition, the efficient functioning of the market or a sufficient level of cross-border interconnection open to third party access.

Article 10

Consultations

1. In carrying out its tasks, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall consult extensively, at an early stage and in an open and transparent manner, in accordance with the rules of procedure referred to in Article 5 paragraph 1, while preparing the network codes, the draft non-binding 10-year network development plan and its annual work programme referred to in Article 8(1) and (6), with all appropriate market participants, and in particular with the organisations representing all stakeholders. The consultation shall include national regulatory authorities and other national authorities, supply and production undertakings, customers, system users, distribution system operators, including relevant (industry) associations, technical bodies and stakeholder platforms, and shall aim at identifying the views and proposals of all relevant parties in the decision-making process.
2. All documents and minutes of meetings related to the issues referred to in paragraph 1 shall be made public.
3. Before adopting the annual work programme and the network codes referred to in Article 8(1) and (6), the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas shall indicate the observations received in the consultation have been taken into consideration. It shall provide reasons where observations have not been taken into account.

Article 11

Costs

The costs related with the activities of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas mentioned in Articles 4 to 12 shall be born by the transmission system operators and shall be taken into account in the calculation of tariffs. Regulatory authorities shall approve these costs only if they are reasonable and proportionate.

Article 12

Regional cooperation of transmission system operators

1. **Transmission system operators shall establish regional cooperation within the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas to contribute to the tasks mentioned in Article 8(1). In particular, they shall publish a regional investment plan every two years, and may take investment decisions based on the regional investment plan.**
2. **Transmission system operators shall promote operational arrangements in order to ensure optimum management of the network, and promote the development of energy exchanges, the allocation of cross-border capacity through non-discriminatory market based solutions, paying due attention to the specific merits of implicit auctions for short-term allocations and the integration of balancing mechanisms.**
3. **The geographical area covered by each regional cooperation structure may be defined by the Commission, taking into account existing regional cooperation structures. Each Member State is allowed to promote cooperation in more than one geographical area. That measure, designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation by supplementing it, shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 28(2).**

For that purpose, the Commission may consult the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas and the Agency.

Article 13

Tariffs for access to networks

1. Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, applied by transmission system operators and approved by the regulatory authorities pursuant to Article **40(6)** of Directive [2003/55/EC], as well as tariffs published pursuant to Article **31(1)** of that Directive, shall be transparent, take into account the need for system integrity and its improvement and reflect actual costs incurred, insofar as such costs correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and are transparent, whilst including appropriate return on investments, and where appropriate taking account of the benchmarking of tariffs by the regulatory authorities. Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, shall be applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

Member States may decide that tariffs may also be determined through market-based arrangements, such as auctions, provided that such arrangements and the revenues arising therefrom are approved by the regulatory authority.

Tariffs, or the methodologies used to calculate them, shall facilitate efficient gas trade and competition, while at the same time avoiding cross-subsidies between network users and providing incentives for investment and maintaining or creating interoperability for transmission networks.

Tariffs for network users shall be set separately per entry point into or exit point out of the transmission system. Cost allocation mechanisms and rate setting methodology regarding entry points and exit points shall be approved by the national regulatory authorities. The Member States shall ensure that after a transitional period of two years after the entry into force of this Regulation, network charges shall not be calculated on the basis of contract paths.

2. Tariffs for network access shall not restrict market liquidity nor distort trade across borders of different transmission systems. Where differences in tariff structures or balancing mechanisms would hamper trade across transmission systems, and notwithstanding Article **40(6)** of Directive [2003/55/EC], transmission system operators shall, in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities, actively pursue convergence of tariff structures and charging principles including in relation to balancing.

Article 14

Third Party Access services concerning transmission system operators

1. Transmission system operators shall:
 - (a) ensure that they offer services on a non-discriminatory basis to all network users. In particular, where a transmission system operator offers the same service to different customers, it shall do so under equivalent contractual terms and conditions, either using harmonised transportation contracts or a common network code approved by the competent authority in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 40 of Directive [2003/55/EC];
 - (b) provide both firm and interruptible third party access services. The price of interruptible capacity shall reflect the probability of interruption;
 - (c) offer to network users both long and short-term services.
2. Transportation contracts signed with non-standard start dates or with a shorter duration than a standard annual transportation contract shall not result in arbitrarily higher or lower tariffs not reflecting the market value of the service, in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 13(1).
3. Where appropriate, third party access services may be granted subject to appropriate guarantees from network users with respect to the creditworthiness of such users. Such guarantees must not constitute any undue market entry barriers and must be non-discriminatory, transparent and proportionate.

