

Official Journal

of the European Union

ISSN 1725-2555

L 176

Volume 46

15 July 2003

English edition

Legislation

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I Acts whose publication is obligatory

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Price: EUR 18

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

EN

Acts whose titles are printed in light type are those relating to day-to-day management of agricultural matters, and are generally valid for a limited period.

The titles of all other acts are printed in bold type and preceded by an asterisk.

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

REGULATION (EC) No 1228/2003 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 26 June 2003
on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity
(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 Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having consulted the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 96/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity ⁽⁴⁾ constituted an important step towards the completion of the internal market in electricity.
- (2) At its meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000, the European Council called for rapid work to be undertaken to complete the internal market in both the electricity and gas sectors and to speed up liberalisation in these sectors with a view to achieving a fully operational internal market in these areas.
- (3) The creation of a real internal electricity market should be promoted through an intensification of trade in electricity, which is currently underdeveloped compared with other sectors of the economy.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 240 E, 28.8.2001, p. 72, and OJ C 227 E, 24.9.2002, p. 440.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 36, 8.2.2002, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 13 March 2002 (OJ C 47 E, 27.2.2003, p. 379), Council Common position of 3 February 2003 (OJ C 50 E, 4.3.2003, p. 1) and Decision of the European Parliament of 4 June 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 27, 30.1.1997, p. 20.

(4) Fair, cost-reflective, transparent and directly applicable rules, taking account of a comparison between efficient network operators from structurally comparable areas and supplementing the provisions of Directive 96/92/EC, should be introduced with regard to cross-border tariffication and the allocation of available interconnection capacities, in order to ensure effective access to transmission systems for the purpose of cross-border transactions.

(5) In its Conclusions, the Energy Council of 30 May 2000 invited the Commission, Member States and national regulatory authorities and administrations to ensure timely implementation of congestion management measures and, in liaison with the European Transmission System Operators (ETSO), rapid introduction of a robust tariffication system for the longer term which provides the appropriate cost allocation signals to market participants.

(6) The European Parliament, in its Resolution of 6 July 2000 on the Commission's second report on the state of liberalisation of energy markets, called for conditions for using networks in Member States that do not hamper cross-border trade in electricity and called on the Commission to submit specific proposals geared to overcoming all the existing barriers to intra-Community trade.

(7) It is important that third countries that form part of the European electricity system comply with the rules contained in this Regulation and the guidelines adopted under this Regulation in order to increase the effective functioning of the internal market.

(8) This Regulation should lay down basic principles with regard to tariffication and capacity allocation, whilst providing for the adoption of guidelines detailing further relevant principles and methodologies, in order to allow rapid adaptation to changed circumstances.

- (9) In an open, competitive market, transmission system operators should be compensated for costs incurred as a result of hosting cross-border flows of electricity on their networks by the operators of the transmission systems from which cross-border flows originate and the systems where those flows end.
- (10) Payments and receipts resulting from compensation between transmission system operators should be taken into account when setting national network tariffs.
- (11) The actual amount payable for cross-border access to the system can vary considerably, depending on the transmission system operators involved and as a result of differences in the structure of the tariffication systems applied in Member States. A certain degree of harmonisation is therefore necessary in order to avoid distortions of trade.
- (12) A proper system of long term locational signals would be necessary, based on the principle that the level of the network access charges should reflect the balance between generation and consumption of the region concerned, on the basis of a differentiation of the network access charges on producers and/or consumers.
- (13) It would not be appropriate to apply distance-related tariffs, or, provided appropriate locational signals are in place, a specific tariff to be paid only by exporters or importers in addition to the general charge for access to the national network.
- (14) The precondition for effective competition in the internal market is non-discriminatory and transparent charges for network use including interconnecting lines in the transmission system. The available capacities of these lines should be set at the maximum levels consistent with the safety standards of secure network operation.
- (15) It is important to avoid distortion of competition resulting from different safety, operational and planning standards used by transmission system operators in Member States. Moreover, there should be transparency for market participants concerning available transfer capacities and the security, planning and operational standards that affect the available transfer capacities.
- (16) There should be rules on the use of revenues flowing from congestion-management procedures, unless the specific nature of the interconnector concerned justifies an exemption from these rules.
- (17) It should be possible to deal with congestion problems in various ways as long as the methods used provide correct economic signals to transmission system operators and market participants and are based on market mechanisms.
- (18) To ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market, provision should be made for procedures which allow the adoption of decisions and guidelines with regard to amongst other things tariffication and capacity allocation by the Commission whilst ensuring the involvement of Member States' regulatory authorities in this process where appropriate through their European association. Regulatory authorities, together with other relevant authorities in the Member States, have an important role to play in contributing to the proper functioning of the internal electricity market.
- (19) 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. Where necessary, the Commission should have an opportunity to request relevant information directly from undertakings concerned, provided that the competent national authorities are informed.
- (20) National regulatory authorities should ensure compliance with the rules contained in this Regulation and the guidelines adopted on the basis of this Regulation.
- (21) Member States should lay down rules on penalties applicable to infringements of the provisions of this Regulation and ensure that they are implemented. Those penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.
- (22) Since the objective of the proposed action, namely the provision of a harmonised framework for cross-border exchanges of electricity, cannot be achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effect of the action, 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 this objective.
- (23) 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 Commission ⁽¹⁾,

(¹) OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject-matter and scope

This Regulation aims at setting fair rules for cross-border exchanges in electricity, thus enhancing competition within the internal electricity market, taking into account the specificities of national and regional markets. This will involve the establishment of a compensation mechanism for cross border flows of electricity and the setting of harmonised principles on cross-border transmission charges and the allocation of available capacities of interconnections between national transmission systems.

Article 2

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Regulation, the definitions contained in Article 2 of Directive 2003/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 96/92/EC⁽¹⁾ shall apply with the exception of the definition of 'interconnector' which shall be replaced by the following:

'interconnector' means a transmission line which crosses or spans a border between Member States and which connects the national transmission systems of the Member States;

2. The following definitions shall also apply:

- (a) 'regulatory authorities' means the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 23(1) of Directive 2003/54/EC;
- (b) 'cross-border flow' means a physical flow of electricity on a transmission network of a Member State that results from the impact of the activity of producers and/or consumers outside of that Member State on its transmission network. If transmission networks of two or more Member States form part, entirely or partly, of a single control block, for the purpose of the inter-transmission system operator (TSO) compensation mechanism referred to in Article 3 only, the control block as a whole shall be considered as forming part of the transmission network of one of the Member States concerned, in order to avoid flows within control blocks being considered as cross-border flows and giving rise to compensation payments under Article 3. The regulatory authorities of the Member States concerned may decide which of the Member States concerned shall be the one of which the control block as a whole shall be considered to form part of;
- (c) 'congestion' means a situation in which an interconnection linking national transmission networks, cannot accommodate all physical flows resulting from

international trade requested by market participants, because of a lack of capacity of the interconnectors and/or the national transmission systems concerned;

- (d) 'declared export' of electricity means the dispatch of electricity in one Member State on the basis of an underlying contractual arrangement to the effect that the simultaneous corresponding take-up ('declared import') of electricity will take place in another Member State or a third country;
- (e) 'declared transit' of electricity means a circumstance where a 'declared export' of electricity occurs and where the nominated path for the transaction involves a country in which neither the dispatch nor the simultaneous corresponding take-up of the electricity will take place;
- (f) 'declared import' of electricity means the take-up of electricity in a Member State or a third country simultaneously with the dispatch of electricity ('declared export') in another Member State;
- (g) 'new interconnector' means an interconnector not completed by the date of entry into force of this Regulation.

Article 3

Inter transmission system operator compensation mechanism

1. Transmission system operators shall receive compensation for costs incurred as a result of hosting cross-border flows of electricity on their networks.
2. The compensation referred to in paragraph 1 shall be paid by the operators of national transmission systems from which cross-border flows originate and the systems where those flows end.
3. Compensation payments shall be made on a regular basis with regard to a given period of time in the past. Ex-post adjustments of compensation paid shall be made where necessary to reflect costs actually incurred.

The first period of time for which compensation payments shall be made shall be determined in the guidelines referred to in Article 8.

4. Acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 13(2), the Commission shall decide on the amounts of compensation payments payable.

5. The magnitude of cross-border flows hosted and the magnitude of cross-border flows designated as originating and/or ending in national transmission systems shall be determined on the basis of the physical flows of electricity actually measured in a given period of time.

⁽¹⁾ See p. 37 of this Official Journal.

6. The costs incurred as a result of hosting cross-border flows shall be established on the basis of the forward looking long-run average incremental costs, taking into account losses, investment in new infrastructure, and an appropriate proportion of the cost of existing infrastructure, as far as infrastructure is used for the transmission of cross-border flows, in particular taking into account the need to guarantee security of supply. When establishing the costs incurred, recognised standard-costing methodologies shall be used. Benefits that a network incurs as a result of hosting cross-border flows shall be taken into account to reduce the compensation received.

Article 4

Charges for access to networks

1. Charges applied by network-operators for access to networks shall be transparent, take into account the need for network security and reflect actual costs incurred insofar as they correspond to those of an efficient and structurally comparable network operator and applied in a non-discriminatory manner. Those charges shall not be distance-related.

2. Producers and consumers ('load') may be charged for access to networks. The proportion of the total amount of the network charges borne by producers shall, subject to the need to provide appropriate and efficient locational signals, be lower than the proportion borne by consumers. Where appropriate, the level of the tariffs applied to producers and/or consumers shall provide locational signals at European level, and take into account the amount of network losses and congestion caused, and investment costs for infrastructure. This shall not prevent Member States from providing locational signals within their territory or from applying mechanisms to ensure that network access charges borne by consumers ('load') are uniform throughout their territory.

3. When setting the charges for network access the following shall be taken into account:

- payments and receipts resulting from the inter-transmission system operator compensation mechanism;
- actual payments made and received as well as payments expected for future periods of time, estimated on the basis of past periods.

4. Providing that appropriate and efficient locational signals are in place, in accordance with paragraph 2, charges for

access to networks applied to producers and consumers shall be applied regardless of the countries of destination and origin, respectively, of the electricity, as specified in the underlying commercial arrangement. This shall be without prejudice to charges on declared exports and declared imports resulting from congestion management referred to in Article 6.

5. There shall be no specific network charge on individual transactions for declared transits of electricity.

Article 5

Provision of information on interconnection capacities

1. Transmission system operators shall put in place coordination and information exchange mechanisms to ensure the security of the networks in the context of congestion management.

2. The safety, operational and planning standards used by transmission system operators shall be made public. The information published shall include a general scheme for the calculation of the total transfer capacity and the transmission reliability margin based upon the electrical and physical features of the network. Such schemes shall be subject to the approval of the regulatory authorities.

3. Transmission system operators shall publish estimates of available transfer capacity for each day, indicating any available transfer capacity already reserved. These publications shall be made at specified intervals before the day of transport and shall include, in any case, week-ahead and month-ahead estimates, as well as a quantitative indication of the expected reliability of the available capacity.

Article 6

General principles of congestion management

1. Network congestion problems shall be addressed with non-discriminatory market based solutions which give efficient economic signals to the market participants and transmission system operators involved. Network congestion problems shall preferentially be solved with non-transaction based methods, i.e. methods that do not involve a selection between the contracts of individual market participants.

2. Transaction curtailment procedures shall only be used in emergency situations where the transmission system operator must act in an expeditious manner and redispatching or countertrading is not possible. Any such procedure shall be applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

Except in cases of 'force-majeure', market participants who have been allocated capacity shall be compensated for any curtailment.

3. The maximum capacity of the interconnections and/or the transmission networks affecting cross-border flows shall be made available to market participants, complying with safety standards of secure network operation.

4. Market participants shall inform the transmission system operators concerned a reasonable time ahead of the relevant operational period whether they intend to use allocated capacity. Any allocated capacity that will not be used shall be reattributed to the market, in an open, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

5. Transmission system operators shall, as far as technically possible, net the capacity requirements of any power flows in opposite direction over the congested interconnection line in order to use this line to its maximum capacity. Having full regard to network security, transactions that relieve the congestion shall never be denied.

6. Any revenues resulting from the allocation of interconnection shall be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) guaranteeing the actual availability of the allocated capacity;
- (b) network investments maintaining or increasing interconnection capacities;
- (c) as an income to be taken into account by regulatory authorities when approving the methodology for calculating network tariffs, and/or in assessing whether tariffs should be modified.

Article 7

New interconnectors

1. New direct current interconnectors may, upon request, be exempted from the provisions of Article 6(6) of this Regulation and Articles 20 and 23(2), (3) and (4) of Directive 2003/54/EC under the following conditions:

- (a) the investment must enhance competition in electricity supply;
- (b) the level of risk attached to the investment is such that the investment would not take place unless an exemption is granted;
- (c) the interconnector must be owned by a natural or legal person which is separate at least in terms of its legal form from the system operators in whose systems that interconnector will be built;
- (d) charges are levied on users of that interconnector;

(e) since the partial market opening referred to in Article 19 of Directive 96/92/EC, no part of the capital or operating costs of the interconnector has been recovered from any component of charges made for the use of transmission or distribution systems linked by the interconnector;

(f) the exemption is not to the detriment of competition or the effective functioning of the internal electricity market, or the efficient functioning of the regulated system to which the interconnector is linked.

2. Paragraph 1 shall apply also, in exceptional cases, to alternating current interconnectors provided that the costs and risks of the investment in question are particularly high when compared with the costs and risks normally incurred when connecting two neighbouring national transmission systems by an alternating current interconnector.

3. Paragraph 1 shall apply also to significant increases of capacity in existing interconnectors.

4. (a) The regulatory authority may, on a case by case basis, decide on the exemption referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2. However, Member States may provide that the regulatory authorities shall submit, for formal decision, to the relevant body in the Member State its opinion on the request for an exemption. This opinion shall be published together with the decision.

(b) (i) The exemption may cover all or part of the capacity of the new interconnector, or of the existing interconnector with significantly increased capacity.

(ii) In deciding to grant an exemption, consideration shall be given, on a case by case basis, to the need to impose conditions regarding the duration of the exemption and non discriminatory access to the interconnector.

(iii) When deciding on the conditions in (i) and (ii) account shall, in particular, be taken of the additional capacity to be built, the expected time horizon of the project and national circumstances.

(c) When granting an exemption the relevant authority may approve or fix the rules and/or mechanisms on the management and allocation of capacity.

(d) The exemption decision, including any conditions referred to in (b), shall be duly reasoned and published.

(e) Any exemption decision shall be taken after consultation with other Member States or regulatory authorities concerned.

5. The exemption decision shall be notified, without delay, by the competent authority to the Commission, together with all the information relevant to the decision. This information may be submitted to the Commission in aggregate form, enabling the Commission to reach a well-founded decision.

In particular, the information shall contain:

- the detailed reasons on the basis of which the regulatory authority, or Member State, granted the exemption, including the financial information justifying the need for the exemption;
- the analysis undertaken of the effect on competition and the effective functioning of the internal electricity market resulting from the grant of the exemption;
- the reasons for the time period and the share of the total capacity of the interconnector in question for which the exemption is granted;
- the result of the consultation with the Member States or regulatory authorities concerned;

Within two months after receiving a notification, the Commission may request that the regulatory authority or the Member State concerned amend or withdraw the decision to grant an exemption. The two months period may be extended by one additional month where additional information is sought by the Commission.

If the regulatory authority or Member State concerned does not comply with the request within a period of four weeks, a final decision shall be taken in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 13(3).

The Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.

Article 8

Guidelines

1. Where appropriate, the Commission shall, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 13(2), adopt and amend guidelines on the issues listed under paragraph 2 and 3 and relating to the inter-transmission system operator compensation mechanism, in accordance with the principles set out in Articles 3 and 4. When adopting these guidelines for the first time the Commission shall ensure that they cover in a single draft measure at least the issues referred to in paragraph 2(a) and (d), and paragraph 3.

2. The guidelines shall specify:

- (a) details of the procedure for determining which transmission system operators are liable to pay

compensation for cross-border flows including as regards the split between the operators of national transmission systems from which cross-border flows originate and the systems where those flows end, in accordance with Article 3(2);

- (b) details of the payment procedure to be followed, including the determination of the first period of time for which compensation is to be paid, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 3(3);
- (c) details of methodologies for determining the cross-border flows hosted for which compensation is to be paid under Article 3, in terms of both quantity and type of flows, and the designation of the magnitudes of such flows as originating and/or ending in transmission systems of individual Member States, in accordance with Article 3(5);
- (d) details of the methodology for determining the costs and benefits incurred as a result of hosting cross-border flows, in accordance with Article 3(6);
- (e) details of the treatment in the context of the inter-TSO compensation mechanism of electricity flows originating or ending in countries outside the European Economic Area;
- (f) the participation of national systems which are interconnected through direct current lines, in accordance with Article 3.

3. The guidelines shall also determine appropriate rules leading to a progressive harmonisation of the underlying principles for the setting of charges applied to producers and consumers (load) under national tariff systems, including the reflection of the inter-TSO compensation mechanism in national network charges and the provision of appropriate and efficient locational signals, in accordance with the principles set out in Article 4.

The guidelines shall make provision for appropriate and efficient harmonised locational signals at European level.

Any harmonisation in this respect shall not prevent Member States from applying mechanisms to ensure that network access charges borne by consumers (load) are comparable throughout their territory.

4. Where appropriate, the Commission shall, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 13(2),

amend the guidelines on the management and allocation of available transfer capacity of interconnections between national systems set out in the Annex, in accordance with the principles set out in Articles 5 and 6, in particular so as to include detailed guidelines on all capacity allocation methodologies applied in practice and to ensure that congestion management mechanisms evolve in a manner compatible with the objectives of the internal market. Where appropriate, in the course of such amendments common rules on minimum safety and operational standards for the use and operation of the network, as referred to in Article 5(2) shall be set.

When adopting or amending guidelines, the Commission shall ensure that they provide the minimum degree of harmonisation required to achieve the aims of this Regulation and do not go beyond what is necessary for that purpose.

When adopting or amending guidelines, the Commission shall indicate what actions it has taken with respect to the conformity of rules in third countries, which form part of the European electricity system, with the guidelines in question.

Article 9

Regulatory authorities

The regulatory authorities, when carrying out their responsibilities, shall ensure compliance with this Regulation and the guidelines adopted pursuant to Article 8. Where appropriate to fulfil the aims of this Regulation they shall cooperate with each other and with the Commission.

Article 10

Provision of information and confidentiality

1. Member States and the regulatory authorities shall, on request, provide to the Commission all information necessary for the purposes of Articles 3(4) and 8.

In particular, for the purposes of Article 3(4) and 3(6), regulatory authorities shall provide on a regular basis information on costs actually incurred by national transmission system operators, as well as data and all relevant information relating to the physical flows in transmission system operators' networks and the cost of the network.

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.

2. If the Member State or the regulatory authority concerned does not provide this information within the given time-limit pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission may request all information necessary for the purpose of Article 3(4) and 8 directly from the undertakings concerned.

When sending a request for information to an undertaking, the Commission shall at the same time forward a copy of the request to the regulatory authorities of the Member State in whose territory the seat of the undertaking is situated.

3. In its request for information, the Commission shall state the legal basis of the request, the time limit within which the information is to be provided, the purpose of the request, and also the penalties provided for in Article 12(2) for supplying incorrect, incomplete or misleading information. The Commission shall fix a reasonable time limit taking into account the complexity of the information required and the urgency with which the information is needed.

4. The owners of the undertakings or their representatives and, in the case of legal persons, the persons authorised to represent them by law or by their instrument of incorporation, shall supply the information requested. Lawyers duly authorised to act may supply the information on behalf of their clients, in which case the client shall remain fully responsible if the information supplied is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.

5. Where an undertaking does not provide the information requested within the time-limit fixed by the Commission or supplies incomplete information, the Commission may by decision require the information to be provided. The decision shall specify what information is required and fix an appropriate time-limit within which it is to be supplied. It shall indicate the penalties provided for in Article 12(2). It shall also indicate the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

The Commission shall at the same time send a copy of its decision to the regulatory authorities of the Member State within the territory of which the residence of the person or the seat of the undertaking is situated.

6. Information collected pursuant to this Regulation shall be used only for the purposes of Articles 3(4) and 8.

The Commission shall not disclose information acquired pursuant to this Regulation of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy.

Article 11

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 8.

*Article 12***Penalties**

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, 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 2004 at the latest and shall notify it without delay of any subsequent amendment affecting them.

2. The Commission may by decision impose on undertakings fines not exceeding 1 % of the total turnover in the preceding business year where, intentionally or negligently, they supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information in response to a request made pursuant to Article 10(3) or fail to supply information within the time-limit fixed by a decision adopted pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 10(5).

In setting the amount of a fine, regard shall be had to the gravity of the failure to comply with the requirements of the first subparagraph.

3. Penalties provided for pursuant to paragraph 1 and decisions taken pursuant to paragraph 2 shall not be of a criminal law nature.

*Article 13***Committee**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 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. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

4. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedures.

*Article 14***Commission Report**

The Commission shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation. It shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council no more than three years after the entry into force of this Regulation a report on the experience gained in its application. 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 cross border exchanges of electricity in order to contribute to customer choice in a well functioning internal market and to long-term security of supply, as well as to what extent effective locational signals are in place. If necessary, the report shall be accompanied by appropriate proposals and/or recommendations.

*Article 15***Entry into force**

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

It shall apply from 1 July 2004.