Article 15

Third Party Access services concerning storage and LNG facilities

1. **LNG and storage system operators shall:**

- (a) ensure that they offer services on a non-discriminatory basis to all network users that accommodate market demand; in particular, where an LNG or storage system operator offers the same service to different customers, it shall do so under equivalent contractual terms and conditions;
- (b) offer services that are compatible with the use of the interconnected gas transportation systems and they shall facilitate access through cooperation with the transmission system operator;
- (c) make relevant information public, in particular data on the use and availability of services, in a time frame compatible with the storage and LNG facility users' reasonable commercial needs.

2. Storage system operators shall:

- (a) provide both firm and interruptible third party access services; the price of interruptible capacity shall reflect the probability of interruption;
- (b) offer to storage facility users both long and short-term services;
- (c) offer to storage facility users both bundled and unbundled services of storage space, injectability and deliverability.

3. LNG and storage facility contracts shall not result in arbitrarily higher tariffs in cases in which they are signed

- (a) outside of a natural gas year with non-standard start dates or
- (b) with a shorter duration than a standard transportation and storage contract on an annual basis.

4. Where appropriate, third party access services may be granted subject to appropriate guarantees from network users with respect to the creditworthiness of such users. Such guarantees must not constitute any undue market entry barriers and must be non-discriminatory, transparent and proportionate.

5. **Contractual limits on the required minimum size of LNG facility capacity and storage capacity shall be justified on the basis of technical constraints, and shall permit smaller storage users to gain access to storage services.**

Article 16

Principles of capacity allocation mechanisms and congestion management procedures concerning transmission system operators

1. The maximum capacity at all relevant points referred to in Article 18(3) shall be made available to market participants, taking into account system integrity and efficient network operation.
2. Transmission system operators shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent capacity allocation mechanisms, which shall:
 - (a) provide appropriate economic signals for efficient and maximum use of technical capacity and facilitate investment in new infrastructure;
 - (b) be compatible with the market mechanisms including spot markets and trading hubs, while being flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances;
 - (c) be compatible with the network access systems of the Member States.
3. Transmission system operators **shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent congestion management procedures which are based on** the following principles:
 - (a) in the event of contractual congestion, the transmission system operator shall offer unused capacity on the primary market at least on a day-ahead and interruptible basis,
 - (b) network users who wish to re-sell or sublet their unused contracted capacity on the secondary market shall be entitled to do so. Member States may require notification or information of the transmission system operator by network users.

4. In the event that physical congestion exists, non discriminatory, transparent capacity allocation mechanisms shall be applied by the transmission system operator or, as appropriate, the regulatory authorities.
5. **Transmission system operators shall regularly assess market demand for new investment. When planning new investments, transmission system operators shall assess market demand.**

Article 17

Principles of Capacity allocation mechanisms and congestion management procedures concerning storage facilities and LNG facilities

1. **The maximum storage and LNG facility capacity shall be made available to market participants, taking into account system integrity and operation.**
2. **LNG and storage system operators shall implement and publish non-discriminatory and transparent capacity allocation mechanisms which shall:**
 - (a) **provide appropriate economic signals for efficient and maximum use of capacity and facilitate investment in new infrastructure.**
 - (b) **be compatible with the market mechanism including spot markets and trading hubs, while being flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances;**
 - (c) **be compatible with the connected network access systems.**
3. **LNG and storage facility contracts shall include measures to prevent capacity-hoarding, by taking into account the following principles, which shall apply in cases of contractual congestion:**
 - (a) **the system operator shall offer unused LNG facility and storage capacity on the primary market; for storage facilities this shall be at least on a day-ahead and interruptible basis,**

(b) **LNG and storage facility users who wish to re-sell their contracted capacity on the secondary market shall be entitled to do so.**

Article 18

Transparency requirements concerning transmission system operators

1. Transmission system operators shall make public detailed information regarding the services they offer and the relevant conditions applied, together with the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective network access.
2. In order to ensure transparent, objective and non-discriminatory tariffs and facilitate efficient utilisation of the gas network, transmission system operators or relevant national authorities shall publish reasonably and sufficiently detailed information on tariff derivation, methodology and structure.
3. For the services provided, each transmission system operator shall make public information on technical, contracted and available capacities on a numerical basis for all relevant points including entry and exit points on a regular and rolling basis and in a user-friendly standardised manner.
4. The relevant points of a transmission system on which the information must be made public shall be approved by the competent authorities after consultation with network users.
5. Transmission system operators shall always disclose the information required by this Regulation in a meaningful, quantifiably clear and easily accessible way and on a non-discriminatory basis.
6. **Transmission system operators shall make public ex-ante and ex-post supply and demand information, based on nominations, forecasts and realised flows in and out of the system. The level of detail of the information that is made public shall reflect the information available to the transmission system operator.**

Transmission system operators shall make public measures taken as well as costs incurred and revenues generated to balance the system.

The market participants concerned shall provide the transmission system operators with the data referred to in this Article.

Article 19

Transparency requirements concerning storage facilities and LNG facilities

- 1. LNG and storage system operators shall make public detailed information regarding the services they offer and the relevant conditions applied, together with the technical information necessary for LNG and storage facility users to gain effective access to the LNG and storage facilities.**
- 2. For the services provided, each LNG and storage system operator shall make public information on contracted and available storage and LNG facility capacities on a numerical basis on a regular and rolling basis and in a user-friendly standardised manner.**
- 3. LNG and storage system operators shall always disclose the information required by this Regulation in a meaningful, quantifiably clear and easily accessible way and on a non-discriminatory basis.**
- 4. All LNG and storage system operators shall make public the amount of gas in each storage or LNG facility, or group of storage facilities if this corresponds to the way in which the access is offered to system users, inflows and outflows, and the available storage and LNG facility capacities, including for those facilities exempted from third party access. The information shall also be communicated to the transmission system operator who shall make it public on an aggregated level per system or subsystem defined by the relevant points. The information shall be updated at least every day.**

In cases in which a storage system user is the only user of a storage facility, the storage system user may submit a reasoned request for confidential treatment of the data mentioned in the first subparagraph to the national regulatory authority. Where the national regulatory authority comes to the conclusion that such request is justified, taking into account in particular the need to balance the interest of legitimate protection of business secrets the disclosure of which would negatively affect the overall commercial strategy of the storage user with the objective of creating a competitive internal gas market, it may allow the storage system operator not to make public the data mentioned in the first subparagraph, for the duration of one year or less. This does not lift the obligation mentioned in the first subparagraph on the transmission system operator, except when the aggregated data are identical to the individual storage system data for which the National Regulatory Authority has approved non-publication.

Article 20

Record keeping for system operators

Transmission system operators, storage system operators and LNG system operators shall keep at the disposal of the national authorities, including the national regulatory authority, the national competition authority and the Commission , all information referred to in Article 18 and 19, and in part 3 of the Annex for a period of five years.

Article 21

Balancing rules and imbalance charges

1. **Balancing rules shall be designed in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent manner and shall be based on objective criteria. Balancing rules shall reflect genuine system needs taking into account the resources available to the transmission system operator. **Balancing rules shall be market based.****

2. **In order to enable network users to take timely corrective action, transmission system operators shall provide sufficient, well-timed and reliable on-line based information on the balancing status of network users.**

The information provided shall reflect the level of information available to the transmission system operator and the settlement period for which imbalance charges are calculated.

No charge shall be made for the provision of such information.

3. Imbalance charges shall be cost-reflective to the extent possible, whilst providing appropriate incentives on network users to balance their input and off-take of gas. They shall avoid cross-subsidisation between network users and shall not hamper the entry of new market entrants.

Any calculation methodology for imbalance charges as well as the final tariffs shall be made public by the competent authorities or the transmission system operator as appropriate.

4. Member States shall ensure that transmission system operators endeavour to harmonise balancing regimes and streamline structures and levels of balancing charges in order to facilitate gas trade.

Article 22

Trading of capacity rights

Each transmission, **storage and LNG** system operator shall take reasonable steps to allow capacity rights to be freely tradable and to facilitate such trade. Each such operator shall develop harmonised transportation, **LNG facility and storage** contracts and procedures on the primary market to facilitate secondary trade of capacity and recognise the transfer of primary capacity rights where notified by **system** users.

The harmonised transportation, **LNG facility and storage** contracts and procedures shall be notified to the regulatory authorities.