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

Done at Brussels, 26 June 2003.

For the European Parliament

The President

P. COX

For the Council

The President

A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ANNEX

Guidelines on the management and allocation of available transfer capacity of interconnections between national systems

General

1. Congestion management method(s) implemented by Member States shall deal with short-run congestion in a market-based, economically efficient manner whilst simultaneously providing signals or incentives for efficient network and generation investment in the right locations.
2. The TSOs, or, where appropriate, Member States, shall provide non-discriminatory and transparent standards, which describe which congestion management methods they will apply under which circumstances. These standards, together with the security standards, shall be described in publicly available documents.
3. Different treatment of the different types of cross-border transactions, whether they are physical bilateral contracts or bids into foreign organised markets, shall be kept to a minimum when designing the rules of specific methods for congestion management. The method for allocating scarce transmission capacity must be transparent. Any differences in how transactions are treated must be shown not to distort or hinder the development of competition.
4. Price signals that result from congestion management systems shall be directional.
5. TSOs shall offer to the market transmission capacity that is as 'firm' as possible. A reasonable fraction of the capacity may be offered to the market under the condition of decreased firmness, but at all times the exact conditions for transport over cross border lines shall be made known to market participants.
6. Considering the fact that the European continental network is a highly meshed network and that the use of interconnection lines has an effect on the power flows on at least two sides of a national border, national Regulators shall ensure that no congestion management procedure with significant effects on power flows in other networks, is devised unilaterally.

Position of long-term contracts

1. Priority access rights to an interconnection capacity shall not be assigned to those contracts which breach Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty.
2. Existing long-term contracts shall have no pre-emption rights when they come up for renewal.

Provision of information

1. TSOs shall implement appropriate coordination and information-exchange mechanisms to guarantee security of the network.
2. TSOs shall publish all relevant data concerning the cross-border total transfer capacities. In addition to the winter and summer ATC values, estimates of transfer capacity for each day shall be published by the TSOs at several time intervals before the day of transport. At least accurate week-ahead estimates shall be made available to the market and the TSOs should also endeavour to provide month-ahead information. A description of the firmness of the data shall be included.

3. The TSOs shall publish a general scheme for calculation of the total transfer capacity and the transmission reliability margin based upon the electrical and physical realities of the network. Such a scheme shall be subject to approval by the regulators of the Member States concerned. The safety standards and the operational and planning standards shall form an integral part of the information that TSOs shall publish in publicly available documents.

Principles governing methods for congestion management

1. Network congestion problems shall preferentially be solved with non-transaction based methods, i.e. methods that do not involve a selection between the contracts of individual market participants.
2. Cross-border coordinated redispatching or counter trading may be used jointly by the TSOs concerned. The costs that TSOs incur in counter-trading and redispatching must, however, be at an efficient level.
3. The possible merits of a combination of market splitting, or other market based mechanisms, for solving 'permanent' congestion and counter-trading for solving temporary congestion shall be immediately explored as a more enduring approach to congestion management.

Guidelines for explicit auctions

1. The auction system must be designed in such a way that all available capacity is being offered to the market. This may be done by organising a composite auction in which capacities are auctioned for differing durations and with different characteristics (e.g. with respect to the expected reliability of the available capacity in question).
 2. Total interconnection capacity shall be offered in a series of auctions, which, for instance, might be held on a yearly, monthly, weekly, daily or intra-daily basis, according to the needs of the markets involved. Each of these auctions shall allocate a prescribed fraction of the available transfer capacity plus any remaining capacity that was not allocated in previous auctions.
 3. The explicit auction procedures shall be prepared in close collaboration between the national regulatory authority and the TSO concerned and designed in such a way as to allow bidders to participate also in the daily sessions of any organised market (i.e. power exchange) in the countries involved.
 4. The power flows in both directions over congested tie lines shall in principle be netted in order to maximise the transport capacity in the direction of the congestion. However, the procedure for netting of flows shall comply with safe operation of the power system.
 5. In order to offer as much capacity to the market as possible, the financial risks related to the netting of flows, shall be attributed to those parties causing those risks to materialise.
 6. Any auction procedure adopted shall be capable of sending directional price signals to market participants. Transport in a direction against the dominant power flow relieves the congestion thus resulting in additional transport capacity over the congested tie line.
 7. In order not to risk creating or aggravating problems related to any dominant position of market participant(s), capping of the amount of capacity that can be bought/possessed/used by any single market participant in an auction shall be seriously considered by the competent regulatory authorities in the design of any auction mechanisms.
 8. To promote the creation of liquid electricity markets, capacity bought at an auction shall be freely tradeable until the TSO is notified that the capacity bought will be used.
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DECISION No 1229/2003/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 26 June 2003

laying down a series of guidelines for trans-European energy networks and repealing Decision No 1254/96/EC

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular the first paragraph of Article 156 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions ⁽³⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽⁴⁾,

Whereas:

(1) Since the adoption of Decision No 1254/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 1996 laying down a series of guidelines for trans-European energy networks ⁽⁵⁾, the need has arisen to incorporate new priorities, to highlight the projects which are particularly important, to update the list of projects, and to adapt the procedure used for identifying projects.

(2) The new priorities stem from the creation of a more open and competitive internal energy market, as a result of the implementation of Directive 96/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity ⁽⁶⁾ and of Directive 98/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas ⁽⁷⁾. They follow the conclusions of the Stockholm European Council of

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 151 E, 25.6.2002, p. 207.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 241, 7.10.2002, p. 146.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 278, 14.11.2002, p. 35.

⁽⁴⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 24 October 2002 (not yet published in the Official Journal), Council Common Position of 6 February 2003 (OJ C 64 E, 18.3.2003, p. 22) and Decision of the European Parliament of 4 June 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Council Decision of 16 June 2003.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 147. Decision as last amended by Decision No 1741/1999/EC (OJ L 207, 6.8.1999, p. 1).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 27, 30.1.1997, p. 20.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 1.

March 2001 concerning the development of the infrastructures needed for the operation of the energy market. A special effort should be undertaken to achieve the objective of making greater use of renewable energy sources as a contribution to furthering a sustainable development policy.

(3) As a rule the construction and maintenance of energy infrastructure should be subject to market principles. This is also in line with the Commission proposals for the completion of the internal market in energy and the common rules on competition law which aim at the creation of a more open and competitive internal energy market. Community financial aid for construction and maintenance should therefore remain highly exceptional. These exceptions should be duly justified.

(4) Energy infrastructure should be constructed and maintained so as to enable the internal energy market to operate efficiently, without detracting from strategic and, where appropriate, universal service criteria. The priorities also stem from the growing importance of the trans European energy networks for diversifying the Community's gas supplies, incorporating the candidate countries' energy networks, and ensuring the coordinated operation of the electricity grids in Europe and the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins.

(5) Among the projects relating to trans-European energy networks, it is necessary to highlight the priority projects, which are very important for the operation of the internal energy market or the security of energy supply.

(6) It is necessary to adapt the procedure for identifying projects relating to trans-European energy networks in order to ensure the harmonious application of Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 of 18 September 1995 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks ⁽⁸⁾.

(7) The procedure for identifying projects relating to trans-European energy networks should be adapted by

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 228, 23.9.1995, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 1).

means of action at two levels: a first level identifying a restricted number of thematically defined projects of common interest, and a second level describing projects in detail, referred to as specifications.

- (8) Since the project specifications are liable to change, they are given indicatively. The Commission should therefore continue to be empowered to update them. Since the project may have considerable political and economic implications, it is important to find the appropriate balance between legislative oversight and flexibility in determining projects that merit potential Community support.
- (9) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision 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 Commission ⁽¹⁾.
- (10) The identification of projects of common interest, their specifications and priority projects should be without prejudice to the results of the environmental impact assessment of the projects and of the plans or programmes.
- (11) The time limit within which the Commission has to draw up the periodical report on the implementation of the guidelines under Decision No 1254/96/EC should be extended since, in pursuance of Regulation (EC) No 2236/95, it is to submit an annual report which contains information on the progress of projects, and in particular that of priority projects.
- (12) Given the scope of the amendments that are being made to Decision No 1254/96/EC, it is desirable, for reasons of clarity and rationalisation, that the provisions in question should be recast,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Purpose

This Decision defines the nature and scope of Community action to establish guidelines for trans-European energy networks. It establishes a series of guidelines covering the objectives, priorities and broad lines of action by the Community in respect of trans-European energy networks.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

These guidelines identify projects of common interest, including those which have priority, among trans European electricity and natural gas networks.

Article 2

Scope

This Decision applies:

1. in electricity networks, to:
 - (a) all high voltage lines, excluding those of distribution networks, and to submarine links, provided that this infrastructure is used for inter regional or international transmission/connection;
 - (b) any equipment or installations essential for the system in question to operate properly, including protection, monitoring and control systems;
2. in natural gas networks, to:
 - (a) high pressure gas pipelines, excluding those of distribution networks, making it possible to supply regions of the Community from internal or external sources;
 - (b) underground storage facilities connected to the abovementioned high pressure gas pipelines;
 - (c) reception, storage and regasification facilities for liquefied natural gas (LNG) and also gas carriers according to the capacities to be supplied;
 - (d) any equipment or installations essential for the system in question to operate properly, including protection, monitoring and control systems.

Article 3

Objectives

The Community shall promote the interconnection, interoperability and development of trans-European energy networks and access to such networks in accordance with current Community law, with the aim of:

- (a) encouraging effective operation of the internal market in general and of the internal energy market in particular, while encouraging the rational production, distribution and utilisation of energy resources and the development and connection of renewable energy resources, so as to reduce the cost of energy to the consumer and contribute to the diversification of energy sources;
- (b) facilitating the development and reducing the isolation of the less favoured and island regions of the Community, thereby helping to strengthen economic and social cohesion;

(c) reinforcing the security of energy supplies, for example by strengthening relations with third countries in the energy sector in their mutual interest, in particular in the framework of the Energy Charter Treaty and cooperation agreements concluded by the Community.

Article 4

Priorities

The priorities for action by the Community on trans-European energy networks shall be compatible with sustainable development and shall be as follows:

1. for both electricity and gas networks:
 - (a) adapting and developing the energy networks in support of the operation of the internal energy market and, in particular, solving the problems of bottlenecks (in particular transfrontier ones), congestion and missing links, and taking account of the needs arising from the functioning of the internal market for electricity and natural gas and the enlargement of the European Community;
 - (b) establishing energy networks in island, isolated, peripheral and ultraperipheral regions while promoting the diversification of energy sources and the use of renewable energy sources, together with the connection of those networks, where necessary;
2. for electricity networks:
 - (a) adapting and developing networks to facilitate the integration/connection of renewable energy production;
 - (b) interoperability of electricity networks within the European Community with those in the accession candidate countries and other countries in Europe and the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins;
3. for gas networks:

the development of gas networks in order to meet the European Community's natural gas consumption needs, the control of its gas supply systems and the interoperability of gas networks with those in third countries in Europe and the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins, and the diversification of natural gas sources and supply routes.

Article 5

Lines of action

The broad lines of action by the Community on trans-European energy networks shall be:

- (a) the identification of projects of common interest;
- (b) the creation of a more favourable context for development of these networks, in accordance with Article 156(1), of the Treaty.

Article 6

Additional criteria for projects of common interest

1. The generic criteria to be applied when a decision is taken on modifications, specifications or applications for updating projects of common interest are the following:
 - (a) the projects fall within the scope of Article 2;
 - (b) the projects correspond to the objectives and priorities set out in Articles 3 and 4 respectively;
 - (c) the projects display potential economic viability.

Projects of common interest which relate to the territory of a Member State shall require the approval of the Member State concerned.

2. The additional criteria for identifying projects of common interest are set out in Annex II.

3. Any modification which changes the description of the additional criteria for projects of common interest as it appears in Annex II, including substantial changes affecting these criteria, such as in respect of entirely new projects or new country destinations, shall be decided upon in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty.

4. Only those projects listed in Annex III which fulfil the criteria referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be eligible for Community financial aid provided under Regulation (EC) No 2236/95.

5. The indicative project specifications, including, where appropriate, their geographical description, are set out in Annex III. These specifications shall be updated in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10(2). Updates are of a technical nature and must be limited to technical changes of projects, the need to modify for example a particular part of the specified routing, or a limited adaptation of the location of the project.

6. Member States shall take any measures they consider necessary to facilitate and speed up the completion of projects of common interest and to minimise delays while complying

with Community law and international conventions on the environment. In particular, the necessary authorisation procedures shall be completed rapidly.

7. Where parts of projects of common interest are situated within the territory of third countries, the Commission may, by agreement with the Member States concerned, put forward proposals, where appropriate within the framework of the management of the agreements between the Community and those third countries and in accordance with the Energy Charter Treaty in respect of third countries which are signatories to that Treaty, for the projects also to be recognised as of reciprocal interest by the third countries concerned, in order to facilitate their implementation.

8. The evaluation of the economic viability referred to in paragraph 1(c) shall be based upon a cost benefit analysis which shall take account of all costs and benefits, including those in the medium and/or long term, in connection with environmental aspects, security of supply and the contribution to economic and social cohesion.

Article 7

Priority projects

1. Those projects of common interest referred to in Article 6(4) and covered by Annex I shall have priority for the grant of Community financial aid provided under Regulation (EC) No 2236/95. Modifications to Annex I shall be decided upon in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty.

2. The Member States concerned and the Commission shall endeavour, each within its own sphere of competence, to further the carrying out of the priority projects especially cross border projects.

3. Priority projects shall be compatible with sustainable development and meet the following criteria:

- (a) they shall have a significant impact on the competitive operation of the internal market, and/or
- (b) they shall strengthen security of supply in the Community.

Article 8

Effects on competition

When projects are considered, an effort shall be made to take into account the effects on competition. Private financing or financing by the economic operators concerned shall be encouraged. Any competitive distortion between the operators on the market shall be avoided, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

Article 9

Restrictions

1. This Decision shall be without prejudice to any financial commitment by a Member State or the Community.
2. This Decision shall be without prejudice to the results of the environmental impact assessment of projects and of the plans or programmes which define the future authorisation framework for such projects. The results of the environmental impact assessments, where such an assessment is requested in accordance with relevant Community legislation, shall be taken into consideration before a decision on the carrying out of the projects is actually taken in accordance with the relevant Community legislation.

Article 10

Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 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 11

Report

Every two years the Commission shall draw up a report on the implementation of this Decision, which it shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. In this report, attention shall also be given to the implementation and progress made in the carrying out of priority projects, as well as the modalities of their financing, especially as regards the contribution of Community funding, which concern cross border connections as mentioned in Annex II, points 1, 2 and 7.

Article 12

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

Article 13

Decision No 1254/96/EC is hereby repealed, without prejudice to the obligations of Member States concerning the application

of the said Decision. References to Decision No 1254/96/EC shall be construed as references to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 26 June 2003.

Article 14

For the European Parliament

For the Council

The President

The President

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

P. COX

A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ANNEX I

TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY NETWORKS**Axes for Priority projects as defined in Article 7**

ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

- EL.1. France — Belgium — Netherlands — Germany:
electricity network reinforcements in order to resolve congestion in electricity flow through the Benelux.
- EL.2. Borders of Italy with France, Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland:
increasing electricity interconnection capacities.
- EL.3. France — Spain — Portugal:
increasing electricity interconnection capacities between these countries and for the Iberian peninsula and grid development in island regions.
- EL.4. Greece — Balkan countries — UCTE System:
development of electricity infrastructure to connect Greece to the UCTE System.
- EL.5. United Kingdom — Continental Europe and Northern Europe:
establishing/increasing electricity interconnection capacities and possible integration of offshore wind energy.
- EL.6. Ireland — United Kingdom:
increasing electricity interconnection capacities and possible integration of offshore wind energy.
- EL.7. Denmark — Germany — Baltic Ring (including Norway — Sweden — Finland — Denmark — Germany):
increasing electricity interconnection capacity and possible integration of offshore wind energy.

GAS NETWORKS

- NG.1. United Kingdom — Northern Continental Europe, including Netherlands, Denmark and Germany — (with connections to Baltic Sea Region countries) — Russia:
gas pipelines connecting some of the main sources of gas in Europe, improving the interoperability of the networks, and increasing the security of supply.
- NG.2. Algeria — Spain — Italy — France — Northern Continental Europe:
construction of new gas pipelines from Algeria to Spain, France and to Italy, and increasing network capacities in and between Spain, Italy and France.
- NG.3. Caspian Sea countries — Middle East — European Union:
new gas pipeline networks to the European Union from new sources, including the Turkey — Greece, Greece — Italy and Turkey — Austria gas pipelines.
- NG.4. LNG terminals in Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy:
diversifying sources of supply and entry points, including the LNG connections with the transmission grid.
- NG.5. Underground storage in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and the Baltic Sea Region:
increasing capacity in Spain, Italy and the Baltic Sea Region and construction of the first facilities in Portugal and Greece.

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ANNEX II

TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY NETWORKS

Additional criteria for Projects of common interest

ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

1. Developing electricity networks in island, isolated, peripheral and ultraperipheral regions while promoting the diversification of energy sources and enhancing the use of renewable energies, and connection of the electricity networks of those regions, if appropriate.
 - Ireland — United Kingdom (Wales)
 - Greece (Islands)
 - Italy (Sardinia) — France (Corsica) — Italy (mainland)
 - Connections in island regions
 - Connections in ultraperipheral regions in France, Spain, Portugal
2. Developing electricity connections between the Member States needed for the functioning of the internal market and in order to ensure the reliability and dependability of the operation of electricity networks.
 - France — Belgium — Netherlands — Germany
 - France — Germany
 - France — Italy
 - France — Spain
 - Portugal — Spain
 - Finland — Sweden
 - Austria — Italy
 - Ireland — United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)
 - Austria — Germany
 - Netherlands — United Kingdom
 - Germany — Denmark — Sweden
 - Greece — Italy
3. Developing electrical connections within the Member States where this is needed in order to take advantage of the connections between the Member States, the functioning of the internal market or the connection of renewable energy sources
 - All Member States
4. Developing electricity connections with the non-Member States, and more particularly with the candidate countries for accession, thus contributing towards interoperability, the operational reliability and dependability of the electricity grids or the supply of electricity within the European Community.
 - Germany — Norway
 - The Netherlands — Norway
 - Sweden — Norway
 - United Kingdom — Norway
 - Italy — Slovenia

- Baltic Electricity Ring: Germany — Poland — Russia — Estonia — Latvia — Lithuania — Sweden — Finland — Denmark — Belarus
 - Norway — Sweden — Finland — Russia
 - Mediterranean Electricity Ring: France — Spain — Morocco — Algeria — Tunisia — Libya — Egypt — Near-Eastern Countries — Turkey — Greece — Italy
 - Germany — Poland
 - Greece — Turkey
 - Italy — Switzerland
 - Greece — Balkan Countries
 - Spain — Morocco
 - EU — Balkan Countries — Belarus — Russia — Ukraine
 - Black Sea Electricity Ring: Russia — Ukraine — Romania — Bulgaria — Turkey — Georgia
5. Actions improving the functioning of the interconnected electricity networks within the internal market and, in particular, identifying the bottlenecks and missing links, developing solutions in order to deal with congestion and adapting the methods of forecasting and of operating electricity networks.
- Identifying the bottlenecks and missing links, especially cross border, within electricity networks
 - Developing solutions for electricity flow management in order to deal with the problems of congestion within electricity networks
 - Adapting the methods of forecasting and of operating electricity networks required by the functioning of the internal market and the use of a high percentage of renewable energy sources

NATURAL GAS NETWORKS

6. Introducing natural gas into new regions, mainly island, isolated, peripheral and ultraperipheral regions and developing gas networks in these regions.
- United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)
 - Ireland
 - Spain
 - Portugal
 - Greece
 - Sweden
 - Denmark
 - Ultraperipheral Regions: France, Spain, Portugal
7. Developing gas connections in order to meet the needs of the internal market or strengthening of the security of supply, including connection of separate gas networks
- Ireland — United Kingdom
 - France — Spain
 - Portugal — Spain
 - Austria — Germany
 - Austria — Hungary

- Austria — Italy
 - Greece — Other Balkan Countries
 - Italy — Greece
 - Austria — Czech Republic
 - Austria — Slovenia — Croatia
 - United Kingdom — The Netherlands — Germany
 - Germany — Poland
 - Denmark — United Kingdom
 - Denmark — Germany — Sweden
8. Developing capacities for receiving liquefied natural gas (LNG) and for storage of natural gas, needed in order to meet demand and control gas supply systems, and diversify sources and supply routes.
- All Member States
9. Developing gas transport capacity (gas supply pipelines) needed in order to meet demand and diversify supplies from internal and external sources, as well as supply routes.
- Nordic Gas Grid: Norway — Denmark — Germany — Sweden — Finland — Russia — Baltic States — Poland
 - Algeria — Spain — France
 - Russia — Ukraine — EU
 - Russia — Belarus — Poland — EU
 - Libya — Italy
 - Caspian Sea Countries — EU
 - Russia — Ukraine — Moldavia — Romania — Bulgaria — Greece — Other Balkan Countries
 - Germany — Czech Republic — Austria — Italy
 - Russia — Ukraine — Slovakia — Hungary — Slovenia — Italy
 - The Netherlands — Germany — Switzerland — Italy
 - Belgium — France — Switzerland — Italy
 - Denmark — (Sweden) — Poland
 - Norway — Russia — EU
 - Ireland
 - Algeria — Italy — France
 - Middle East — EU
10. Actions improving the functioning of the interconnected gas networks within the internal market and, in particular, identifying the bottlenecks and missing links, developing solutions in order to deal with congestion and adapting methods of forecasting and of operating gas networks.
- Identifying the bottlenecks and missing links, especially cross-border, within the gas networks.
 - Developing solutions for natural gas flow management in order to deal with the problems of congestion within the gas networks.
 - Adapting the methods of forecasting and operating natural gas networks required by the functioning of the internal market.
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ANNEX III

TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY NETWORKS

Projects of common interest and their specifications, currently identified according to the criteria set out in Annex II

ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

1. *Developing electricity networks in isolated regions*
 - 1.1. Submarine cable Ireland — Wales (UK)
 - 1.2. Reinforcement of the Ipiros (GR) — Puglia (IT) link
 - 1.3. Connection of the Southern Cyclades (GR)
 - 1.4. 30 kV underwater cable link between the islands of Faial, Pico and S. Jorge (Azores, PT)
 - 1.5. Connection and reinforcement of the grid in Terceira, Faial and S Miguel (Azores, PT)
 - 1.6. Connection and reinforcement of the grid in Madeira (PT)
 - 1.7. Submarine cable Sardinia (IT) — Italy mainland
 - 1.8. Submarine cable Corsica (FR) — Italy
 - 1.9. Connection Italy mainland—Sicily (IT)
 - 1.10. Doubling of the connection Sorgente (IT) — Rizziconi (IT)
 - 1.11. New connections in the Balearic and Canary Islands (ES)
2. *Developing electricity connections between the Member States*
 - 2.1. Moulaine (FR) — Aubange (BE) line
 - 2.2. Avelin (F) — Avelgem (BE) line
 - 2.3. Vigy (FR) — Marlenheim (FR) line
 - 2.4. Vigy (FR) — Uchtelfangen (DE) line
 - 2.5. La Praz (FR) phase transformer
 - 2.6. Further increase of capacity through existing interconnection between France and Italy
 - 2.7. New interconnection between France and Italy
 - 2.8. New interconnection through the Pyrenees between France and Spain
 - 2.9. Eastern Pyrenees connection between France and Spain
 - 2.10. Connections between northern Portugal and north—western Spain
 - 2.11. Sines (PT) — Alqueva (PT) — Balboa (ES) line
 - 2.12. Valdigem (PT) — Douro Internacional (PT) — Aldeadávila (ES) line and Douro Internacional facilities

- 2.13. New connections north of the Gulf of Bothnia between Finland and Sweden
- 2.14. Lienz (AT) — Cordignano (IT) line
- 2.15. New connection between Italy and Austria at the Brenner Pass
- 2.16. Connection between Ireland and Northern Ireland
- 2.17. St Peter (AT) — Isar (DE) line
- 2.18. Submarine cable between South — eastern England and central Netherlands
- 2.19. Reinforcement of connections between Denmark and Germany, e.g. the Kasso — Hamburg line
- 2.20. Reinforcement of the connections between Denmark and Sweden

3. *Developing electrical connections within the Member States*
 - 3.1. Connections on the Danish East — West axis: connection between Denmark's western (UCTE) and eastern (NORDEL) networks.
 - 3.2. Connection on the Danish North — South axis
 - 3.3. New connections in Northern France
 - 3.4. New connections in South Western France
 - 3.5. Trino Vercellese (IT) — Lacchiarella (IT) line
 - 3.6. Turbigo (IT) — Rho—Bovisio (IT) line
 - 3.7. Voghera (IT) — La Casella (IT) line
 - 3.8. S. Fiorano (IT) — Nave (IT) line
 - 3.9. Venezia Nord (IT) — Cordignano (IT) line
 - 3.10. Redipuglia (IT) — Udine Ovest (IT) line
 - 3.11. New connections on the East—West axis of Italy
 - 3.12. Tavarnuzze (IT) — Casellina (IT) line
 - 3.13. Tavarnuzze (IT) — S.Barbara (IT) line
 - 3.14. Rizziconi (IT) — Feroletto (IT) — Laino (IT) line
 - 3.15. New connections on the North — South axis Italy
 - 3.16. Network modifications for facilitating renewables connections in Italy
 - 3.17. New wind energy connections in Italy
 - 3.18. New connections in the North axis of Spain
 - 3.19. New connections in the Mediterranean axis of Spain
 - 3.20. New connections in the Galicia (ES) — Centro (ES) axis
 - 3.21. New connections in the Centro (ES) — Aragón (ES) axis
 - 3.22. New connections in the Aragón (ES) — Levante (ES) axis
 - 3.23. New connections in Andalucía (ES)

- 3.24. Pedralva (PT) — Riba d'Ave (PT) line and Pedralva facilities
- 3.25. Recarei (PT) — Valdigem (PT) line
- 3.26. Picote (PT) — Pocinho (PT) line (upgrading)
- 3.27. Modification of the current Pego (PT) — Cedillo (ES)/Falagueira (PT) line and Falagueira facilities
- 3.28. Pego (PT) — Batalha (PT) line and Batalha facilities
- 3.29. Sines (PT) — Ferreira do Alentejo (PT) I line (upgrading)
- 3.30. New wind energy connections in Portugal
- 3.31. Pereiros (PT) — Zêzere (PT) — Santarém (PT) lines and Zêzere facilities
- 3.32. Batalha (PT) — Rio Maior (PT) I and II lines (upgradings)
- 3.33. Carrapatelo (PT) — Mourisca (PT) line (upgrading)
- 3.34. Valdigem (PT) — Viseu (PT) — Anadia (PT) line
- 3.35. Deviation of the current Rio Maior (PT) — Palmela (PT) line to Ribatejo (PT) and Ribatejo facilities
- 3.36. Thessaloniki (GR), Lamia (GR) and Patras (GR) substations and connecting lines
- 3.37. Connections of the regions of Evia (GR), Lakonia (GR) and Thrace (GR)
- 3.38. Strengthening of existing connections of peripheral regions in the mainland in Greece
- 3.39. Tynagh (IE) — Cashla (IE) line
- 3.40. Flagford (IE) — East Sligo (IE) line
- 3.41. Connections in the North — East and West of Spain, in particular to connect to the network wind-power generation capacities
- 3.42. Connections in the Basque country (ES), Aragón (ES) and Navarra (ES)
- 3.43. Connections in Galicia (ES)
- 3.44. Connections in Central Sweden
- 3.45. Connections in Southern Sweden
- 3.46. Lübeck/Siems (DE) — Görries (DE) line
- 3.47. Lübeck/Siems (DE) — Krümmel (DE) line
- 3.48. Connections in Northern Ireland, in relation to the interconnections with Ireland
- 3.49. Connections in the North West of United Kingdom
- 3.50. Connections in Scotland and England, with a view to the greater use of renewable sources in electricity generation
- 3.51. New offshore wind energy connections in Belgium
- 3.52. Borssele substation (NL)

- 3.53. Implementation of reactive power compensation equipment (NL)
- 3.54. St. Peter (AT) — Tauern (AT) line
- 3.55. Südburgenland (AT) — Kainachtal (AT) line
4. *Developing electricity connections with the non-member States*
 - 4.1. Neuenhagen (DE) — Vierraden (DE) — Krajnik (PL) line
 - 4.2. Brunsbüttel (DE) — Southern Norway link
 - 4.3. S. Fiorano (IT) — Robbia (CH) line
 - 4.4. New interconnection Italy — Switzerland
 - 4.5. Philippi (GR) — Maritsa 3 (Bulgaria) line
 - 4.6. Amintaio (GR) — Bitola (FYROM) line
 - 4.7. Kardia (GR) — Elbasan (Albania) line
 - 4.8. Elbasan (Albania) — Podgorica (Serbia and Montenegro) line
 - 4.9. Mostar (Bosnia–Herzegovina) substation and connecting lines
 - 4.10. Ernestinovo (Croatia) substation and connecting lines
 - 4.11. New connections between Greece and Albania, Bulgaria and FYROM
 - 4.12. Philippi (GR) — Hamidabad (TR) line
 - 4.13. Submarine cable between the north–east/east England and southern Norway
 - 4.14. Eemshaven (NL) — Fedaa (NO) link
 - 4.15. Submarine cable between South Spain and Morocco (strengthening of existing connection)
 - 4.16. Connections for the Baltic Electricity Ring: Germany — Poland — Russia — Estonia — Latvia — Lithuania — Sweden — Finland — Denmark — Belarus
 - 4.17. Southern Finland — Russia links
 - 4.18. Germany — Poland — Lithuania — Belarus — Russia link (East–West High Power Link)
 - 4.19. Poland — Lithuania link
 - 4.20. Submarine cable between Finland and Estonia
 - 4.21. New connections between North Sweden and North Norway
 - 4.22. New connections between Mid Sweden and Mid Norway
 - 4.23. Borgvik (S) — Hoesle (NO) — Oslo region (NO) line
 - 4.24. New connections between the UCTE and CENTREL systems
 - 4.25. New connections between the UCTE/CENTREL system and the Balkan countries

- 4.26. Connections and interface between the extended UCTE system and Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, including relocation of HVDC conversion stations operating previously between Austria and Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic, and Germany and the Czech Republic
- 4.27. Connections in the Black Sea Electricity Ring: Russia — Ukraine — Romania — Bulgaria — Turkey — Georgia
- 4.28. New connections in the Black Sea area with a view to interoperability of the extended UCTE system with the networks in the countries concerned
- 4.29. New connections in the Mediterranean Electricity Ring: France — Spain — Morocco — Algeria — Tunisia — Libya — Egypt — Near-Eastern Countries — Turkey — Greece — Italy
- 4.30. Submarine cable between South Spain and North-West Algeria
- 4.31. Submarine cable between Italy and Algeria
- 4.32. New connections in the Barents Region/Area
- 4.33. Installation of flexible alternative current transmission systems between Italy and Slovenia
- 4.34. New interconnection Italia — Slovenia
- 4.35. Submarine cable Italy and Croatia
- 4.36. Reinforcement of connections between Denmark and Norway
5. *Actions improving the functioning of the interconnected electricity networks within the internal market*
(No specifications defined yet)

GAS NETWORKS

6. *Introducing natural gas into new regions*
 - 6.1. Developing gas network from Belfast towards the North-West region of Northern Ireland (UK) and, if appropriate, to the western coast of Ireland
 - 6.2. LNG in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands (ES)
 - 6.3. LNG in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ES)
 - 6.4. LNG in Madeira (PT)
 - 6.5. Development of gas network in Sweden
 - 6.6. Connection between the Balearic Islands (ES) and the mainland Spain
 - 6.7. High pressure branch to Thrace (GR)
 - 6.8. High pressure branch to Corinth (GR)
 - 6.9. High pressure branch to North-West Greece (GR)
 - 6.10. Connection of Lolland (DK) and Falster (DK) islands
7. *Developing gas connections in order to meet the needs of the internal market or strengthening of the security of supply, including connection of separate gas networks*
 - 7.1. Additional gas interconnection pipeline between Ireland and Scotland
 - 7.2. North-South interconnection, including Dublin — Belfast pipeline

- 7.3. Compression station on the Lacq (FR) — Calahorra (ES) pipeline
- 7.4. Compression station on the Lacq (FR) — Calahorra (ES) pipeline
- 7.5. Perpignan (FR) — Barcelona (ES) pipeline
- 7.6. Increasing transport capacity of gas pipelines supplying Portugal through South Spain and Galicia and Asturias through Portugal
- 7.7. Puchkirchen (AT) — Burghausen (DE) pipeline
- 7.8. Andorf (AT) — Simbach (DE) pipeline
- 7.9. Wiener Neustadt (AT) — Sopron (HU) pipeline
- 7.10. Bad Leonfelden (DE) — Linz (AT) pipeline
- 7.11. North–West Greece — Elbasan (AL) pipeline
- 7.12. Greece — Italy interconnection pipeline
- 7.13. Compression station on the main pipeline in Greece
- 7.14. Connection between the networks of Austria and Czech Republic
- 7.15. Gas transport corridor in South–East Europe across Greece, FYROM, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria
- 7.16. Gas transport corridor between Austria and Turkey through Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria
- 7.17. Interconnecting pipelines between United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany, linking the main sources and markets of North–West Europe
- 7.18. Connection between North-East Germany (Berlin area) and North-West Poland (Szczecin area) with a branch from Schmölln to Lubmin (DE, Greifswald area)
- 7.19. Connection between offshore facilities in the North Sea, or from Danish offshore to United Kingdom onshore facilities
- 7.20. Reinforcement of the capacity of transport between France and Italy
- 7.21. The Baltic gas interconnector between Denmark — Germany — Sweden
8. *Developing capacities for receiving liquefied natural gas (LNG) and for storage of natural gas*
 - 8.1. LNG at Le Verdon-sur-mer (FR, new terminal) and pipeline to Lussagnet (FR) storage
 - 8.2. LNG at Fos-sur-mer (FR)
 - 8.3. LNG at Huelva (ES), extending existing terminal
 - 8.4. LNG at Cartagena (ES), extending existing terminal
 - 8.5. LNG at Galicia (ES), new terminal
 - 8.6. LNG at Bilbao (ES), new terminal
 - 8.7. LNG in the Valencia Region (ES), new terminal
 - 8.8. LNG in Barcelona (ES), extending existing terminal
 - 8.9. LNG in Sines (PT), new terminal

- 8.10. LNG at Revithoussa (GR), extending existing terminal
- 8.11. LNG on the North Adriatic Coast (IT)
- 8.12. LNG offshore in the North Adriatic Sea (IT)
- 8.13. LNG on the South Adriatic Coast (IT)
- 8.14. LNG on the Ionian Coast (IT)
- 8.15. LNG on the Tyrrhenian Coast (IT)
- 8.16. LNG on the Ligurian Coast (IT)
- 8.17. LNG at Zeebrugge/Dudzele (BE, extending existing terminal)
- 8.18. LNG at Isle of Grain, Kent (UK)
- 8.19. Construction of a second LNG terminal in Greece
- 8.20. Developing underground gas storage facilities in Ireland
- 8.21. Storage at South Kavala (GR), conversion of an offshore depleted gas field
- 8.22. Storage at Lussagnet (FR, extending existing site)
- 8.23. Storage at Pecorade (FR, conversion of a depleted oil field)
- 8.24. Storage in Alsace region (FR, developing of saline cavities)
- 8.25. Storage in Centre region (FR, developing water table).
- 8.26. Storage on the North–South axis of Spain (new sites) in Cantabria, Aragon, Castilla y León, Castilla — La Mancha and Andalucia
- 8.27. Storage on the Mediterranean axis of Spain (new sites) in Catalonia, Valencia and Murcia
- 8.28. Storage in Carriço (PT, new site)
- 8.29. Storage at Loenhout (BE, extending existing site)
- 8.30. Storage at Stenlille (DK) and Lille Torup (DK, extending existing site)
- 8.31. Storage at Tønder (DK, new site)
- 8.32. Storage at Puchkirchen (AT, extending existing site), including pipeline to the Penta West system near Andorf (AT)
- 8.33. Storage at Baumgarten (AT, new site)
- 8.34. Storage at Haidach (AT, new site), including pipeline to the European gas grid
- 8.35. Developing underground gas storage facilities in Italy
9. *Developing gas transport capacity (gas supply pipelines)*
 - 9.1. Creation and development of connections Nordic Gas Grid: Norway — Denmark — Germany — Sweden — Finland — Russia — Baltic States — Poland
 - 9.2. The Mid–Nordic gas pipeline: Norway, Sweden, Finland

- 9.3. The North European gas pipeline: Russia, Baltic Sea, Germany
- 9.4. Gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, via Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, including developing underground gas storage facilities in Latvia
- 9.5. Gas pipeline Finland–Estonia
- 9.6. New gas pipelines from Algeria to Spain and France and related capacity increase of the internal networks in these countries
- 9.7. Increasing transport capacity of the Algeria — Morocco — Spain (up to Córdoba) pipeline
- 9.8. Córdoba (ES) — Ciudad Real (ES) pipeline
- 9.9. Ciudad Real (ES) — Madrid (ES) pipeline
- 9.10. Ciudad Real (ES) — Mediterranean coast (ES) pipeline
- 9.11. Branches in Castilla (ES) — La Mancha (ES)
- 9.12. Extension towards North–West Spain
- 9.13. Algeria — Spain submarine pipeline and pipelines for the connection to France
- 9.14. Increasing transport capacity from Russian resources to the European Union, via Ukraine, Slovakia and the Czech Republic
- 9.15. Increasing transport capacity from Russian resources to the European Union, via Belarus and Poland
- 9.16. Yagal Sud gas pipeline (between the STEGAL pipeline leading to the DE, FR, CH triangle)
- 9.17. SUDAL East gas pipeline (between MIDAL pipeline near Heppenheim to Burghausen connection with the PENTA pipeline in Austria)
- 9.18. Gas pipeline from Libyan resources to Italy
- 9.19. Gas pipeline from resources in the Caspian Sea Countries to the European Union
- 9.20. Greece — Turkey gas pipeline
- 9.21. Increasing transport capacity from Russian resources to Greece and other Balkan countries, via Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania and Bulgaria
- 9.22. St. Zagora (BG) — Ihtiman (BG) gas pipeline
- 9.23. Connecting pipelines between the German, Czech, Austrian and Italian gas networks
- 9.24. Gas pipeline from Russian resources to Italy, via Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia
- 9.25. Increasing transport capacity of the TENP gas pipeline running from the Netherlands through Germany to Italy
- 9.26. Taisnieres (FR) — Oltingue (CH) gas pipeline
- 9.27. Gas pipeline from Denmark to Poland, possibly via Sweden
- 9.28. Nybro (DK) — Dragør (DK) gas pipeline, including connecting pipeline to the storage at Stenlille (DK)
- 9.29. Gas network from the Barents Sea resources to the European Union, via Sweden and Finland

- 9.30. Gas pipeline from the Corrib field (IE, offshore)
 - 9.31. Gas pipeline from Algerian resources to Italy, via Sardinia with a branch to Corsica
 - 9.32. Gas network from resources in the Middle East to the European Union
 - 9.33. Gas pipeline from Norway to the United Kingdom

 - 10. *Actions improving the functioning of the interconnected gas networks within the internal market*
(No specifications defined yet).
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DECISION No 1230/2003/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 26 June 2003

**adopting a multiannual programme for action in the field of energy: 'Intelligent Energy — Europe'
(2003 — 2006)**

(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 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and
Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the
Regions ⁽³⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure provided for in
Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽⁴⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Natural resources, the prudent and rational utilisation of which is provided for in Article 174 of the Treaty, include, apart from renewable energy sources, oil, natural gas and solid fuels, which are essential energy sources but are also the main sources of carbon dioxide emissions. Promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or world-wide environmental problems is one of the aims of that Article.
- (2) The Commission communication entitled 'A sustainable Europe for a better world: A European Union strategy for sustainable development', presented to the Gothenburg European Council of 15 and 16 June 2001, includes greenhouse gas emissions and pollution caused by transport among the main obstacles to sustainable development. Overcoming these obstacles means adopting a new approach to Community policies to bring them closer to individual citizens and businesses in order to change patterns of consumption and investment.

(3) The Gothenburg European Council adopted a strategy for sustainable development and added an environmental dimension to the Lisbon process for employment, economic reform and social cohesion.

(4) Measures relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are important elements of the action needed to comply with the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, as provided for in the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). Physical changes observed throughout Europe and elsewhere in the world highlight the need for urgent action.

(5) The Green Paper entitled 'Towards a European Strategy for the Security of Energy Supply' notes that the European Union is becoming increasingly dependent on external energy sources and that its dependence could rise to 70 % in 20 to 30 years' time (compared with 50 % at present) and therefore stresses the need to balance supply policy against clear action for a demand policy and calls for a genuine change in consumers' behaviour so as to orientate demand towards better managed, more efficient and more environmentally friendly consumption, particularly in the transport and building sectors, and to give priority to the development of new and renewable sources on the energy supply side in order to respond to the challenge of global warming.

(6) In its Resolution on the Green Paper 'Towards a European Strategy for the Security of Energy Supply' ⁽⁵⁾, the European Parliament identified energy efficiency and savings as first priority. It called for the promotion of an 'intelligent' approach to energy use, making Europe the most energy-efficient economy in the world.

(7) The Communication from the Commission on an action plan to improve energy efficiency in the European Community provides for the improvement of energy efficiency by an additional 1 % a year compared with the figure of 0,6 % which corresponds to the trend recorded over the last ten years. If this target is met, two-thirds of the energy-saving potential, which is estimated at 18 % of total consumption, could be realised by 2010. The action plan proposes legislative

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 203 E, 27.8.2002, p. 47.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 61, 14.3.2003, p. 38.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 73, 26.3.2003, p. 41.

⁽⁴⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 20 November 2002 (not yet published in the Official Journal), Council Common Position of 3 February 2003 (OJ C 64 E, 18.3.2003, p. 13) and Decision of the European Parliament of 13 May 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal). Decision of the Council of 16 June 2003.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 140 E, 13.6.2002, p. 543.

measures and supporting actions. The implementation of the action plan also requires the setting-up of efficient systems for monitoring and follow-up.