Article 23

Guidelines

1. Where appropriate, guidelines providing the minimum degree of harmonisation required to achieve the aim of this Regulation shall specify:
 - (a) details of third party access services including the character, duration and other requirements of these services, in accordance with Article **14 and Article 15**;
 - (b) details of the principles underlying capacity allocation mechanisms and on the application of congestion management procedures in the event of contractual congestion, in accordance with Article **16 and Article 17**;
 - (c) details on the **provision of information and definition of** the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the system and the definition of all relevant points for transparency requirements, including the information to be published at all relevant points and the time schedule according to which this information shall be published, in accordance with Article **18 and 19**;
 - (d) **details on tariff methodology related to cross-border trade of natural gas , in accordance with Article 13;**
 - (e) **details on the topics listed in Article 8(3).**
2. Guidelines on the issues listed in paragraph 1(a), (b) and (c) are laid down in the Annex **with respect to transmission system operators**.

The Commission may amend the guidelines referred to in the first subparagraph and adopt guidelines on the issues listed in paragraph 1. Those measures designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation inter alia by supplementing it shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 28(2).
3. The application and amendment of Guidelines adopted pursuant to this Regulation shall reflect differences between national gas systems, and shall therefore not require uniform detailed terms and conditions of third party access at Community level. They may, however, set minimum requirements to be met to achieve non-discriminatory and transparent network access conditions necessary for an internal gas market, which may then be applied in the light of differences between national gas systems.

Article 24

Regulatory authorities

When carrying out their responsibilities under this Regulation, the regulatory authorities of the Member States established under Article 38 of Directive [2003/55/EC] shall ensure compliance with this Regulation and the Guidelines adopted pursuant to Article 23 of this Regulation. Where appropriate they shall cooperate with each other and with the Commission.

Article 25

Provision of information

Member States and the regulatory authorities shall, on request, provide to the Commission all information necessary for the purposes of Article 23.

The Commission shall fix a reasonable time limit within which the information is to be provided, taking into account the complexity of the information required and the urgency with which the information is needed.

Article 26

Right of Member States to provide for more detailed measures

This Regulation shall be without prejudice to the rights of Member States to maintain or introduce measures that contain more detailed provisions than those set out in this Regulation and the Guidelines referred to in Article 23.

Article 27

Penalties

1. The Member States shall lay down the rules on penalties applicable to infringements of the provisions of this Regulation and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. The Member States shall notify those provisions to the Commission by [1 July 2006] at the latest and shall notify it without delay of any subsequent amendment affecting them.
2. Penalties provided for pursuant to paragraph 1 shall not be of a criminal law nature.

Article 28

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee set up by Article **50** of Directive [2003/55/EC].
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, **Article 5a(1) to (4)** and Article 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period laid down in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

Article 29

Commission Report

The Commission shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation. In its report under Article **51(6)** of Directive [2003/55/EC], the Commission shall also report on the experience gained in the application of this Regulation. In particular the report shall examine to what extent the Regulation has been successful in ensuring non-discriminatory and cost-reflective network access conditions for gas transmission networks in order to contribute to customer choice in a well functioning internal market and to long-term security of supply. If necessary, the report shall be accompanied by appropriate proposals and/or recommendations.

Article 30

Derogations and exemptions

This Regulation shall not apply to:

- (a) natural gas transmission systems situated in Member States for the duration of derogations granted under Article **48** of Directive [2003/55/EC]; Member States which have been granted derogations under Article **48** of Directive [2003/55/EC] may apply to the Commission for a temporary derogation from the application of this Regulation, for a period of up to two years from the date at which the derogation referred to in this point expires;

- (b) interconnectors between Member States, **LNG and storage facilities** and significant increases of capacity in existing infrastructures and modifications of such infrastructures which enable the development of new sources of gas supply as referred to in Article 35(1) and (2) of Directive [2003/55/EC] which are exempted from the provisions of Articles 9, 31, 32, 33 or 40(6) and (8) of that Directive as long as they are exempted from the provisions referred to in this subparagraph, **with the exception of Article 19(4) of this Regulation**; or
- (c) natural gas transmission systems which have been granted derogations under Article 47 of Directive [2003/55/EC].

Article 31

Repeal

Regulation (EC) N° 1775/2005 shall be repealed from [date of application]. References made to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as being made to this Regulation and should be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex B.