- (8) The Communication from the Commission entitled 'Energy for the future: renewable sources of energy — White Paper for a Community strategy and action plan' — recommends an indicative target of 12 % of energy from renewable sources in gross internal consumption in the Community by 2010. The Council, in its Resolution of 8 June 1998 on renewable energy sources, ⁽¹⁾ and the European Parliament, in its Resolution on the White Paper, underlined the need for a substantial, sustained increase in the utilisation of renewable energy sources in the Community and endorsed the strategy and action plan proposed by the Commission, including the strengthening of programmes to support renewable sources. The action plan provides for measures to support the promotion and development of renewable energy sources. The Communication from the Commission on the implementation of the Community strategy and action plan for renewable energy sources (1998-2000) notes the progress which has been made, but stresses that further efforts are needed at Community and national level to attain these objectives, in particular new legislation on renewable energy sources and their promotion.
- (9) Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2001 on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market ⁽²⁾ requires Member States to set national indicative targets consistent with the Community global indicative target of 12 % of gross national energy consumption by 2010 and in particular with the 22,1 % indicative share of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in total Community electricity consumption by 2010.
- (10) The Resolution on the use of renewable energy sources in the ACP States ⁽³⁾ adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 November 2001 'calls on the Commission to include sustainable energy supplies, in particular through energy efficiency and the use of renewable forms of energy, as a priority action field in the new development policy strategy'.
- (11) The 'Final Implementation Plan' of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, agreed on 2 September

2002, committed the signatory countries, including the EU, to making efforts to:

- increase substantially the global share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix,
- create a level playing field for renewable energy sources with respect to other energy sources,
- promote increased research and development in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and cleaner conventional fuel technologies, and
- provide developing countries with financial resources to develop energy expertise, including renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and cleaner conventional fuel technologies,

with the aim of achieving sustainable development.

- (12) The EU partnership initiative 'Energy Initiative for poverty eradication and sustainable development' launched on 1 September 2002 is based on better energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources, and several developing countries and regional organisations, as well as private sector and civil society organisations, have already associated themselves with this initiative, the principles and strategy of which are laid out in the 'Commission Communication on Energy cooperation with the developing countries'.
- (13) Since many Community measures on energy efficiency, in particular the labelling of electrical, electronic, office and communications equipment and the standardisation of lighting, heating and air-conditioning equipment, are not binding on the Member States, there is a need for specific promotion programmes at Community level to create the conditions for moving towards sustainable energy systems.
- (14) The same applies to the Community measures to achieve greater market penetration for renewable energy sources, in particular the standardisation of equipment which produces or consumes renewable energy sources.
- (15) Council Decision 1999/21/EC, Euratom of 14 December 1998 adopting a multiannual framework programme for actions in the energy sector (1998-2002) and related measures, ⁽⁴⁾ the Decisions on the specific programmes, namely Council Decision 1999/22/EC of 14 December 1998 adopting a multiannual programme of studies,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 198, 24.6.1998, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 33.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 78, 2.4.2002, p. 35.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 7, 13.1.1999, p. 16.

analyses, forecasts and other related work in the energy sector (1998-2002) ⁽¹⁾ — ETAP programme, Council Decision 1999/23/EC of 14 December 1998 adopting a multiannual framework programme to promote international cooperation in the energy sector (1998-2002) ⁽²⁾ — SYNERGY programme, Council Decision 1999/24/EC, Euratom of 14 December 1998 adopting a multiannual programme of technical actions promoting the clean and efficient use of solid fuels (1998-2002) ⁽³⁾ — CARNOT programme, Council Decision 1999/25/Euratom of 14 December 1998 adopting a multiannual programme (1998-2002) of actions in the nuclear sector relating to the safe transport of radioactive materials and to safeguards and industrial cooperation to promote certain aspects of the safety of nuclear installations in the countries currently participating in the TACIS Programme ⁽⁴⁾ — SURE programme, Decision 646/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2000 adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (1998-2002) ⁽⁵⁾ — ALTENER programme, and Decision 647/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2000 adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency (1998-2002) ⁽⁶⁾ — SAVE programme expired on 31 December 2002.

- (16) In accordance with Article 5(2) of Decision 1999/21/EC, Euratom, the Commission has had independent experts carry out an external evaluation of the abovementioned framework programme and the specific programmes. In their report, the evaluators recognise the importance of, in particular, the ALTENER, SAVE, SYNERGY and ETAP programmes in the context of the implementation of the energy strategy and the Community strategy for sustainable development. They note the lack of resources for these programmes, given the genuine needs, and suggest they should be increased.
- (17) It appears justified to increase the financial framework for an even more comprehensive 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' programme.
- (18) Taking into account the Community strategy for sustainable development and the results of the framework programme evaluations, steps should be taken to strengthen Community support in those energy fields that contribute to sustainable development by grouping them in a single programme — 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' — comprising four specific areas.
- (19) The importance and success of Community support for renewable energy sources in the framework of the

ALTENER programme during the period 1993 to 2002 justifies the inclusion in the present programme of a specific field concerning renewable energy sources — 'ALTENER'.

- (20) The need to strengthen Community support for the rational use of energy and the success of the SAVE programme during the period 1991-2002 justifies the inclusion in the present programme of a specific field concerning energy efficiency — 'SAVE'.
- (21) Improving energy use in the transport sector, including the diversification of fuels, where new developing energy sources such as hydrogen and renewable energy sources can play a role, is extremely important in Community efforts to reduce the negative effects of transport on the environment. This justifies the inclusion in the 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' programme of a specific field concerning the energy aspects of transport — 'STEER'.
- (22) The need to promote the best practices developed in the Community in the fields of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and to transfer them to the developing countries in particular, is one of the Community's priorities as regards international commitments, along with strengthening cooperation on the use of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. In order to ensure continuity with regard to the former SYNERGY programme concerning actions in the abovementioned areas, a specific field concerning the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in the framework of international promotion — 'COOPENER' — should be included in this programme.
- (23) Exchange of know-how, best practice and project results, coordination within the programme and with other Community policies, continuity with existing programmes, stability of rules of participation, sufficient human resources as well as a rapid implementation will be crucial for the success of the 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' programme. In this respect, national, regional or local organisations could play a useful role in contributing to the implementation of this programme with corresponding national programmes.
- (24) Gender mainstreaming is an important aspect of all Community programmes and should therefore be taken into account in the framework of the 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' programme.
- (25) This Decision establishes a financial framework for the entire duration of the programme which is to be the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 7, 13.1.1999, p. 20.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 7, 13.1.1999, p. 23.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 7, 13.1.1999, p. 28.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 7, 13.1.1999, p. 31.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 79, 30.3.2000, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 79, 30.3.2000, p. 6.

principal point of reference for the budgetary authority, within the meaning of point 33 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure ⁽¹⁾.

- (26) Since the objectives of the proposed programme, which concern the implementation of the Community strategy in the fields of energy contributing to sustainable development, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting individually since a promotion campaign and exchanges are required, based on close cooperation on a European scale between the various players at national, regional and local level, 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 Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (27) The provisions of this Decision are without prejudice to Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty, and in particular the Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection.
- (28) The measures needed to implement this Decision 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 Commission ⁽²⁾,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. A multiannual programme for actions in the field of energy: 'Intelligent Energy – Europe', hereinafter referred to as 'this programme', is hereby adopted for the period 2003 to 2006.
2. This programme will support sustainable development in the energy context, making a balanced contribution to the achievement of the following general objectives: security of energy supply, competitiveness, and environmental protection.
3. This programme also aims at economic and social cohesion and seeks to increase transparency, coherence and the complementarity of all the actions and other related measures

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

in the field of energy, thereby generating effective links between these measures and actions carried out under other Community and Member States' policies.

Article 2

The specific objectives of this programme are as follows:

- (a) to provide the elements needed for the promotion of energy efficiency, the increased use of renewable energy sources and energy diversification, such as through new developing and renewable energy sources, including in transport, the improvement of sustainability, the development of the potential of the regions, in particular the outermost regions, and of islands, and the preparation of the legislative measures needed to attain these strategic objectives;
- (b) to develop means and instruments, which may be used by the Commission and the Member States, to follow up, monitor and evaluate the impact of the measures adopted by the Community and its Member States in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, including the energy aspects of transport;
- (c) to promote efficient and intelligent patterns of energy production and consumption based on solid and sustainable foundations by raising awareness, notably through the educational system, and promoting exchanges of experience and know-how among the main players concerned, businesses and citizens in general, by supporting actions intended to boost investment in emerging technologies, and by encouraging the spread of best practices and the best available technologies, as well as by means of promotion at international level.

Article 3

1. This programme is structured in four specific fields as follows:
 - (a) 'SAVE', which concerns the improvement of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, in particular in the building and industry sectors, with the exception of actions under STEER, including the preparation of legislative measures and their application;
 - (b) 'ALTENER', which concerns the promotion of new and renewable energy sources for centralised and decentralised production of electricity and heat and their integration into the local environment and the energy systems, with the exception of actions under STEER, including the preparation of legislative measures and their application;

(c) 'STEER', which concerns support for initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport, the diversification of fuels, such as through new developing and renewable energy sources, and the promotion of renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport, including the preparation of legislative measures and their application;

(d) 'COOPENER', which concerns support for initiatives relating to the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in the developing countries, in particular in the framework of the Community cooperation with developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

2. 'Key actions' which are initiatives combining several of the abovementioned specific fields and/or relating to certain Community priorities, such as sustainable development in the outermost regions as defined in Article 299(2) of the Treaty, may be launched.

Article 4

1. For each of the four specific fields and the key actions referred to in Article 3, Community funding under the programme shall be for actions or projects concerned with:

(a) the promotion of sustainable development, security of energy supply in the framework of the internal market, competitiveness and environmental protection, including the development of standards and labelling and certification systems, long-term voluntary commitments to be agreed with industry and other stake-holders, as well as forward studies, strategic studies on the basis of shared analyses, and regular monitoring of the development of the markets and energy trends including for the preparation of future legislative measures or for the review of existing legislation;

(b) the creation, enlargement or reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development, including local and regional energy planning and management, and the development of adequate financial products and market instruments;

(c) the promotion of sustainable energy systems and equipment in order to accelerate their penetration of the market and stimulate investment to facilitate the transition from the demonstration to the marketing of more efficient technologies, including dissemination of best practices and new cross-cutting technologies, awareness campaigns and the creation of institutional structures aimed at implementing the clean development mechanism and joint implementation under the Kyoto Protocol;

(d) the development of information, education and training structures; the utilisation of results, the promotion and dissemination of know-how and best practices involving all consumers, dissemination of results of the actions and projects and cooperation with the Member States through operational networks at Community and international level;

(e) the monitoring of the implementation and the impact of Community initiatives, and the support measures;

(f) the evaluation of the impact of actions and projects funded under the programme.

2. Under this programme, the financial assistance allocated to the actions or projects in the four specific fields and the key actions referred to in Article 3 shall be established on the basis of the Community added value of the action proposed and will depend on its benefit and expected impact. Where appropriate, priority shall be given to small and medium-sized enterprises and regional or local initiatives.

The aid may not exceed 50 % of the total cost of the action or project, the rest being covered either by public or private funds, or a combination of the two. The aid may, however, cover all the cost of some actions, such as studies, the dissemination of project results and other actions to prepare, supplement, implement and evaluate the impact of Community strategy and policy measures and any measures proposed by the Commission to encourage exchanges of experience and know-how to improve the coordination between Community, national, international and other initiatives.

All costs relating to actions or projects undertaken on the Commission's initiative, identified as such under Article 5(2)(b), shall be borne by the Community.

3. In order to contribute to the dissemination of project results, the Commission shall make available the reports on the actions and projects, if appropriate in electronic form.

Article 5

1. Within six months of the adoption of this Decision, the Commission shall establish a work programme, in consultation with the Committee referred to in Article 8(1). This work programme shall be based on the principles set out in Article 1(2), Article 2, Article 3 and Article 4. It shall be prepared and updated in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8(2).

2. The work programme shall set out in detail:
- (a) the guidelines for each of the specific fields and the key actions referred to in Article 3 in order to implement the objectives and priorities laid down in Article 1(2), Article 2, Article 3 and Article 4, taking account of the added value that all the measures proposed will provide at Community level as compared with existing measures;
 - (b) the implementation arrangements, distinguishing between actions envisaged on the Commission's initiative and those where the initiative comes from the sector and/or the market concerned, as well as the funding arrangements and the type of and rules for participation;
 - (c) the selection criteria, reflecting the objectives mentioned in this Decision, and the arrangements for applying them to each type of action and the method and instruments for monitoring and utilising the results of the actions and/or projects, including the definition of performance indicators;
 - (d) the indicative timetable for the implementation of the work programme, in particular as regards the contents of the calls for proposals;
 - (e) the detailed rules for coordination and linkage with existing Community policies. The procedure for the development and implementation of actions coordinated with those carried out by the Member States in the field of sustainable energy shall be set out. The aim is to provide added value as compared with measures taken by each Member State acting on its own. These measures will make it possible to achieve an optimum combination of the various instruments at the disposal of both the Community and the Member States;
 - (f) if necessary, the operational arrangements in order to encourage the participation of remote and outermost regions, including islands, in the programme, and the participation of SMEs.

Community rules concerning public access to information, transparency and gender mainstreaming shall be taken into account throughout the programme.

Article 6

1. The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period 2003 to 2006 shall be EUR 200 million.

Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limit of the financial perspective.

Financial reference amounts shall be laid down on an indicative basis for each specific field. An indicative allocation of this amount is given in the Annex. This budgetary allocation between fields shall be flexible in order to deal more effectively with changing needs in the sector; it may be changed with the agreement of the Committee referred to in Article 8.

2. The arrangements for the Community financial assistance for the actions undertaken under this programme shall be laid down in accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾.

Article 7

The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of this programme in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8(2).

Article 8

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

Article 9

1. The Commission shall carry out an annual examination of the progress made on this programme and the actions carried out in the four specific fields and the key actions referred to in Article 3 and shall submit a report thereon to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

2. At the end of the second year of the period of application of the programme, and in any case before putting forward proposals on any subsequent programme, the Commission shall provide, and give its conclusions on, an external evaluation of the overall implementation of the Community actions carried out under this programme. The external evaluation shall be carried out by independent experts. The Commission shall communicate its conclusions regarding this evaluation including, if appropriate, in particular in the light of enlargement, any adaptation to the current programme, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions before putting forward proposals on this or any subsequent programme.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

Article 10

1. Without prejudice to paragraphs 2 and 3, participation in this programme shall be open to any legal person, whether public or private, established in the territory of the Member States.

2. This programme shall be open to the participation of the candidate countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Europe association agreements, in the additional protocols relating thereto and in the decisions of the respective Association Councils, on the basis of the relevant bilateral agreements.

3. Likewise, the programme shall be open to the participation of the EFTA/EEA countries on the basis of additional funds and in accordance with procedures to be agreed with these countries.

Article 11

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

Article 12

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 26 June 2003.

For the European Parliament

The President

P. COX

For the Council

The President

A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ANNEX

Indicative allocation of the estimated amount needed ⁽¹⁾

<i>EUR million</i>	
Fields of action	2003–2006
1. Improvement of energy efficiency and the rational use of energy	69,8
2. New and renewable energy sources and diversification of energy production	80
3. Energy aspects of transport	32,6
4. Promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency at international level, particularly in the developing countries	17,6
Total	200 ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ This allocation is indicative. The budgetary allocation between fields is flexible in order to deal more effectively with changing needs in the sector.

⁽²⁾ An additional contribution reflecting the number, size and particular needs of new Member States, is to be anticipated from 2004 onwards as a result of the enlargement of the European Union. The Commission could propose that this contribution would be at least EUR 50 million.

⁽³⁾ The budget for an Executive Agency could be set by the budgetary authority as a percentage of the programme's overall financial allocation.

DIRECTIVE 2003/54/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 26 June 2003

concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 96/92/EC

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 47(2), Article 55 and Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposals from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having consulted the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

(1) Directive 96/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity ⁽⁴⁾ has made significant contributions towards the creation of an internal market for electricity.

(2) Experience in implementing this Directive shows the benefits that may result from the internal market in electricity, in terms of efficiency gains, price reductions, higher standards of service and increased competitiveness. However, important shortcomings and possibilities for improving the functioning of the market remain, notably concrete provisions are needed to ensure a level playing field in generation and to reduce the risks of market dominance and predatory behaviour, ensuring non-discriminatory transmission and distribution tariffs, through access to the network on the basis of tariffs published prior to their entry into force, and ensuring that the rights of small and vulnerable customers are protected and that information on energy sources for electricity generation is disclosed, as well as reference to sources, where available, giving information on their environmental impact.

(3) At its meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000, the European Council called for rapid work to be undertaken to complete the internal market in both electricity and gas sectors and to speed up liberalisation in these sectors with a view to achieving a fully operational internal market. The European Parliament, in its Resolution of 6 July 2000 on the Commission's second report on the state of liberalisation of energy markets, requested the Commission to adopt a detailed timetable for the achievement of accurately defined objectives with a view to gradually but completely liberalising the energy market.

(4) The freedoms which the Treaty guarantees European citizens — free movement of goods, freedom to provide services and freedom of establishment — are only possible in a fully open market, which enables all consumers freely to choose their suppliers and all suppliers freely to deliver to their customers.

(5) The main obstacles in arriving at a fully operational and competitive internal market relate amongst other things to issues of access to the network, tariffication issues and different degrees of market opening between Member States.

(6) For competition to function, network access must be non-discriminatory, transparent and fairly priced.

(7) In order to complete the internal electricity market, non-discriminatory access to the network of the transmission or the distribution system operator is of paramount importance. A transmission or distribution system operator may comprise one or more undertakings.

(8) In order to ensure efficient and non-discriminatory network access it is appropriate that the distribution and transmission systems are operated through legally separate entities where vertically integrated undertakings exist. The Commission should assess measures of equivalent effect, developed by Member States to achieve the aim of this requirement, and, where appropriate, submit proposals to amend this Directive. It is also appropriate that the transmission and distribution system operators have effective decision-making rights with respect to assets necessary to maintain, operate and develop networks when the assets in question are owned and operated by vertically integrated undertakings. It is necessary that the independence of the distribution system operators and the transmission system operators be guaranteed especially with regard to generation and supply interests. Independent management structures must therefore be put in place

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 240 E, 28.8.2001, p. 60, and OJ C 227 E, 24.9.2002, p. 393.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 36, 8.2.2002, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 13 March 2002 (OJ C 47 E, 27.2.2003, p. 350), Council Common Position of 3 February 2003 (OJ C 50 E, 4.3.2003, p. 15) and Decision of the European Parliament of 4 June 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 27, 30.1.1997, p. 20.

between the distribution system operators and the transmission system operators and any generation/supply companies.

It is important however to distinguish between such legal separation and ownership unbundling. Legal separation does not imply a change of ownership of assets and nothing prevents similar or identical employment conditions applying throughout the whole of the vertically integrated undertakings. However, a non-discriminatory decision-making process should be ensured through organisational measures regarding the independence of the decision-makers responsible.

- (9) In the case of small systems the provision of ancillary services may have to be ensured by transmission system operators (TSOs) interconnected with small systems.
- (10) While this Directive is not addressing ownership issues it is recalled that in case of an undertaking performing transmission or distribution and which is separated in its legal form from those undertakings performing generation and/or supply activities, the designated system operators may be the same undertaking owning the infrastructure.
- (11) To avoid imposing a disproportionate financial and administrative burden on small distribution companies, Member States should be able, where necessary, to exempt such companies from the legal distribution unbundling requirements.
- (12) Authorisation procedures should not lead to an administrative burden disproportionate to the size and potential impact of electricity producers.
- (13) Further measures should be taken in order to ensure transparent and non discriminatory tariffs for access to networks. Those tariffs should be applicable to all system users on a non discriminatory basis.
- (14) In order to facilitate the conclusion of contracts by an electricity undertaking established in a Member State for the supply of electricity to eligible customers in another Member State, Member States and, where appropriate, national regulatory authorities should work towards more homogenous conditions and the same degree of eligibility for the whole of the internal market.
- (15) The existence of effective regulation, carried out by one or more national regulatory authorities, is an important factor in guaranteeing non-discriminatory access to the network. Member States specify the functions, competences and administrative powers of the regulatory authorities. It is important that the regulatory authorities in all Member States share the same minimum set of competences. Those authorities should have the competence to fix or approve the tariffs, or at least, the methodologies underlying the calculation of transmission and distribution tariffs. In order to avoid uncertainty and costly and time consuming disputes, these tariffs should be published prior to their entry into force.
- (16) The Commission has indicated its intention to set up a European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas which would constitute a suitable advisory mechanism for encouraging cooperation and coordination of national regulatory authorities, in order to promote the development of the internal market for electricity and gas, and to contribute to the consistent application, in all Member States, of the provisions set out in this Directive and 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 gas ⁽¹⁾ and in Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity ⁽²⁾.
- (17) In order to ensure effective market access for all market players, including new entrants, non discriminatory and cost-reflective balancing mechanisms are necessary. As soon as the electricity market is sufficiently liquid, this should be achieved through the setting up of transparent market-based mechanisms for the supply and purchase of electricity needed in the framework of balancing requirements. In the absence of such a liquid market, national regulatory authorities should play an active role to ensure that balancing tariffs are non discriminatory and cost-reflective. At the same time, appropriate incentives should be provided to balance in-put and off-take of electricity and not to endanger the system.
- (18) National regulatory authorities should be able to fix or approve tariffs, or the methodologies underlying the calculation of the tariffs, on the basis of a proposal by the transmission system operator or distribution system operator(s), or on the basis of a proposal agreed between these operator(s) and the users of the network. In carrying out these tasks, national regulatory authorities should ensure that transmission and distribution tariffs are non-discriminatory and cost-reflective, and should take account of the

⁽¹⁾ See p. 57 of this Official Journal.

⁽²⁾ See p. 1 of this Official Journal.

long-term, marginal, avoided network costs from distributed generation and demand-side management measures.

infrastructure, including interconnection capacity and decentralised electricity generation, are important elements in ensuring a stable electricity supply.

(19) All Community industry and commerce, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and all Community citizens that enjoy the economic benefits of the internal market should also be able to enjoy high levels of consumer protection, and in particular households and, where Member States deem it appropriate, small enterprises should also be able to enjoy public service guarantees, in particular with regard to security of supply and reasonable tariffs, for reasons of fairness, competitiveness and indirectly to create employment.

(20) Electricity customers should be able to choose their supplier freely. Nonetheless a phased approach should be taken to completing the internal market for electricity to enable industry to adjust and ensure that adequate measures and systems are in place to protect the interests of customers and ensure they have a real and effective right to choose their supplier.

(21) Progressive market opening towards full competition should as soon as possible remove differences between Member States. Transparency and certainty in the implementation of this Directive should be ensured.

(22) Nearly all Member States have chosen to ensure competition in the electricity generation market through a transparent authorisation procedure. However, Member States should ensure the possibility to contribute to security of supply through the launching of a tendering procedure or an equivalent procedure in the event that sufficient electricity generation capacity is not built on the basis of the authorisation procedure. Member States should have the possibility, in the interests of environmental protection and the promotion of infant new technologies, of tendering for new capacity on the basis of published criteria. New capacity includes inter alia renewables and combined heat and power (CHP).

(23) In the interest of security of supply, the supply/demand balance in individual Member States should be monitored, and monitoring should be followed by a report on the situation at Community level, taking account of interconnection capacity between areas. Such monitoring should be carried out sufficiently early to enable appropriate measures to be taken if security of supply is compromised. The construction and maintenance of the necessary network infrastructure, including interconnection capacity, should contribute to ensuring a stable electricity supply. The maintenance and construction of the necessary network

(24) Member States should ensure that household customers and, where Member States deem it appropriate, small enterprises, enjoy the right to be supplied with electricity of a specified quality at clearly comparable, transparent and reasonable prices. In order to ensure the maintenance of the high standards of public service in the Community, all measures taken by Member States to achieve the objectives of this Directive should be regularly notified to the Commission. The Commission should regularly publish a report analysing measures taken at national level to achieve public service objectives and comparing their effectiveness, with a view to making recommendations as regards measures to be taken at national level to achieve high public service standards. Member States should take the necessary measures to protect vulnerable customers in the context of the internal electricity market. Such measures can differ according to the particular circumstances in the Member States in question and may include specific measures relating to the payment of electricity bills, or more general measures taken in the social security system. When universal service is also provided to small enterprises, measures to ensure that this universal service is provided may differ according to households and small enterprises.

(25) The Commission has indicated its intention to take initiatives especially as regards the scope of the labelling provision and notably on the manner in which the information on the environmental impact in terms of at least emissions of CO₂ and the radioactive waste resulting from electricity production from different energy sources, could be made available in a transparent, easily accessible and comparable manner throughout the European Union and on the manner in which the measures taken in the Member States to control the accuracy of the information provided by suppliers could be streamlined.

(26) The respect of the public service requirements is a fundamental requirement of this Directive, and it is important that common minimum standards, respected by all Member States, are specified in this Directive, which take into account the objectives of common protection, security of supply, environmental protection and equivalent levels of competition in all Member States. It is important that the public service requirements can be interpreted on a national basis, taking into account national circumstances and subject to the respect of Community law.

- (27) Member States may appoint a supplier of last resort. This supplier may be the sales division of a vertically integrated undertaking, that also performs the functions of distribution, provided that it meets the unbundling requirements of this Directive.
- (28) Measures implemented by Member States to achieve the objectives of social and economic cohesion may include, in particular, the provision of adequate economic incentives, using, where appropriate, all existing national and Community tools. These tools may include liability mechanisms to guarantee the necessary investment.
- (29) To the extent to which measures taken by Member States to fulfil public service obligations constitute State aid under Article 87(1) of the Treaty, there is an obligation according to Article 88(3) of the Treaty to notify them to the Commission.
- (30) The requirement to notify the Commission of any refusal to grant authorisation to construct new generation capacity has proven to be an unnecessary administrative burden and should therefore be dispensed with.
- (31) Since the objective of the proposed action, namely the creation of a fully operational internal electricity market, in which fair competition prevails, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, 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 Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.
- (32) In the light of the experience gained with the operation of Council Directive 90/547/EEC of 29 October 1990 on the transit of electricity through transmission grids⁽¹⁾, measures should be taken to ensure homogeneous and non-discriminatory access regimes for transmission, including cross-border flows of electricity between Member States. To ensure homogeneity in the treatment of access to the electricity networks, also in the case of transit, that Directive should be repealed.
- (33) Given the scope of the amendments that are being made to Directive 96/92/EC, it is desirable, for reasons of clarity and rationalisation, that the provisions in question should be recast.
- (34) This Directive respects the fundamental rights, and observes the principles, recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

CHAPTER I

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1

Scope

This Directive establishes common rules for the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity. It lays down the rules relating to the organisation and functioning of the electricity sector, access to the market, the criteria and procedures applicable to calls for tenders and the granting of authorisations and the operation of systems.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive:

1. 'generation' means the production of electricity;
2. 'producer' means a natural or legal person generating electricity;
3. 'transmission' means the transport of electricity on the extra high-voltage and high-voltage interconnected system with a view to its delivery to final customers or to distributors, but not including supply;
4. 'transmission system operator' means a natural or legal person responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of and, if necessary, developing the transmission system in a given area and, where applicable, its interconnections with other systems, and for ensuring the long term ability of the system to meet reasonable demands for the transmission of electricity;
5. 'distribution' means the transport of electricity on high-voltage, medium voltage and low voltage distribution systems with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply;
6. 'distribution system operator' means a natural or legal person responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of and, if necessary, developing the distribution system in a given area and, where applicable, its interconnections with other systems and for ensuring the long term ability of the system to meet reasonable demands for the distribution of electricity;
7. 'customers' means wholesale and final customers of electricity;
8. 'wholesale customers' means any natural or legal persons who purchase electricity for the purpose of resale inside or outside the system where they are established;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 313, 13.11.1990, p. 30. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 98/75/EC (OJ L 276, 13.10.1998, p. 9).

9. 'final customers' means customers purchasing electricity for their own use;
10. 'household customers' means customers purchasing electricity for their own household consumption, excluding commercial or professional activities;
11. 'non-household customers' means any natural or legal persons purchasing electricity which is not for their own household use and shall include producers and wholesale customers;
12. 'eligible customers' means customers who are free to purchase electricity from the supplier of their choice within the meaning of Article 21 of this Directive;
13. 'interconnectors' means equipment used to link electricity systems;
14. 'interconnected system' means a number of transmission and distribution systems linked together by means of one or more interconnectors;
15. 'direct line' means either an electricity line linking an isolated production site with an isolated customer or an electricity line linking an electricity producer and an electricity supply undertaking to supply directly their own premises, subsidiaries and eligible customers;
16. 'economic precedence' means the ranking of sources of electricity supply in accordance with economic criteria;
17. 'ancillary services' means all services necessary for the operation of a transmission or distribution system;
18. 'system users' means any natural or legal persons supplying to, or being supplied by, a transmission or distribution system;
19. 'supply' means the sale, including resale, of electricity to customers;
20. 'integrated electricity undertaking' means a vertically or horizontally integrated undertaking;
21. 'vertically integrated undertaking' means an undertaking or a group of undertakings whose mutual relationships are defined in Article 3(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 of 21 December 1989 on the control of concentrations between undertakings⁽¹⁾ and where the undertaking/group concerned is performing at least one of the functions of transmission or distribution and at least one of the functions of generation or supply of electricity;
22. 'related undertaking' means affiliated undertakings, within the meaning of Article 41 of the Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983 based on Article 44(2)(g) (*) of the Treaty on consolidated accounts⁽²⁾, and/or associated undertakings, within the meaning of Article 33(1) thereof, and/or undertakings which belong to the same shareholders;
23. 'horizontally integrated undertaking' means an undertaking performing at least one of the functions of generation for sale, or transmission, or distribution, or supply of electricity, and another non electricity activity;
24. 'tendering procedure' means the procedure through which planned additional requirements and replacement capacity are covered by supplies from new or existing generating capacity;
25. 'long-term planning' means the planning of the need for investment in generation and transmission and distribution capacity on a long term basis, with a view to meeting the demand of the system for electricity and securing supplies to customers;
26. 'small isolated system' means any system with consumption of less than 3 000 GWh in the year 1996, where less than 5 % of annual consumption is obtained through interconnection with other systems;
27. 'micro isolated system' means any system with consumption less than 500 GWh in the year 1996, where there is no connection with other systems;
28. 'security' means both security of supply and provision of electricity, and technical safety;
29. 'energy efficiency/demand-side management' means a global or integrated approach aimed at influencing the amount and timing of electricity consumption in order to reduce primary energy consumption and peak loads by giving precedence to investments in energy efficiency measures, or other measures, such as interruptible supply contracts, over investments to increase generation capacity, if the former are the most effective and economical option, taking into account the positive environmental impact of reduced energy consumption and the security of supply and distribution cost aspects related to it;

(*) The title of Directive 83/349/EEC has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the Treaty establishing the European Community in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 54(3)(g).

(2) OJ L 193, 18.7.1983, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 28).

(1) OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 (OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1).

30. 'renewable energy sources' means renewable non-fossil energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases);
31. 'distributed generation' means generation plants connected to the distribution system.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL RULES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE SECTOR

Article 3

Public service obligations and customer protection

1. Member States shall ensure, on the basis of their institutional organisation and with due regard to the principle of subsidiarity, that, without prejudice to paragraph 2, electricity undertakings are operated in accordance with the principles of this Directive with a view to achieving a competitive, secure and environmentally sustainable market in electricity, and shall not discriminate between these undertakings as regards either rights or obligations.

2. Having full regard to the relevant provisions of the Treaty, in particular Article 86 thereof, Member States may impose on undertakings operating in the electricity sector, in the general economic interest, public service obligations which may relate to security, including security of supply, regularity, quality and price of supplies and environmental protection, including energy efficiency and climate protection. Such obligations shall be clearly defined, transparent, non-discriminatory, verifiable and shall guarantee equality of access for EU electricity companies to national consumers. In relation to security of supply, energy efficiency/demand-side management and for the fulfilment of environmental goals, as referred to in this paragraph, Member States may introduce the implementation of long term planning, taking into account the possibility of third parties seeking access to the system.

3. Member States shall ensure that all household customers, and, where Member States deem it appropriate, small enterprises, (namely enterprises with fewer than 50 occupied persons and an annual turnover or balance sheet not exceeding EUR 10 million), enjoy universal service, that is the right to be supplied with electricity of a specified quality within their territory at reasonable, easily and clearly comparable and transparent prices. To ensure the provision of universal service, Member States may appoint a supplier of last resort. Member States shall impose on distribution companies an obligation to connect customers to their grid under terms, conditions and tariffs set in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23(2). Nothing in this Directive shall prevent Member States from strengthening the market position of the domestic,

small and medium-sized consumers by promoting the possibilities of voluntary aggregation of representation for this class of consumers.

The first subparagraph shall be implemented in a transparent and non-discriminatory way and shall not impede the opening of the market provided for in Article 21.

4. When financial compensation, other forms of compensation and exclusive rights which a Member State grants for the fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 are provided, this shall be done in a non-discriminatory and transparent way.

5. Member States shall take appropriate measures to protect final customers, and shall in particular ensure that there are adequate safeguards to protect vulnerable customers, including measures to help them avoid disconnection. In this context, Member States may take measures to protect final customers in remote areas. They shall ensure high levels of consumer protection, particularly with respect to transparency regarding contractual terms and conditions, general information and dispute settlement mechanisms. Member States shall ensure that the eligible customer is in fact able to switch to a new supplier. As regards at least household customers, these measures shall include those set out in Annex A.

6. Member States shall ensure that electricity suppliers specify in or with the bills and in promotional materials made available to final customers:

- (a) the contribution of each energy source to the overall fuel mix of the supplier over the preceding year;
- (b) at least the reference to existing reference sources, such as web-pages, where information on the environmental impact, in terms of at least emissions of CO₂ and the radioactive waste resulting from the electricity produced by the overall fuel mix of the supplier over the preceding year is publicly available.

With respect to electricity obtained via an electricity exchange or imported from an undertaking situated outside the Community, aggregate figures provided by the exchange or the undertaking in question over the preceding year may be used.

Member States shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the information provided by suppliers to their customers pursuant to this Article is reliable.

7. Member States shall implement appropriate measures to achieve the objectives of social and economic cohesion, environmental protection, which may include energy efficiency/demand-side management measures and means to combat climate change, and security of supply. Such measures may include, in particular, the provision of adequate economic

incentives, using, where appropriate, all existing national and Community tools, for the maintenance and construction of the necessary network infrastructure, including interconnection capacity.

8. Member States may decide not to apply the provisions of Articles 6, 7, 20 and 22 insofar as their application would obstruct the performance, in law or in fact, of the obligations imposed on electricity undertakings in the general economic interest and insofar as the development of trade would not be affected to such an extent as would be contrary to the interests of the Community. The interests of the Community include, amongst others, competition with regard to eligible customers in accordance with this Directive and Article 86 of the Treaty.

9. Member States shall, upon implementation of this Directive, inform the Commission of all measures adopted to fulfil universal service and public service obligations, including consumer protection and environmental protection, and their possible effect on national and international competition, whether or not such measures require a derogation from this Directive. They shall inform the Commission subsequently every two years of any changes to such measures, whether or not they require a derogation from this Directive.

Article 4

Monitoring of security of supply

Member States shall ensure the monitoring of security of supply issues. Where Member States consider it appropriate they may delegate this task to the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 23(1). This monitoring shall, in particular, cover the supply/demand balance on the national market, the level of expected future demand and envisaged additional capacity being planned or under construction, and the quality and level of maintenance of the networks, as well as measures to cover peak demand and to deal with shortfalls of one or more suppliers. The competent authorities shall publish every two years, by 31 July at the latest, a report outlining the findings resulting from the monitoring of these issues, as well as any measures taken or envisaged to address them and shall forward this report to the Commission forthwith.

Article 5

Technical rules

Member States shall ensure that technical safety criteria are defined and that technical rules establishing the minimum technical design and operational requirements for the connection to the system of generating installations, distribution systems, directly connected consumers' equipment, interconnector circuits and direct lines are developed and made public. These technical rules shall ensure the interoperability of systems and shall be objective and non discriminatory. They shall be notified to the Commission in accordance with

Article 8 of Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society Services ⁽¹⁾.

CHAPTER III

GENERATION

Article 6

Authorisation procedure for new capacity

1. For the construction of new generating capacity, Member States shall adopt an authorisation procedure, which shall be conducted in accordance with objective, transparent and non discriminatory criteria.

2. Member States shall lay down the criteria for the grant of authorisations for the construction of generating capacity in their territory. These criteria may relate to:

- (a) the safety and security of the electricity system, installations and associated equipment;
- (b) protection of public health and safety;
- (c) protection of the environment;
- (d) land use and siting;
- (e) use of public ground;
- (f) energy efficiency;
- (g) the nature of the primary sources;
- (h) characteristics particular to the applicant, such as technical, economic and financial capabilities;
- (i) compliance with measures adopted pursuant to Article 3.

3. Member States shall ensure that authorisation procedures for small and/or distributed generation take into account their limited size and potential impact.

4. The authorisation procedures and criteria shall be made public. Applicants shall be informed of the reasons for any refusal to grant an authorisation. The reasons must be objective, non discriminatory, well founded and duly substantiated. Appeal procedures shall be made available to the applicant.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37. Directive as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18).

*Article 7***Tendering for new capacity**

1. Member States shall ensure the possibility, in the interests of security of supply, of providing for new capacity or energy efficiency/demand-side management measures through a tendering procedure or any procedure equivalent in terms of transparency and non-discrimination, on the basis of published criteria. These procedures can, however, only be launched if on the basis of the authorisation procedure the generating capacity being built or the energy efficiency/demand-side management measures being taken are not sufficient to ensure security of supply.

2. Member States may ensure the possibility, in the interests of environmental protection and the promotion of infant new technologies, of tendering for new capacity on the basis of published criteria. This tender may relate to new capacity or energy efficiency/demand-side management measures. A tendering procedure can, however, only be launched if on the basis of the authorisation procedure the generating capacity being built or the measures being taken are not sufficient to achieve these objectives.

3. Details of the tendering procedure for means of generating capacity and energy efficiency/demand-side management measures shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* at least six months prior to the closing date for tenders.

The tender specifications shall be made available to any interested undertaking established in the territory of a Member State so that it has sufficient time in which to submit a tender.

With a view to ensuring transparency and non-discrimination the tender specifications shall contain a detailed description of the contract specifications and of the procedure to be followed by all tenderers and an exhaustive list of criteria governing the selection of tenderers and the award of the contract, including incentives, such as subsidies, which are covered by the tender. These specifications may also relate to the fields referred to in Article 6(2).

4. In invitations to tender for the requisite generating capacity, consideration must also be given to electricity supply offers with long term guarantees from existing generating units, provided that additional requirements can be met in this way.

5. Member States shall designate an authority or a public body or a private body independent from electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply activities, which may be a regulatory authority referred to in Article 23(1), to be responsible for the organisation, monitoring and control of the tendering procedure referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4. Where a transmission system operator is fully

independent from other activities not relating to the transmission system in ownership terms, the transmission system operator may be designated as the body responsible for organising, monitoring and controlling the tendering procedure. This authority or body shall take all necessary steps to ensure confidentiality of the information contained in the tenders.

CHAPTER IV

TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATION*Article 8***Designation of Transmission System Operators**

Member States shall designate, or shall require undertakings which own transmission systems to designate, for a period of time to be determined by Member States having regard to considerations of efficiency and economic balance, one or more transmission system operators. Member States shall ensure that transmission system operators act in accordance with Articles 9 to 12.

*Article 9***Tasks of Transmission System Operators**

Each transmission system operator shall be responsible for:

- (a) ensuring the long-term ability of the system to meet reasonable demands for the transmission of electricity;
- (b) contributing to security of supply through adequate transmission capacity and system reliability;
- (c) managing energy flows on the system, taking into account exchanges with other interconnected systems. To that end, the transmission system operator shall be responsible for ensuring a secure, reliable and efficient electricity system and, in that context, for ensuring the availability of all necessary ancillary services insofar as this availability is independent from any other transmission system with which its system is interconnected;
- (d) providing to the operator of any other system with which its system is interconnected sufficient information to ensure the secure and efficient operation, coordinated development and interoperability of the interconnected system;
- (e) ensuring non-discrimination as between system users or classes of system users, particularly in favour of its related undertakings;

- (f) providing system users with the information they need for efficient access to the system.

setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 23(1) and shall be published.

Article 10

Unbundling of Transmission System Operators

1. Where the transmission system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent at least in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to transmission. These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the transmission system from the vertically integrated undertaking.

2. In order to ensure the independence of the transmission system operator referred to in paragraph 1, the following minimum criteria shall apply:

- (a) those persons responsible for the management of the transmission system operator may not participate in company structures of the integrated electricity undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the generation, distribution and supply of electricity;
- (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of the persons responsible for the management of the transmission system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;
- (c) the transmission system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated electricity undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain or develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of return on assets, regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 23(2), in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the transmission system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of transmission lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument;
- (d) the transmission system operator shall establish a compliance programme, which sets out measures taken to ensure that discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report,

Article 11

Dispatching and balancing

1. Without prejudice to the supply of electricity on the basis of contractual obligations, including those which derive from the tendering specifications, the transmission system operator shall, where it has this function, be responsible for dispatching the generating installations in its area and for determining the use of interconnectors with other systems.

2. The dispatching of generating installations and the use of interconnectors shall be determined on the basis of criteria which may be approved by the Member State and which must be objective, published and applied in a non discriminatory manner which ensures the proper functioning of the internal market in electricity. They shall take into account the economic precedence of electricity from available generating installations or interconnector transfers and the technical constraints on the system.

3. A Member State may require the system operator, when dispatching generating installations, to give priority to generating installations using renewable energy sources or waste or producing combined heat and power.

4. A Member State may, for reasons of security of supply, direct that priority be given to the dispatch of generating installations using indigenous primary energy fuel sources, to an extent not exceeding in any calendar year 15 % of the overall primary energy necessary to produce the electricity consumed in the Member State concerned.

5. Member States may require transmission system operators to comply with minimum standards for the maintenance and development of the transmission system, including interconnection capacity.

6. Transmission system operators shall procure the energy they use to cover energy losses and reserve capacity in their system according to transparent, non-discriminatory and market-based procedures, whenever they have this function.

7. Rules adopted by transmission system operators for balancing the electricity system shall be objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, including rules for the charging of system users of their networks for energy imbalance. Terms and conditions, including rules and tariffs, for the provision of such services by transmission system operators shall be

established pursuant to a methodology compatible with Article 23(2) in a non-discriminatory and cost-reflective way and shall be published.

Article 12

Confidentiality for Transmission System Operators

Without prejudice to Article 18 or any other legal duty to disclose information, the transmission system operator shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained in the course of carrying out its business. Information disclosed regarding its own activities, which may be commercially advantageous, shall be made available in a non-discriminatory manner.