Article 32

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

It shall apply from [18 months after entry into force].

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at **Brussels**,

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President

GUIDELINES ON

- 1. THIRD PARTY ACCESS SERVICES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS**
- 2. PRINCIPLES OF CAPACITY ALLOCATION MECHANISMS AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE EVENT OF CONTRACTUAL CONGESTION, AND**
- 3. DEFINITION OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR NETWORK USERS TO GAIN EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM, THE DEFINITION OF ALL RELEVANT POINTS FOR TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS AND THE INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED AT ALL RELEVANT POINTS AND THE TIME SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS INFORMATION SHALL BE PUBLISHED**

- 1. THIRD PARTY ACCESS SERVICES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS**
 - (1) Transmission system operators shall offer firm and interruptible services down to a minimum period of one day.
 - (2) Harmonised transportation contracts and common network codes shall be designed in a manner that facilitates trading and re-utilisation of capacity contracted by network users without hampering capacity release.
 - (3) Transmission system operators shall develop network codes and harmonised contracts following proper consultation with network users.
 - (4) Transmission system operators shall implement standardised nomination and re-nomination procedures. They shall develop information systems and electronic communication means to provide adequate data to network users and to simplify transactions, such as nominations, capacity contracting and transfer of capacity rights between network users.

- (5) Transmission system operators shall harmonise formalised request procedures and response times according to best industry practice with the aim of minimising response times. They shall provide for on-line screen based capacity booking and confirmation systems and nomination and re-nomination procedures no later than 1 July 2006 after consultation with the relevant network users.
- (6) Transmission system operators shall not separately charge network users for information requests and transactions associated with their transportation contracts and which are carried out according to standard rules and procedures.
- (7) Information requests that require extraordinary or excessive expenses such as feasibility studies may be charged separately, provided the charges can be duly substantiated.
- (8) Transmission system operators shall cooperate with other transmission system operators in coordinating the maintenance of their respective networks in order to minimise any disruption of transmission services to network users and transmission system operators in other areas and in order to ensure equal benefits with respect to security of supply including in relation to transit.
- (9) Transmission system operators shall publish at least once a year, by a predetermined deadline, all planned maintenance periods that might affect network users' rights from transportation contracts and corresponding operational information with adequate advance notice. This shall include publishing on a prompt and non-discriminatory basis any changes to planned maintenance periods and notification of unplanned maintenance, as soon as that information becomes available to the transmission system operator. During maintenance periods, transmission system operators shall publish regularly updated information on the details of and expected duration and effect of the maintenance.
- (10) Transmission system operators shall maintain and make available to the competent authority upon request a daily log of the actual maintenance and flow disruptions that have occurred. Information shall also be made available on request to those affected by any disruption.

2. PRINCIPLES OF CAPACITY ALLOCATION MECHANISMS AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE EVENT OF CONTRACTUAL CONGESTION

1.1. PRINCIPLES OF CAPACITY ALLOCATION MECHANISMS AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES CONCERNING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS

- (1) Capacity allocation mechanisms and congestion management procedures shall facilitate the development of competition and liquid trading of capacity and shall be compatible with market mechanisms including spot markets and trading hubs. They shall be flexible and capable of adapting to evolving market circumstances.
- (2) These mechanisms and procedures shall take into account the integrity of the system concerned as well as security of supply.
- (3) These mechanisms and procedures shall neither hamper the entry of new market participants nor create undue barriers to market entry. They shall not prevent market participants, including new market entrants and companies with a small market share, from competing effectively.
- (4) These mechanisms and procedures shall provide appropriate economic signals for efficient and maximum use of technical capacity and facilitate investment in new infrastructure.
- (5) Network users shall be advised about the type of circumstance that could affect the availability of contracted capacity. Information on interruption should reflect the level of information available to the transmission system operator.
- (6) Should difficulties in meeting contractual delivery obligations arise due to system integrity reasons, transmission system operators should notify network users and seek a non-discriminatory solution without delay.

Transmission system operators shall consult network users regarding procedures prior to their implementation and agree them with the regulatory authority.