CHAPTER V

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATION

Article 13

Designation of Distribution System Operators

Member States shall designate or shall require undertakings that own or are responsible for distribution systems to designate, for a period of time to be determined by Member States having regard to considerations of efficiency and economic balance, one or more distribution system operators. Member States shall ensure that distribution system operators act in accordance with Articles 14 to 16.

Article 14

Tasks of Distribution System Operators

1. The distribution system operator shall maintain a secure, reliable and efficient electricity distribution system in its area with due regard for the environment.
2. In any event, it must not discriminate between system users or classes of system users, particularly in favour of its related undertakings.
3. The distribution system operator shall provide system users with the information they need for efficient access to the system.
4. A Member State may require the distribution system operator, when dispatching generating installations, to give priority to generating installations using renewable energy sources or waste or producing combined heat and power.
5. Distribution system operators shall procure the energy they use to cover energy losses and reserve capacity in their system according to transparent, non-discriminatory and market based procedures, whenever they have this function.

This requirement shall be without prejudice to using electricity acquired under contracts concluded before 1 January 2002.

6. Where distribution system operators are responsible for balancing the electricity distribution system, rules adopted by them for that purpose shall be objective, transparent and non discriminatory, including rules for the charging of system users of their networks for energy imbalance. Terms and conditions, including rules and tariffs, for the provision of such services by distribution system operators shall be established in accordance with Article 23(2) in a non discriminatory and cost-reflective way and shall be published.

7. When planning the development of the distribution network, energy efficiency/demand-side management measures and/or distributed generation that might supplant the need to upgrade or replace electricity capacity shall be considered by the distribution system operator.

Article 15

Unbundling of Distribution System Operators

1. Where the distribution system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent at least in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to distribution. These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the distribution system operator from the vertically integrated undertaking.
2. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 1, where the distribution system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent in terms of its organisation and decision making from the other activities not related to distribution. In order to achieve this, the following minimum criteria shall apply:
 - (a) those persons responsible for the management of the distribution system operator may not participate in company structures of the integrated electricity undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity;
 - (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of the persons responsible for the management of the distribution system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;
 - (c) the distribution system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated electricity undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain or develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of

return on assets, regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 23(2), in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the distribution system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of distribution lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument.

- (d) the distribution system operator shall establish a compliance programme, which sets out measures taken to ensure that discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report, setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 23(1) and published.

Member States may decide not to apply paragraphs 1 and 2 to integrated electricity undertakings serving less than 100 000 connected customers, or serving small isolated systems.

Article 16

Confidentiality for Distribution System Operators

Without prejudice to Article 18 or any other legal duty to disclose information, the distribution system operator must preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained in the course of carrying out its business, and shall prevent information about its own activities which may be commercially advantageous being disclosed in a discriminatory manner.

Article 17

Combined operator

The rules in Articles 10(1) and 15(1) do not prevent the operation of a combined transmission and distribution system operator, which is independent in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to transmission or distribution system operation and which meets the requirements set out in points (a) to (d). These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the combined system from the vertically integrated undertaking:

- (a) those persons responsible for the management of the combined system operator may not participate in company structures of the integrated electricity

undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the generation, or supply of electricity;

- (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of the persons responsible for the management of the combined system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;

- (c) the combined system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated electricity undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain and develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of return on assets, regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 23(2), in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the combined system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of transmission and distribution lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument;

- (d) the combined system operator shall establish a compliance programme which sets out measures taken to ensure that discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report, setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 23(1) and published.

CHAPTER VI

UNBUNDLING AND TRANSPARENCY OF ACCOUNTS

Article 18

Right of access to accounts

1. Member States or any competent authority they designate, including the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 23, shall, insofar as necessary to carry out their functions, have right of access to the accounts of electricity undertakings as set out in Article 19.

2. Member States and any designated competent authority, including the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 23, shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information. Member States may provide for the disclosure of such information where this is necessary in order for the competent authorities to carry out their functions.

Article 19

Unbundling of accounts

1. Member States shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the accounts of electricity undertakings are kept in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 3.

2. Electricity undertakings, whatever their system of ownership or legal form, shall draw up, submit to audit and publish their annual accounts in accordance with the rules of national law concerning the annual accounts of limited liability companies adopted pursuant to the Fourth Council Directive 78/660/EC of 25 July 1978 based on Article 44(2)(g) (*) of the Treaty on the annual accounts of certain types of companies (1).

Undertakings which are not legally obliged to publish their annual accounts shall keep a copy of these at the disposal of the public in their head office.

3. Electricity undertakings shall, in their internal accounting, keep separate accounts for each of their transmission and distribution activities as they would be required to do if the activities in question were carried out by separate undertakings, with a view to avoiding discrimination, cross subsidisation and distortion of competition. They shall also keep accounts, which may be consolidated, for other electricity activities not relating to transmission or distribution. Until 1 July 2007, they shall keep separate accounts for supply activities for eligible customers and supply activities for non-eligible customers. Revenue from ownership of the transmission/distribution system shall be specified in the accounts. Where appropriate, they shall keep consolidated accounts for other, non-electricity activities. The internal accounts shall include a balance sheet and a profit and loss account for each activity.

4. The audit referred to in paragraph 2 shall, in particular, verify that the obligation to avoid discrimination and cross-subsidies referred to in paragraph 3, is respected.

(*) The title of Directive 78/660/EEC has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the Treaty establishing the European Community in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 54(3)(g).

(1) OJ L 222, 14.8.1978, p. 11. Directive as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 28).

CHAPTER VII

ORGANISATION OF ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM

Article 20

Third party access

1. Member States shall ensure the implementation of a system of third party access to the transmission and distribution systems based on published tariffs, applicable to all eligible customers and applied objectively and without discrimination between system users. Member States shall ensure that these tariffs, or the methodologies underlying their calculation, are approved prior to their entry into force in accordance with Article 23 and that these tariffs, and the methodologies — where only methodologies are approved — are published prior to their entry into force.

2. The operator of a transmission or distribution system may refuse access where it lacks the necessary capacity. Duly substantiated reasons must be given for such refusal, in particular having regard to Article 3. Member States shall ensure, where appropriate and when refusal of access takes place, that the transmission or distribution system operator provides relevant information on measures that would be necessary to reinforce the network. The party requesting such information may be charged a reasonable fee reflecting the cost of providing such information.

Article 21

Market opening and reciprocity

1. Member States shall ensure that the eligible customers are:

- (a) until 1 July 2004, the eligible customers as specified in Article 19(1) to (3) of Directive 96/92/EC. Member States shall publish by 31 January each year the criteria for the definition of these eligible customers;
- (b) from 1 July 2004, at the latest, all non-household customers;
- (c) from 1 July 2007, all customers.

2. To avoid imbalance in the opening of electricity markets:

- (a) contracts for the supply of electricity with an eligible customer in the system of another Member State shall not be prohibited if the customer is considered as eligible in both systems involved;

(b) in cases where transactions as described in point (a) are refused because of the customer being eligible only in one of the two systems, the Commission may oblige, taking into account the situation in the market and the common interest, the refusing party to execute the requested supply at the request of the Member State where the eligible customer is located.

Article 22

Direct lines

1. Member States shall take the measures necessary to enable:

- (a) all electricity producers and electricity supply undertakings established within their territory to supply their own premises, subsidiaries and eligible customers through a direct line;
- (b) any eligible customer within their territory to be supplied through a direct line by a producer and supply undertakings.

2. Member States shall lay down the criteria for the grant of authorisations for the construction of direct lines in their territory. These criteria must be objective and non discriminatory.

3. The possibility of supplying electricity through a direct line as referred to in paragraph 1 shall not affect the possibility of contracting electricity in accordance with Article 20.

4. Member States may make authorisation to construct a direct line subject either to the refusal of system access on the basis, as appropriate, of Article 20 or to the opening of a dispute settlement procedure under Article 23.

5. Member States may refuse to authorise a direct line if the granting of such an authorisation would obstruct the provisions of Article 3. Duly substantiated reasons must be given for such refusal.

Article 23

Regulatory authorities

1. Member States shall designate one or more competent bodies with the function of regulatory authorities. These authorities shall be wholly independent from the interests of the electricity industry. They shall, through the application of this Article, at least be responsible for ensuring non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, monitoring in particular:

- (a) the rules on the management and allocation of interconnection capacity, in conjunction with the regulatory authority or authorities of those Member States with which interconnection exists;
- (b) any mechanisms to deal with congested capacity within the national electricity system;
- (c) the time taken by transmission and distribution undertakings to make connections and repairs;
- (d) the publication of appropriate information by transmission and distribution system operators concerning interconnectors, grid usage and capacity allocation to interested parties, taking into account the need to treat non-aggregated information as commercially confidential;
- (e) the effective unbundling of accounts, as referred to in Article 19, to ensure that there are no cross subsidies between generation, transmission, distribution and supply activities;
- (f) the terms, conditions and tariffs for connecting new producers of electricity to guarantee that these are objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, in particular taking full account of the costs and benefits of the various renewable energy sources technologies, distributed generation and combined heat and power;
- (g) the extent to which transmission and distribution system operators fulfil their tasks in accordance with Articles 9 and 14;
- (h) the level of transparency and competition.

The authorities established pursuant to this Article shall publish an annual report on the outcome of their monitoring activities referred to in points (a) to (h).

2. The regulatory authorities shall be responsible for fixing or approving, prior to their entry into force, at least the methodologies used to calculate or establish the terms and conditions for:

- (a) connection and access to national networks, including transmission and distribution tariffs. These tariffs, or methodologies, shall allow the necessary investments in the networks to be carried out in a manner allowing these investments to ensure the viability of the networks;
- (b) the provision of balancing services.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, Member States may provide that the regulatory authorities shall submit, for formal decision, to the relevant body in the Member State the tariffs or at least the methodologies referred to in that paragraph as

well as the modifications in paragraph 4. The relevant body shall, in such a case, have the power to either approve or reject a draft decision submitted by the regulatory authority. These tariffs or the methodologies or modifications thereto shall be published together with the decision on formal adoption. Any formal rejection of a draft decision shall also be published, including its justification.

4. Regulatory authorities shall have the authority to require transmission and distribution system operators, if necessary, to modify the terms and conditions, tariffs, rules, mechanisms and methodologies referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, to ensure that they are proportionate and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

5. Any party having a complaint against a transmission or distribution system operator with respect to the issues mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 may refer the complaint to the regulatory authority which, acting as dispute settlement authority, shall issue a decision within two months after receipt of the complaint. This period may be extended by two months where additional information is sought by the regulatory authority. This period may be further extended with the agreement of the complainant. Such a decision shall have binding effect unless and until overruled on appeal.

Where a complaint concerns connection tariffs for major new generation facilities, the two-month period may be extended by the regulatory authority.

6. Any party who is affected and has a right to complain concerning a decision on methodologies taken pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 or 4 or, where the regulatory authority has a duty to consult, concerning the proposed methodologies, may, at the latest within two months, or a shorter time period as provided by Member States, following publication of the decision or proposal for a decision, submit a complaint for review. Such a complaint shall not have suspensive effect.

7. Member States shall take measures to ensure that regulatory authorities are able to carry out their duties referred to in paragraphs 1 to 5 in an efficient and expeditious manner.

8. Member States shall create appropriate and efficient mechanisms for regulation, control and transparency so as to avoid any abuse of a dominant position, in particular to the detriment of consumers, and any predatory behaviour. These mechanisms shall take account of the provisions of the Treaty, and in particular Article 82 thereof.

Until 2010, the relevant authorities of the Member States shall provide, by 31 July of each year, in conformity with competition law, the Commission with a report on market dominance, predatory and anti competitive behaviour. This

report shall, in addition, review the changing ownership patterns and any practical measures taken at national level to ensure a sufficient variety of market actors or practical measures taken to enhance interconnection and competition. From 2010 onwards, the relevant authorities shall provide such a report every two years.

9. Member States shall ensure that the appropriate measures are taken, including administrative action or criminal proceedings in conformity with their national law, against the natural or legal persons responsible where confidentiality rules imposed by this Directive have not been respected.

10. In the event of cross border disputes, the deciding regulatory authority shall be the regulatory authority which has jurisdiction in respect of the system operator which refuses use of, or access to, the system.

11. Complaints referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 shall be without prejudice to the exercise of rights of appeal under Community and national law.

12. National regulatory authorities shall contribute to the development of the internal market and of a level playing field by cooperating with each other and with the Commission in a transparent manner.

CHAPTER VIII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

Safeguard measures

In the event of a sudden crisis in the energy market and where the physical safety or security of persons, apparatus or installations or system integrity is threatened, a Member State may temporarily take the necessary safeguard measures.

Such measures must cause the least possible disturbance in the functioning of the internal market and must not be wider in scope than is strictly necessary to remedy the sudden difficulties which have arisen.

The Member State concerned shall without delay notify these measures to the other Member States, and to the Commission, which may decide that the Member State concerned must amend or abolish such measures, insofar as they distort competition and adversely affect trade in a manner which is at variance with the common interest.

Article 25

Monitoring of imports of electricity

Member States shall inform the Commission every three months of imports of electricity, in terms of physical flows, that have taken place during the previous three months from third countries.

Article 26

Derogations

1. Member States which can demonstrate, after the Directive has been brought into force, that there are substantial problems for the operation of their small isolated systems, may apply for derogations from the relevant provisions of Chapters IV, V, VI, VII, as well as Chapter III, in the case of micro isolated systems, as far as refurbishing, upgrading and expansion of existing capacity are concerned, which may be granted to them by the Commission. The latter shall inform the Member States of those applications prior to taking a decision, taking into account respect for confidentiality. This decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. This Article shall also be applicable to Luxembourg.

2. A Member State which, after the Directive has been brought into force, for reasons of a technical nature has substantial problems in opening its market for certain limited groups of the non-household customers referred to in Article 21(1)(b) may apply for derogation from this provision, which may be granted to it by the Commission for a period not exceeding 18 months after the date referred to in Article 30(1). In any case, such derogation shall end on the date referred to in Article 21(1)(c).

Article 27

Review Procedure

In the event that the report referred to in Article 28(3) reaches the conclusion whereby, given the effective manner in which network access has been carried out in a Member State — which gives rise to fully effective, non-discriminatory and unhindered network access — the Commission concludes that certain obligations imposed by this Directive on undertakings (including those with respect to legal unbundling for distribution system operators) are not proportionate to the objective pursued, the Member State in question may submit a request to the Commission for exemption from the requirement in question.

The request shall be notified, without delay, by the Member State to the Commission, together with all the relevant information necessary to demonstrate that the conclusion reached in the report on effective network access being ensured will be maintained.

Within three months of its receipt of a notification, the Commission shall adopt an opinion with respect to the request by the Member State concerned, and where appropriate, submit proposals to the European Parliament and to the Council to amend the relevant provisions of the Directive. The

Commission may propose, in the proposals to amend the Directive, to exempt the Member State concerned from specific requirements, subject to that Member State implementing equally effective measures as appropriate.

Article 28

Reporting

1. The Commission shall monitor and review the application of this Directive and submit an overall progress report to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of the first year following the entry into force of this Directive, and thereafter on an annual basis. The report shall cover at least:

- (a) the experience gained and progress made in creating a complete and fully operational internal market in electricity and the obstacles that remain in this respect, including aspects of market dominance, concentration in the market, predatory or anti-competitive behaviour and the effect of this in terms of market distortion;
- (b) the extent to which the unbundling and tariffication requirements contained in this Directive have been successful in ensuring fair and non-discriminatory access to the Community's electricity system and equivalent levels of competition, as well as the economic, environmental and social consequences of the opening of the electricity market for customers;
- (c) an examination of issues relating to system capacity levels and security of supply of electricity in the Community, and in particular the existing and projected balance between demand and supply, taking into account the physical capacity for exchanges between areas;
- (d) special attention will be given to measures taken in Member States to cover peak demand and to deal with shortfalls of one or more suppliers;
- (e) the implementation of the derogation provided under Article 15(2) with a view to a possible revision of the threshold;
- (f) a general assessment of the progress achieved with regard to bilateral relations with third countries which produce and export or transport electricity, including progress in market integration, the social and environmental consequences of the trade in electricity and access to the networks of such third countries;
- (g) the need for possible harmonisation requirements that are not linked to the provisions of this Directive;

(h) the manner in which Member States have implemented in practice the requirements regarding energy labelling contained in Article 3(6), and the manner in which any Commission Recommendations on this issue have been taken into account.

Where appropriate, this report may include recommendations especially as regards the scope and modalities of labelling provisions including e.g. the way in which reference is made to existing reference sources and the content of these sources, and notably on the manner in which the information on the environmental impact in terms of at least emissions of CO₂ and the radioactive waste resulting from the electricity production from different energy sources could be made available in a transparent, easily accessible and comparable manner throughout the European Union and on the manner in which the measures taken by the Member States to control the accuracy of the information provided by suppliers could be streamlined, and measures to counteract negative effects of market dominance and market concentration.

2. Every two years, the report referred to in paragraph 1 shall also cover an analysis of the different measures taken in the Member States to meet public service obligations, together with an examination of the effectiveness of those measures and, in particular, their effects on competition in the electricity market. Where appropriate, this report may include recommendations as to the measures to be taken at national level to achieve high public service standards, or measures intended to prevent market foreclosure.

3. The Commission shall, no later than 1 January 2006, forward to the European Parliament and Council, a detailed report outlining progress in creating the internal electricity market. The report shall, in particular, consider:

- the existence of non-discriminatory network access;
- effective regulation;
- the development of interconnection infrastructure and the security of supply situation in the Community;
- the extent to which the full benefits of the opening of markets are accruing to small enterprises and households, notably with respect to public service and universal service standards;
- the extent to which markets are in practice open to effective competition, including aspects of market dominance, market concentration and predatory or anti-competitive behaviour;
- the extent to which customers are actually switching suppliers and renegotiating tariffs;

- price developments, including supply prices, in relation to the degree of the opening of markets;
- the experience gained in the application of the Directive as far as the effective independence of system operators in vertically integrated undertakings is concerned and whether other measures in addition to functional independence and separation of accounts have been developed which have effects equivalent to legal unbundling.

Where appropriate, the Commission shall submit proposals to the European Parliament and the Council, in particular to guarantee high public service standards.

Where appropriate, the Commission shall submit proposals to the European Parliament and the Council, in particular to ensure full and effective independence of distribution system operators before 1 July 2007. When necessary, these proposals shall, in conformity with competition law, also concern measures to address issues of market dominance, market concentration and predatory or anti-competitive behaviour.

Article 29

Repeals

Directive 90/547/EEC shall be repealed with effect from 1 July 2004.

Directive 96/92/EC shall be repealed from 1 July 2004 without prejudice to the obligations of Member States concerning the deadlines for transposition and application of the said Directive. References made to the repealed Directive shall be construed as being made to this Directive and should be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex B.

Article 30

Implementation

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 1 July 2004. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

2. Member States may postpone the implementation of Article 15(1) until 1 July 2007. This shall be without prejudice to the requirements contained in Article 15(2).

3. When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by Member States.

Article 31

Entry into force

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

Article 32

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 26 June 2003.

For the European Parliament

The President

P. COX

For the Council

The President

A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ANNEX A

Measures on consumer protection

Without prejudice to Community rules on consumer protection, in particular Directives 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ and Council Directive 93/13/EC ⁽²⁾, the measures referred to in Article 3 are to ensure that customers:

- (a) have a right to a contract with their electricity service provider that specifies:
- the identity and address of the supplier;
 - the services provided, the service quality levels offered, as well as the time for the initial connection;
 - if offered, the types of maintenance service offered;
 - the means by which up-to-date information on all applicable tariffs and maintenance charges may be obtained;
 - the duration of the contract, the conditions for renewal and termination of services and of the contract, the existence of any right of withdrawal;
 - any compensation and the refund arrangements which apply if contracted service quality levels are not met; and
 - the method of initiating procedures for settlement of disputes in accordance with point (f).

Conditions shall be fair and well known in advance. In any case, this information should be provided prior to the conclusion or confirmation of the contract. Where contracts are concluded through intermediaries, the above information shall also be provided prior to the conclusion of the contract;

- (b) are given adequate notice of any intention to modify contractual conditions and are informed about their right of withdrawal when the notice is given. Service providers shall notify their subscribers directly of any increase in charges, at an appropriate time no later than one normal billing period after the increase comes into effect. Member States shall ensure that customers are free to withdraw from contracts if they do not accept the new conditions notified to them by their electricity service provider;
- (c) receive transparent information on applicable prices and tariffs and on standard terms and conditions, in respect of access to and use of electricity services;
- (d) are offered a wide choice of payment methods. Any difference in terms and conditions shall reflect the costs to the supplier of the different payment systems. General terms and conditions shall be fair and transparent. They shall be given in clear and comprehensible language. Customers shall be protected against unfair or misleading selling methods;
- (e) shall not be charged for changing supplier;
- (f) benefit from transparent, simple and inexpensive procedures for dealing with their complaints. Such procedures shall enable disputes to be settled fairly and promptly with provision, where warranted, for a system of reimbursement and/or compensation. They should follow, wherever possible, the principles set out in Commission Recommendation 98/257/EC ⁽³⁾;
- (g) when having access to universal service under the provisions adopted by Member States pursuant to Article 3(3), are informed about their rights regarding universal service.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 144, 4.6.1997, p. 19.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 95, 21.4.1993, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 115, 17.4.1998, p. 31.