1.2. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF CONTRACTUAL CONGESTION

- (1) In the event that contracted capacity goes unused, transmission system operators shall make this capacity available on the primary market on an interruptible basis via contracts of differing duration, as long as this capacity is not offered by the relevant network user on the secondary market at a reasonable price.
- (2) Revenues from released interruptible capacity shall be split according to rules laid down or approved by the relevant regulatory authority. These rules shall be compatible with the requirement of an effective and efficient use of the system.
- (3) A reasonable price for released interruptible capacity may be determined by the relevant regulatory authorities taking into account the specific circumstances prevailing.
- (4) Where appropriate, transmission system operators shall make reasonable endeavours to offer at least parts of the unused capacity to the market as firm capacity.

3. DEFINITION OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR NETWORK USERS TO GAIN EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM, THE DEFINITION OF ALL RELEVANT POINTS FOR TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS AND THE INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED AT ALL RELEVANT POINTS AND THE TIME SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS INFORMATION SHALL BE PUBLISHED

3.1. DEFINITION OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR NETWORK USERS TO GAIN EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM

Transmission system operators shall publish at least the following information about their systems and services:

- (a) a detailed and comprehensive description of the different services offered and their charges;
- (b) the different types of transportation contracts available for these services and, as applicable, the network code and/or the standard conditions outlining the rights and responsibilities of all network users including harmonised transportation contracts and other relevant documents;

- (c) the harmonised procedures applied when using the transmission system, including the definition of key terms;
- (d) provisions on capacity allocation, congestion management and anti-hoarding and re-utilisation procedures;
- (e) the rules applicable for capacity trade on the secondary market vis-à-vis the transmission system operator;
- (f) if applicable, the flexibility and tolerance levels included in transportation and other services without separate charge, as well as any flexibility offered in addition to this and the corresponding charges;
- (g) a detailed description of the gas system of the transmission system operator indicating all relevant points interconnecting its system with that of other transmission system operators and/or gas infrastructure such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and infrastructure necessary for providing ancillary services as defined by Article 2(14) of Directive 2003/55/EC;
- (h) information on gas quality and pressure requirements;
- (i) the rules applicable for connection to the system operated by the transmission system operator;
- (j) any information, in a timely manner, on proposed and/or actual changes to the services or conditions, including the items listed in points (a) to (i).

3.2. DEFINITION OF ALL RELEVANT POINTS FOR TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS

Relevant points shall include at least:

- (a) all entry points to a network operated by a transmission system operator;
- (b) the most important exit points and exit zones covering at least 50% of total exit capacity of the network of a given transmission system operator, including all exit points or exit zones covering more than 2% of total exit capacity of the network;
- (c) all points connecting different networks of transmission system operators;

- (d) all points connecting the network of a transmission system operator with an LNG terminal;
- (e) all essential points within the network of a given transmission system operator including points connecting to gas hubs. All points are considered essential which, based on experience, are likely to experience physical congestion;
- (f) all points connecting the network of a given transmission system operator to infrastructure necessary for providing ancillary services as defined by Article 2(14) of Directive 2003/55/EC.

3.3. INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED AT ALL RELEVANT POINTS AND THE TIME SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE PUBLISHED

- (1) At all relevant points, transmission system operators shall publish the following information about the capacity situation down to daily periods on the Internet on a regular/rolling basis and in a user-friendly standardised manner:
 - (a) the maximum technical capacity for flows in both directions,
 - (b) the total contracted and interruptible capacity,
 - (c) the available capacity.
- (2) For all relevant points, transmission system operators shall publish available capacities for a period of at least 18 months ahead and shall update this information at least every month or more frequently, if new information becomes available.
- (3) Transmission system operators shall publish daily updates of availability of short-term services (day-ahead and week-ahead) based, *inter alia*, on nominations, prevailing contractual commitments and regular long-term forecasts of available capacities on an annual basis for up to 10 years for all relevant points.

- (4) Transmission system operators shall publish historical maximum and minimum monthly capacity utilisation rates and annual average flows at all relevant points for the past three years on a rolling basis.
- (5) Transmission system operators shall keep a daily log of actual aggregated flows for at least three months.
- (6) Transmission system operators shall keep effective records of all capacity contracts and all other relevant information in relation to calculating and providing access to available capacities, to which relevant national authorities shall have access to fulfil their duties.
- (7) Transmission system operators shall provide user-friendly instruments for calculating tariffs for the services available and for verifying on-line the capacity available.
- (8) Where transmission system operators are unable to publish information in accordance with paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, they shall consult with their relevant national authorities and set up an Action Plan for implementation as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2006.