ANNEX B

Correlation table

Directive 96/92/EC	This Directive	
Article 1	Article 1	Scope
Article 2	Article 2	Definitions
Article 3 and 10(1)	Article 3	PSOs and Customer protection
—	Article 4	Monitoring of security of supply
Article 7(2)	Article 5	Technical rules
Article 4 and 5	Article 6	Authorisation procedure for new capacity
Article 4 and 6	Article 7	Tendering for new capacity
Article 7(1)	Article 8	Designation of TSOs
Article 7(3)-(5)	Article 9	Tasks of TSOs
Article 7(6)	Article 10	Unbundling of TSOs
Article 8	Article 11	Dispatching and balancing
Article 9	Article 12	Confidentiality for TSOs
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Statements made with regard to decommissioning and waste management activities

Interinstitutional statement

'The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission underline the need for Member States to ensure that adequate financial resources for decommissioning and waste management activities, which are audited in Member States, are actually available for the purpose for which they have been established and are managed in a transparent way, thus avoiding obstacles to fair competition in the energy market'.

Commission statement

'The Commission notes the importance of ensuring that funds established for the purpose of decommissioning and waste management activities, which relate to the objectives of the Euratom Treaty, are managed in a transparent way, and used only for the said purpose. In this context, it intends, within the scope of its responsibilities of the Euratom Treaty to publish an annual report on the use of decommissioning and waste management funds. It shall pay particular attention to ensuring the full application of the relevant provisions of Community law'.

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 gas and repealing Directive 98/30/EC

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 47(2), Article 55 and Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposals from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having consulted the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 98/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas ⁽⁴⁾ has made significant contributions towards the creation of an internal market for gas.
- (2) Experience in implementing this Directive shows the benefits that may result from the internal market in gas, in terms of efficiency gains, price reductions, higher standards of service and increased competitiveness. However, significant shortcomings and possibilities for improving the functioning of the market remain, notably concrete provisions are needed to ensure a level playing field and to reduce the risks of market dominance and predatory behaviour, ensuring non-discriminatory transmission and distribution tariffs, through access to the network on the basis of tariffs published prior to their entry into force, and ensuring that the rights of small and vulnerable customers are protected.

- (3) At its meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000, the European Council called for rapid work to be undertaken to complete the internal market in both electricity and gas sectors and to speed up liberalisation in these sectors with a view to achieving a fully operational internal market. The European Parliament, in its Resolution of 6 July 2000 on the Commission's second report on the state of liberalisation of energy markets, requested the Commission to adopt a detailed timetable for the achievement of accurately defined objectives with a view to gradually but completely liberalising the energy market.

- (4) The freedoms which the Treaty guarantees European citizens — free movement of goods, freedom to provide services and freedom of establishment — are only possible in a fully open market, which enables all consumers freely to choose their suppliers and all suppliers freely to deliver to their customers.

- (5) In view of the anticipated increase in dependency as regards natural gas consumption, consideration should be given to initiatives and measures to encourage reciprocal arrangements for access to third-country networks and market integration.

- (6) The main obstacles in arriving at a fully operational and competitive internal market relate to, amongst other things, issues of access to the network, access to storage, tariffication issues, interoperability between systems and different degrees of market opening between Member States.

- (7) For competition to function, network access must be non-discriminatory, transparent and fairly priced.

- (8) In order to complete the internal gas market, non-discriminatory access to the network of the transmission and distribution system operators is of paramount importance. A transmission or distribution system operator may consist of one or more undertakings.

- (9) In case of a gas undertaking performing transmission, distribution, storage or liquefied natural gas (LNG) activities and which is separate in its legal form from those undertakings performing production and/or

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 240 E, 28.8.2001, p. 60 and OJ C 227 E, 24.9.2002, p. 393.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 36, 8.2.2002, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 13 March 2002 (OJ C 47 E, 27.2.2003, p. 367), Council Common Position of 3 February 2003 (OJ C 50 E, 4.3.2003, p. 36) and Decision of the European Parliament of 4 June 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 1.

supply activities, the designated system operators may be the same undertaking owning the infrastructure.

- (10) In order to ensure efficient and non-discriminatory network access it is appropriate that the transmission and distribution systems are operated through legally separate entities where vertically integrated undertakings exist. The Commission should assess measures of equivalent effect, developed by Member States to achieve the aim of this requirement, and, where appropriate, submit proposals to amend this Directive.

It is also appropriate that the transmission and distribution system operators have effective decision making rights with respect to assets necessary to maintain and operate and develop networks when the assets in question are owned and operated by vertically integrated undertakings.

It is important however to distinguish between such legal separation and ownership unbundling. Legal separation implies neither a change of ownership of assets and nothing prevents similar or identical employment conditions applying throughout the whole of the vertically integrated undertakings. However, a non-discriminatory decision-making process should be ensured through organisational measures regarding the independence of the decision-makers responsible.

- (11) To avoid imposing a disproportionate financial and administrative burden on small distribution companies, Member States should be able, where necessary, to exempt such companies from the legal distribution unbundling requirements.
- (12) In order to facilitate the conclusion of contracts by a gas undertaking established in a Member State for the supply of gas to eligible customers in another Member State, Member States and, where appropriate, national regulatory authorities should work towards more homogenous conditions and the same degree of eligibility for the whole of the internal market.
- (13) The existence of effective regulation, carried out by one or more national regulatory authorities, is an important factor in guaranteeing non-discriminatory access to the network. Member States specify the functions, competences and administrative powers of the regulatory authorities. It is important that the regulatory authorities in all Member States share the same minimum set of competences. Those authorities should have the competence to fix or approve the tariffs, or at least, the methodologies underlying the calculation of

transmission and distribution tariffs and tariffs for access to liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. In order to avoid uncertainty and costly and time consuming disputes, these tariffs should be published prior to their entry into force.

- (14) The Commission has indicated its intention to set up a European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas which would constitute a suitable advisory mechanism for encouraging cooperation and coordination of national regulatory authorities, in order to promote the development of the internal market for electricity and gas, and to contribute to the consistent application, in all Member States, of the provisions set out in this Directive and Directive 2003/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity ⁽¹⁾ and in Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity ⁽²⁾.
- (15) In order to ensure effective market access for all market players including new entrants, non discriminatory and cost-reflective balancing mechanisms are necessary. As soon as the gas market is sufficiently liquid, this should be achieved through the setting up of transparent market-based mechanisms for the supply and purchase of gas needed in the framework of balancing requirements. In the absence of such a liquid market, national regulatory authorities should play an active role to ensure that balancing tariffs are non-discriminatory and cost-reflective. At the same time, appropriate incentives should be provided to balance in-purchase and off-take of gas and not to endanger the system.
- (16) National regulatory authorities should be able to fix or approve tariffs, or the methodologies underlying the calculation of the tariffs, on the basis of a proposal by the transmission system operator or distribution system operator(s) or LNG system operator, or on the basis of a proposal agreed between these operator(s) and the users of the network. In carrying out these tasks, national regulatory authorities should ensure that transmission and distribution tariffs are non-discriminatory and cost-reflective, and should take account of the long-term, marginal, avoided network costs from demand-side management measures.
- (17) The benefits resulting from the internal market should be available to all Community industry and commerce, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and to all Community citizens as quickly as possible, for reasons of fairness, competitiveness, and indirectly, to create employment as a result of the efficiency gains that will be enjoyed by enterprises.

⁽¹⁾ See p. 37 of this Official Journal.

⁽²⁾ See p. 1 of this Official Journal.

- (18) Gas customers should be able to choose their supplier freely. Nonetheless a phased approach should be taken to completing the internal market for gas, coupled with a specific deadline, to enable industry to adjust and ensure that adequate measures and systems are in place to protect the interests of customers and ensure they have a real and effective right to choose their supplier.
- (19) Progressive opening of markets towards full competition should as soon as possible remove differences between Member States. Transparency and certainty in the implementation of this Directive should be ensured.
- (20) Directive 98/30/EC contributes to access to storage as part of the gas system. In the light of the experience gained in implementing the internal market, additional measures should be taken to clarify the provisions for access to storage and ancillary services.
- (21) Storage facilities are essential means, amongst other things of implementing public service obligations such as security of supply. This should not lead to distortion of competition or discrimination in the access to storage.
- (22) Further measures should be taken in order to ensure transparent and non discriminatory tariffs for access to transportation. Those tariffs should be applicable to all users on a non discriminatory basis. Where a storage facility, linepack or ancillary service operates in a sufficiently competitive market, access could be allowed on the basis of transparent and non-discriminatory market-based mechanisms.
- (23) In the interest of security of supply, the supply/demand balance in individual Member States should be monitored, and monitoring should be followed by a report on the situation at Community level, taking account of interconnection capacity between areas. Such monitoring should be carried out sufficiently early to enable appropriate measures to be taken if security of supply is compromised. The construction and maintenance of the necessary network infrastructure, including interconnection capacity, should contribute to ensuring a stable gas supply.
- (24) Member States should ensure that, taking into account the necessary quality requirements, biogas and gas from biomass or other types of gas are granted non-discriminatory access to the gas system, provided such access is permanently compatible with the relevant technical rules and safety standards. These rules and standards should ensure, that these gases can technically and safely be injected into, and transported through the natural gas system and should also address the chemical characteristics of these gases.
- (25) Long-term contracts will continue to be an important part of the gas supply of Member States and should be maintained as an option for gas supply undertakings in so far as they do not undermine the objectives of this Directive and are compatible with the Treaty, including competition rules. It is therefore necessary to take them into account in the planning of supply and transportation capacity of gas undertakings.
- (26) In order to ensure the maintenance of high standards of public service in the Community, all measures taken by Member States to achieve the objectives of this Directive should be regularly notified to the Commission. The Commission should regularly publish a report analysing measures taken at national level to achieve public service objectives and comparing their effectiveness, with a view to making recommendations as regards measures to be taken at national level to achieve high public service standards.
- Member States should ensure that when they are connected to the gas system customers are informed about their rights to be supplied with natural gas of a specified quality at reasonable prices. Measures taken by Member States to protect final customers may differ according to households and small and medium sized enterprises.
- (27) The respect of the public service requirements is a fundamental requirement of this Directive, and it is important that common minimum standards, respected by all Member States, are specified in this Directive, which take into account the objectives of consumer protection, security of supply, environmental protection and equivalent levels of competition in all Member States. It is important that the public service requirements can be interpreted on a national basis, taking into account national circumstances and subject to the observance of Community law.
- (28) Measures implemented by Member States to achieve the objectives of social and economic cohesion may include, in particular, the provision of adequate economic incentives, using, where appropriate, all existing national and Community tools. These tools may include liability mechanisms to guarantee the necessary investment.
- (29) To the extent to which measures taken by Member States to fulfil public service obligations constitute State aid under Article 87(1) of the Treaty, there is an obligation according to Article 88(3) of the Treaty to notify them to the Commission

- (30) Since the objective of the proposed action, namely the creation of a fully operational internal gas market, in which fair competition prevails, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.
- (31) In the light of the experience gained with the operation of Council Directive 91/296/EEC of 31 May 1991 on the transit of natural gas through grids ⁽¹⁾, measures should be taken to ensure homogeneous and non-discriminatory access regimes for transmission, including cross-border flows of gas between Member States. To ensure homogeneity in the treatment of access to the gas networks, also in the case of transit, that Directive should be repealed, without prejudice to the continuity of contracts concluded under the said Directive. The repeal of Directive 91/296/EEC should not prevent long-term contracts being concluded in the future.
- (32) Given the scope of the amendments that are being made to Directive 98/30/EC, it is desirable, for reasons of clarity and rationalisation, that the provisions in question should be recast.
- (33) This Directive respects the fundamental rights, and observes the principles, recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- (34) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Directive 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 Commission ⁽²⁾,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

CHAPTER I

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1

Scope

1. This Directive establishes common rules for the transmission, distribution, supply and storage of natural gas. It lays down the rules relating to the organisation and

functioning of the natural gas sector, access to the market, the criteria and procedures applicable to the granting of authorisations for transmission, distribution, supply and storage of natural gas and the operation of systems.

2. The rules established by this Directive for natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), shall also apply to biogas and gas from biomass or other types of gas in so far as such gases can technically and safely be injected into, and transported through, the natural gas system.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive:

1. 'natural gas undertaking' means any natural or legal person carrying out at least one of the following functions: production, transmission, distribution, supply, purchase or storage of natural gas, including LNG, which is responsible for the commercial, technical and/or maintenance tasks related to those functions, but shall not include final customers;
2. 'upstream pipeline network' means any pipeline or network of pipelines operated and/or constructed as part of an oil or gas production project, or used to convey natural gas from one or more such projects to a processing plant or terminal or final coastal landing terminal;
3. 'transmission' means the transport of natural gas through a high pressure pipeline network other than an upstream pipeline network with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply;
4. 'transmission system operator' means a natural or legal person who carries out the function of transmission and is responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of, and, if necessary, developing the transmission system in a given area and, where applicable, its interconnections with other systems, and for ensuring the long-term ability of the system to meet reasonable demands for the transportation of gas;
5. 'distribution' means the transport of natural gas through local or regional pipeline networks with a view to its delivery to customers, but not including supply;
6. 'distribution system operator' means a natural or legal person who carries out the function of distribution and is responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of, and, if necessary, developing the distribution system in a given area and, where applicable, its interconnections with other systems, and for ensuring the long-term ability of the system to meet reasonable demands for the distribution of gas;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 147, 12.6.1991, p. 37. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 95/49/EC (OJ L 233, 30.9.1995, p. 86).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

7. 'supply' means the sale, including resale, of natural gas, including LNG, to customers;
8. 'supply undertaking' means any natural or legal person who carries out the function of supply;
9. 'storage facility' means a facility used for the stocking of natural gas and owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including the part of LNG facilities used for storage but excluding the portion used for production operations, and excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators in carrying out their functions;
10. 'storage system operator' means a natural or legal person who carries out the function of storage and is responsible for operating a storage facility;
11. 'LNG facility' means a terminal which is used for the liquefaction of natural gas or the importation, offloading, and re-gaseification of LNG, and shall include ancillary services and temporary storage necessary for the re-gaseification process and subsequent delivery to the transmission system, but shall not include any part of LNG terminals used for storage;
12. 'LNG system operator' means a natural or legal person who carries out the function of liquefaction of natural gas, or the importation, offloading, and re-gaseification of LNG and is responsible for operating a LNG facility;
13. 'system' means any transmission networks, distribution networks, LNG facilities and/or storage facilities owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including linepack and its facilities supplying ancillary services and those of related undertakings necessary for providing access to transmission, distribution and LNG;
14. 'ancillary services' means all services necessary for access to and the operation of transmission and/or distribution networks and/or LNG facilities and/or storage facilities including load balancing and blending, but excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators carrying out their functions;
15. 'linepack' means the storage of gas by compression in gas transmission and distribution systems, but excluding facilities reserved for transmission system operators carrying out their functions;
16. 'interconnected system' means a number of systems which are linked with each other;
17. 'interconnector' means a transmission line which crosses or spans a border between Member States for the sole purpose of connecting the national transmission systems of these Member States;
18. 'direct line' means a natural gas pipeline complementary to the interconnected system;
19. 'integrated natural gas undertaking' means a vertically or horizontally integrated undertaking;
20. 'vertically integrated undertaking' means a natural gas undertaking or a group of undertakings whose mutual relationships are defined in Article 3(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 of 21 December 1989 on the control of concentrations between undertakings ⁽¹⁾ and where the undertaking/group concerned is performing at least one of the functions of transmission, distribution, LNG or storage, and at least one of the functions of production or supply of natural gas;
21. 'horizontally integrated undertaking' means an undertaking performing at least one of the functions of production, transmission, distribution, supply or storage of natural gas, and a non-gas activity;
22. 'related undertakings' means affiliated undertakings, within the meaning of Article 41 of the Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983 based on the Article 44(2)(g) ^(*) of the Treaty on consolidated accounts ⁽²⁾, and/or associated undertakings, within the meaning of Article 33(1) thereof, and/or undertakings which belong to the same shareholders;
23. 'system users' means any natural or legal persons supplying to, or being supplied by, the system;
24. 'customers' means wholesale and final customers of natural gas and natural gas undertakings which purchase natural gas;
25. 'household customers' means customers purchasing natural gas for their own household consumption;
26. 'non-household customers' means customers purchasing natural gas which is not for their own household use;
27. 'final customers' means customers purchasing natural gas for their own use;
28. 'eligible customers' means customers who are free to purchase gas from the supplier of their choice, within the meaning of Article 23 of this Directive;

(*) The title of Directive 83/349/EEC has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the Treaty establishing the European Community in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 54(3)(g).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 (OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 193, 18.7.1983, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 28).

29. 'wholesale customers' means any natural or legal persons other than transmission system operators and distribution system operators who purchase natural gas for the purpose of resale inside or outside the system where they are established;
30. 'long-term planning' means the planning of supply and transportation capacity of natural gas undertakings on a long-term basis with a view to meeting the demand for natural gas of the system, diversification of sources and securing supplies to customers;
31. 'emergent market' means a Member State in which the first commercial supply of its first long-term natural gas supply contract was made not more than 10 years earlier;
32. 'security' means both security of supply of natural gas and technical safety;
33. 'new infrastructure' means an infrastructure not completed by the entry into force of this Directive.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL RULES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE SECTOR

Article 3

Public service obligations and customer protection

1. Member States shall ensure, on the basis of their institutional organisation and with due regard to the principle of subsidiarity, that, without prejudice to paragraph 2, natural gas undertakings are operated in accordance with the principles of this Directive with a view to achieving a competitive, secure and environmentally sustainable market in natural gas, and shall not discriminate between these undertakings as regards either rights or obligations.

2. Having full regard to the relevant provisions of the Treaty, in particular Article 86 thereof, Member States may impose on undertakings operating in the gas sector, in the general economic interest, public service obligations which may relate to security, including security of supply, regularity, quality and price of supplies, and environmental protection, including energy efficiency and climate protection. Such obligations shall be clearly defined, transparent, non discriminatory, verifiable and shall guarantee equality of access for EU gas companies to national consumers. In relation to security of supply, energy efficiency/demand-side management and for the fulfilment of environmental goals, as referred to in this paragraph, Member States may introduce the implementation of long term planning, taking into account the possibility of third parties seeking access to the system.

3. Member States shall take appropriate measures to protect final customers and to ensure high levels of consumer protection, and shall, in particular, ensure that there are adequate safeguards to protect vulnerable customers, including appropriate measures to help them avoid disconnection. In this context, they may take appropriate measures to protect customers in remote areas who are connected to the gas system. Member States may appoint a supplier of last resort for customers connected to the gas network. They shall ensure high levels of consumer protection, particularly with respect to transparency regarding general contractual terms and conditions, general information and dispute settlement mechanisms. Member States shall ensure that the eligible customer is effectively able to switch to a new supplier. As regards at least household customers these measures shall include those set out in Annex A.

4. Member States shall implement appropriate measures to achieve the objectives of social and economic cohesion, environmental protection, which may include means to combat climate change, and security of supply. Such measures may include, in particular, the provision of adequate economic incentives, using, where appropriate, all existing national and Community tools, for the maintenance and construction of necessary network infrastructure, including interconnection capacity.

5. Member States may decide not to apply the provisions of Article 4 with respect to distribution insofar as their application would obstruct, in law or in fact, the performance of the obligations imposed on natural gas undertakings in the general economic interest and insofar as the development of trade would not be affected to such an extent as would be contrary to the interests of the Community. The interests of the Community include, inter alia, competition with regard to eligible customers in accordance with this Directive and Article 86 of the Treaty.

6. Member States shall, upon implementation of this Directive, inform the Commission of all measures adopted to fulfil public service obligations, including consumer and environmental protection, and their possible effect on national and international competition, whether or not such measures require a derogation from the provisions of this Directive. They shall notify the Commission subsequently every two years of any changes to such measures, whether or not they require a derogation from this Directive.

Article 4

Authorisation procedure

1. In circumstances where an authorisation (e.g. licence, permission, concession, consent or approval) is required for the construction or operation of natural gas facilities, the Member States or any competent authority they designate shall grant authorisations to build and/or operate such facilities,

pipelines and associated equipment on their territory, in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 4. Member States or any competent authority they designate may also grant authorisations on the same basis for the supply of natural gas and for wholesale customers.

2. Where Member States have a system of authorisation, they shall lay down objective and non discriminatory criteria which shall be met by an undertaking applying for an authorisation to build and/or operate natural gas facilities or applying for an authorisation to supply natural gas. The non discriminatory criteria and procedures for the granting of authorisations shall be made public.

3. Member States shall ensure that the reasons for any refusal to grant an authorisation are objective and non discriminatory and are given to the applicant. Reasons for such refusals shall be forwarded to the Commission for information. Member States shall establish a procedure enabling the applicant to appeal against such refusals.

4. For the development of newly supplied areas and efficient operation generally, and without prejudice to Article 24, Member States may decline to grant a further authorisation to build and operate distribution pipeline systems in any particular area once such pipeline systems have been or are proposed to be built in that area and if existing or proposed capacity is not saturated.

Article 5

Monitoring of security of supply

Member States shall ensure the monitoring of security of supply issues. Where Member States consider it appropriate, they may delegate this task to the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 25(1). This monitoring shall, in particular, cover the supply/demand balance on the national market, the level of expected future demand and available supplies, envisaged additional capacity being planned or under construction, and the quality and level of maintenance of the networks, as well as measures to cover peak demand and to deal with shortfalls of one or more suppliers. The competent authorities shall publish, by 31 July each year at the latest a report outlining the findings resulting from the monitoring of these issues, as well as any measures taken or envisaged to address them and shall forward this report to the Commission forthwith.

Article 6

Technical rules

Member States shall ensure that technical safety criteria are defined and that technical rules establishing the minimum technical design and operational requirements for the connection to the system of LNG facilities, storage facilities,

other transmission or distribution systems, and direct lines, are developed and made public. These technical rules shall ensure the interoperability of systems and shall be objective and non-discriminatory. They shall be notified to the Commission in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society Services ⁽¹⁾.

CHAPTER III

TRANSMISSION, STORAGE AND LNG

Article 7

Designation of system operators

Member States shall designate or shall require natural gas undertakings which own transmission, storage or LNG facilities to designate, for a period of time to be determined by Member States having regard to considerations of efficiency and economic balance, one or more system operators. Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure that transmission, storage and LNG system operators act in accordance with Articles 8 to 10.

Article 8

Tasks of system operators

1. Each transmission, storage and/or LNG system operator shall:
 - (a) operate, maintain and develop under economic conditions secure, reliable and efficient transmission, storage and/or LNG facilities, with due regard to the environment;
 - (b) refrain from discriminating between system users or classes of system users, particularly in favour of its related undertakings;
 - (c) provide any other transmission system operator, any other storage system operator, any other LNG system operator and/or any distribution system operator, sufficient information to ensure that the transport and storage of natural gas may take place in a manner compatible with the secure and efficient operation of the interconnected system;
 - (d) provide system users with the information they need for efficient access to the system.
2. Rules adopted by transmission system operators for balancing the gas transmission system shall be objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, including rules for the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37. Directive as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18).

charging of system users of their networks for energy imbalance. Terms and conditions, including rules and tariffs, for the provision of such services by transmission system operators shall be established pursuant to a methodology compatible with Article 25(2) in a non-discriminatory and cost-reflective way and shall be published.

3. Member States may require transmission system operators to comply with minimum requirements for the maintenance and development of the transmission system, including interconnection capacity.

4. Transmission system operators shall procure the energy they use for the carrying out of their functions according to transparent, non-discriminatory and market based procedures.

Article 9

Unbundling of transmission system operators

1. Where the transmission system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent at least in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to transmission. These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the transmission system from the vertically integrated undertaking.

2. In order to ensure the independence of the transmission system operator referred to in paragraph 1, the following minimum criteria shall apply:

- (a) those persons responsible for the management of the transmission system operator may not participate in company structures of the integrated natural gas undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the production, distribution and supply of natural gas;
- (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of persons responsible for the management of the transmission system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;
- (c) the transmission system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated gas undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain or develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of return on assets regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 25(2) in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the transmission system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not

permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of transmission lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument;

- (d) the transmission system operator shall establish a compliance programme, which sets out measures taken to ensure that discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report, setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 25(1) and shall be published.

Article 10

Confidentiality for transmission system operators

1. Without prejudice to Article 16 or any other legal duty to disclose information, each transmission, storage and/or LNG system operator shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained in the course of carrying out its business, and shall prevent information about its own activities which may be commercially advantageous from being disclosed in a discriminatory manner.

2. Transmission system operators shall not, in the context of sales or purchases of natural gas by related undertakings, abuse commercially sensitive information obtained from third parties in the context of providing or negotiating access to the system.

CHAPTER IV

DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY

Article 11

Designation of distribution system operators

Member States shall designate, or shall require undertakings which own or are responsible for distribution systems to designate, for a period of time to be determined by Member States, having regard to considerations of efficiency and economic balance, one or more distribution system operators and shall ensure that those operators act in accordance with Articles 12 to 14.

*Article 12***Tasks of distribution system operators**

1. Each distribution system operator shall operate, maintain and develop under economic conditions a secure, reliable and efficient system, with due regard for the environment.
2. In any event, the distribution system operator shall not discriminate between system users or classes of system users, particularly in favour of its related undertakings.
3. Each distribution system operator shall provide any other distribution system operator, and/or any transmission, and/or LNG system operator, and/or storage system operator with sufficient information to ensure that the transport and storage of natural gas takes place in a manner compatible with the secure and efficient operation of the interconnected system.
4. Each distribution system operator shall provide system users with the information they need for efficient access to the system.
5. Where distribution system operators are responsible for balancing the gas distribution system, rules adopted by them for that purpose shall be objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, including rules for the charging of system users for energy imbalance. Terms and conditions, including rules and tariffs, for the provision of such services by system operators shall be established pursuant to a methodology compatible with Article 25(2) in a non-discriminatory and cost-reflective way and shall be published.

*Article 13***Unbundling of distribution system operators**

1. Where the distribution system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent at least in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to distribution. These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the distribution system from the vertically integrated undertaking.
2. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 1, where the distribution system operator is part of a vertically integrated undertaking, it shall be independent in terms of its organisation and decision making from the other activities not related to distribution. In order to achieve this, the following minimum criteria shall apply:
 - (a) those persons responsible for the management of the distribution system operator may not participate in

company structures of the integrated natural gas undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the production, transmission and supply of natural gas;

- (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of persons responsible for the management of the distribution system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;
- (c) the distribution system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated gas undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain or develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of return on assets, regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 25(2), in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the distribution system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of distribution lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument;
- (d) the distribution system operator shall establish a compliance programme, which sets out measures taken to ensure that discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report, setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 25(1) and shall be published.

Member States may decide not to apply paragraphs 1 and 2 to integrated natural gas undertakings serving less than 100 000 connected customers.

*Article 14***Confidentiality for distribution system operators**

1. Without prejudice to Article 16 or any other legal duty to disclose information, each distribution system operator shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained in the course of carrying out its business, and shall prevent information about its own activities which may be commercially advantageous from being disclosed in a discriminatory manner.

2. Distribution system operators shall not, in the context of sales or purchases of natural gas by related undertakings, abuse commercially sensitive information obtained from third parties in the context of providing or negotiating access to the system.

Article 15

Combined operator

The rules in Articles 9(1) and Article 13(1) shall not prevent the operation of a combined transmission, LNG, storage and distribution system operator, which is independent in terms of its legal form, organisation and decision making from other activities not relating to transmission LNG, storage and distribution system operations and which meets the requirements set out in points (a) to (d). These rules shall not create an obligation to separate the ownership of assets of the combined system from the vertically integrated undertaking:

- (a) those persons responsible for the management of the combined system operator may not participate in company structures of the integrated natural gas undertaking responsible, directly or indirectly, for the day-to-day operation of the production and supply of natural gas;
- (b) appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the professional interests of persons responsible for the management of the combined system operator are taken into account in a manner that ensures that they are capable of acting independently;
- (c) the combined system operator shall have effective decision-making rights, independent from the integrated gas undertaking, with respect to assets necessary to operate, maintain or develop the network. This should not prevent the existence of appropriate coordination mechanisms to ensure that the economic and management supervision rights of the parent company in respect of return on assets, regulated indirectly in accordance with Article 25(2) in a subsidiary are protected. In particular, this shall enable the parent company to approve the annual financial plan, or any equivalent instrument, of the combined system operator and to set global limits on the levels of indebtedness of its subsidiary. It shall not permit the parent company to give instructions regarding day-to-day operations, nor with respect to individual decisions concerning the construction or upgrading of transmission and distribution lines, that do not exceed the terms of the approved financial plan, or any equivalent instrument;
- (d) the combined system operator shall establish a compliance programme, which sets out measures taken to ensure that

discriminatory conduct is excluded, and ensure that observance of it is adequately monitored. The programme shall set out the specific obligations of employees to meet this objective. An annual report, setting out the measures taken, shall be submitted by the person or body responsible for monitoring the compliance programme to the regulatory authority referred to in Article 25(1) and shall be published.

CHAPTER V

UNBUNDLING AND TRANSPARENCY OF ACCOUNTS

Article 16

Right of access to accounts

1. Member States or any competent authority they designate, including the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 25(1) and the dispute settlement authorities referred to in Article 20(3), shall, insofar as necessary to carry out their functions, have right of access to the accounts of natural gas undertakings as set out in Article 17.
2. Member States and any designated competent authority, including the regulatory authorities referred to in Article 25(1) and the dispute settlement authorities, shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information. Member States may provide for the disclosure of such information where this is necessary in order for the competent authorities to carry out their functions.

Article 17

Unbundling of accounts

1. Member States shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the accounts of natural gas undertakings are kept in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 5. Where undertakings benefit from a derogation from this provision on the basis of Article 28(2) and (4), they shall at least keep their internal accounts in accordance with this Article.
2. Natural gas undertakings, whatever their system of ownership or legal form, shall draw up, submit to audit and publish their annual accounts in accordance with the rules of national law concerning the annual accounts of limited liability companies adopted pursuant to the Fourth Council Directive

78/660/EEC of 25 July 1978 based on Article 44(2)(g) (*) of the Treaty on the annual accounts of certain types of companies ⁽¹⁾. Undertakings which are not legally obliged to publish their annual accounts shall keep a copy of these at the disposal of the public at their head office.

3. Natural gas undertakings shall, in their internal accounting, keep separate accounts for each of their transmission, distribution, LNG and storage activities as they would be required to do if the activities in question were carried out by separate undertakings, with a view to avoiding discrimination, cross-subsidisation and distortion of competition. They shall also keep accounts, which may be consolidated, for other gas activities not relating to transmission, distribution, LNG and storage. Until 1 July 2007, they shall keep separate accounts for supply activities for eligible customers and supply activities for non-eligible customers. Revenue from ownership of the transmission/distribution network shall be specified in the accounts. Where appropriate, they shall keep consolidated accounts for other, non-gas activities. The internal accounts shall include a balance sheet and a profit and loss account for each activity.

4. The audit, referred to in paragraph 2, shall, in particular, verify that the obligation to avoid discrimination and cross-subsidies referred to in paragraph 3, is respected.

5. Undertakings shall specify in their internal accounting the rules for the allocation of assets and liabilities, expenditure and income as well as for depreciation, without prejudice to nationally applicable accounting rules, which they follow in drawing up the separate accounts referred to in paragraph 3. These internal rules may be amended only in exceptional cases. Such amendments shall be mentioned and duly substantiated.

6. The annual accounts shall indicate in notes any transaction of a certain size conducted with related undertakings.

CHAPTER VI

ORGANISATION OF ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM

Article 18

Third party access

1. Member States shall ensure the implementation of a system of third party access to the transmission and distribution system, and LNG facilities based on published

(*) The title of Directive 78/660/EEC has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the Treaty establishing the European Community in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 54(3)(g).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 222, 14.8.1978, p. 11. Directive as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 28).

tariffs, applicable to all eligible customers, including supply undertakings, and applied objectively and without discrimination between system users. Member States shall ensure that these tariffs, or the methodologies underlying their calculation shall be approved prior to their entry into force by a regulatory authority referred to in Article 25(1) and that these tariffs — and the methodologies, where only methodologies are approved — are published prior to their entry into force.

2. Transmission system operators shall, if necessary for the purpose of carrying out their functions including in relation to cross-border transmission, have access to the network of other transmission system operators.

3. The provisions of this Directive shall not prevent the conclusion of long-term contracts in so far as they comply with Community competition rules

Article 19

Access to storage

1. For the organisation of access to storage facilities and linepack when technically and/or economically necessary for providing efficient access to the system for the supply of customers, as well as for the organisation of access to ancillary services, Member States may choose either or both of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. These procedures shall operate in accordance with objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to ancillary services and temporary storage that are related to LNG facilities and are necessary for the re-gaseification process and subsequent delivery to the transmission system.

3. In the case of negotiated access, Member States shall take the necessary measures for natural gas undertakings and eligible customers either inside or outside the territory covered by the interconnected system to be able to negotiate access to storage and linepack, when technically and/or economically necessary for providing efficient access to the system, as well as for the organisation of access to other ancillary services. The parties shall be obliged to negotiate access to storage, linepack and other ancillary services in good faith.

Contracts for access to storage, linepack and other ancillary services shall be negotiated with the relevant storage system operator or natural gas undertakings. Member States shall require storage system operators and natural gas undertakings to publish their main commercial conditions for the use of storage, linepack and other ancillary services within the first six months following implementation of this Directive and on an annual basis every year thereafter.

4. In the case of regulated access Member States shall take the necessary measures to give natural gas undertakings and eligible customers either inside or outside the territory covered by the interconnected system a right to access to storage, linepack and other ancillary services, on the basis of published tariffs and/or other terms and obligations for use of that storage and linepack, when technically and/or economically necessary for providing efficient access to the system, as well as for the organisation of access to other ancillary services. This right of access for eligible customers may be given by enabling them to enter into supply contracts with competing natural gas undertakings other than the owner and/or operator of the system or a related undertaking.

Article 20

Access to upstream pipeline networks

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that natural gas undertakings and eligible customers, wherever they are located, are able to obtain access to upstream pipeline networks, including facilities supplying technical services incidental to such access, in accordance with this Article, except for the parts of such networks and facilities which are used for local production operations at the site of a field where the gas is produced. The measures shall be notified to the Commission in accordance with the provisions of Article 33.

2. The access referred to in paragraph 1 shall be provided in a manner determined by the Member State in accordance with the relevant legal instruments. Member States shall apply the objectives of fair and open access, achieving a competitive market in natural gas and avoiding any abuse of a dominant position, taking into account security and regularity of supplies, capacity which is or can reasonably be made available, and environmental protection. The following may be taken into account:

- (a) the need to refuse access where there is an incompatibility of technical specifications which cannot be reasonably overcome;
- (b) the need to avoid difficulties which cannot be reasonably overcome and could prejudice the efficient, current and planned future production of hydrocarbons, including that from fields of marginal economic viability;
- (c) the need to respect the duly substantiated reasonable needs of the owner or operator of the upstream pipeline network for the transport and processing of gas and the interests of all other users of the upstream pipeline network or relevant processing or handling facilities who may be affected; and
- (d) the need to apply their laws and administrative procedures, in conformity with Community law, for the grant of authorisation for production or upstream development.

3. Member States shall ensure that they have in place dispute settlement arrangements, including an authority independent of the parties with access to all relevant information, to enable disputes relating to access to upstream pipeline networks to be settled expeditiously, taking into account the criteria in paragraph 2 and the number of parties which may be involved in negotiating access to such networks.

4. In the event of cross border disputes, the dispute settlement arrangements for the Member State having jurisdiction over the upstream pipeline network which refuses access shall be applied. Where, in cross border disputes, more than one Member State covers the network concerned, the Member States concerned shall consult with a view to ensuring that the provisions of this Directive are applied consistently.

Article 21

Refusal of access

1. Natural gas undertakings may refuse access to the system on the basis of lack of capacity or where the access to the system would prevent them from carrying out the public service obligations referred to in Article 3(2) which are assigned to them or on the basis of serious economic and financial difficulties with take-or-pay contracts having regard to the criteria and procedures set out in Article 27 and the alternative chosen by the Member State in accordance with paragraph 1 of that Article. Duly substantiated reasons shall be given for such a refusal.

2. Member States may take the measures necessary to ensure that the natural gas undertaking refusing access to the system on the basis of lack of capacity or a lack of connection makes the necessary enhancements as far as it is economic to do so or when a potential customer is willing to pay for them. In circumstances where Member States apply Article 4(4), Member States shall take such measures.

Article 22

New infrastructure

1. Major new gas infrastructures, i.e. interconnectors between Member States, LNG and storage facilities, may, upon request, be exempted from the provisions of Articles 18, 19, 20, and 25(2), (3) and (4) under the following conditions:

- (a) the investment must enhance competition in gas supply and enhance security of supply;

- (b) the level of risk attached to the investment is such that the investment would not take place unless an exemption was granted;
- (c) the infrastructure must be owned by a natural or legal person which is separate at least in terms of its legal form from the system operators in whose systems that infrastructure will be built;
- (d) charges are levied on users of that infrastructure;
- (e) the exemption is not detrimental to competition or the effective functioning of the internal gas market, or the efficient functioning of the regulated system to which the infrastructure is connected.

2. Paragraph 1 shall apply also to significant increases of capacity in existing infrastructures and to modifications of such infrastructures which enable the development of new sources of gas supply.

- 3. (a) The regulatory authority referred to in Article 25 may, on a case by case basis, decide on the exemption referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2. However, Member States may provide that the regulatory authorities shall submit, for formal decision, to the relevant body in the Member State its opinion on the request for an exemption. This opinion shall be published together with the decision.
 - (b) (i) The exemption may cover all or parts of, respectively, the new infrastructure, the existing infrastructure with significantly increased capacity or the modification of the existing infrastructure.
 - (ii) In deciding to grant an exemption consideration shall be given, on a case by case basis, to the need to impose conditions regarding the duration of the exemption and non-discriminatory access to the interconnector.
 - (iii) When deciding on the conditions in this subparagraph account shall, in particular, be taken of the duration of contracts, additional capacity to be built or the modification of existing capacity, the time horizon of the project and national circumstances.
 - (c) When granting an exemption the relevant authority may decide upon the rules and mechanisms for management and allocation of capacity insofar as this does not prevent the implementation of long term contracts.
 - (d) The exemption decision, including any conditions referred to in (b), shall be duly reasoned and published.
 - (e) In the case of an interconnector any exemption decision shall be taken after consultation with the other Member States or regulatory authorities concerned.

4. The exemption decision shall be notified, without delay, by the competent authority to the Commission, together with all the relevant information with respect to the decision. This information may be submitted to the Commission in aggregate form, enabling the Commission to reach a well-founded decision.

In particular, the information shall contain:

- (a) the detailed reasons on the basis of which the regulatory authority, or Member State, granted the exemption, including the financial information justifying the need for the exemption;
- (b) the analysis undertaken of the effect on competition and the effective functioning of the internal gas market resulting from the grant of the exemption;
- (c) the reasons for the time period and the share of the total capacity of the gas infrastructure in question for which the exemption is granted;
- (d) in case the exemption relates to an interconnector, the result of the consultation with the Member States concerned or regulatory authorities;
- (e) the contribution of the infrastructure to the diversification of gas supply.

Within two months after receiving a notification, the Commission may request that the regulatory authority or the Member State concerned amend or withdraw the decision to grant an exemption. The two month period may be extended by one additional month where additional information is sought by the Commission.

If the regulatory authority or Member State concerned does not comply with the request within a period of four weeks, a final decision shall be taken in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 30(2).

The Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.

Article 23

Market opening and reciprocity

- 1. Member States shall ensure that the eligible customers are:
 - (a) until 1 July 2004, the eligible customers as specified in Article 18 of Directive 98/30/EC. Member States shall publish by 31 January each year the criteria for the definition of these eligible customers;
 - (b) from 1 July 2004, at the latest, all non-household customers;
 - (c) from 1 July 2007, all customers.

2. To avoid imbalance in the opening of gas markets:

- (a) contracts for the supply with an eligible customer in the system of another Member State shall not be prohibited if the customer is eligible in both systems involved;
- (b) in cases where transactions as described in point (a) are refused because the customer is eligible in only one of the two systems, the Commission may, taking into account the situation in the market and the common interest, oblige the refusing party to execute the requested supply, at the request of one of the Member States of the two systems.

Article 24

Direct lines

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to enable:

- (a) natural gas undertakings established within their territory to supply the eligible customers through a direct line;
- (b) any such eligible customer within their territory to be supplied through a direct line by natural gas undertakings.

2. In circumstances where an authorisation (e.g. licence, permission, concession, consent or approval) is required for the construction or operation of direct lines, the Member States or any competent authority they designate shall lay down the criteria for the grant of authorisations for the construction or operation of such lines in their territory. These criteria shall be objective, transparent and non-discriminatory.

3. Member States may make authorisations to construct a direct line subject either to the refusal of system access on the basis of Article 21 or to the opening of a dispute settlement procedure under Article 25.

Article 25

Regulatory authorities

1. Member States shall designate one or more competent bodies with the function of regulatory authorities. These authorities shall be wholly independent of the interests of the gas industry. They shall, through the application of this Article, at least be responsible for ensuring non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market, monitoring in particular:

- (a) the rules on the management and allocation of interconnection capacity, in conjunction with the regulatory authority or authorities of those Member States with which interconnection exists;
- (b) any mechanisms to deal with congested capacity within the national gas system;
- (c) the time taken by transmission and distribution system operators to make connections and repairs;
- (d) the publication of appropriate information by transmission and distribution system operators concerning interconnectors, grid usage and capacity allocation to interested parties, taking into account the need to treat non-aggregated information as commercially confidential;
- (e) the effective unbundling of accounts as referred to in Article 17, to ensure there are no cross subsidies between transmission, distribution, storage, LNG and supply activities;
- (f) the access conditions to storage, linepack and to other ancillary services as provided for in Article 19;
- (g) the extent to which transmission and distribution system operators fulfil their tasks in accordance with Articles 8 and 12;
- (h) the level of transparency and competition.

The authorities established pursuant to this Article shall publish an annual report on the outcome of their monitoring activities referred to in points (a) to (h).

2. The regulatory authorities shall be responsible for fixing or approving prior to their entry into force, at least the methodologies used to calculate or establish the terms and conditions for :

- (a) connection and access to national networks, including transmission and distribution tariffs. These tariffs, or methodologies, shall allow the necessary investments in the networks to be carried out in a manner allowing these investments to ensure the viability of the networks;
- (b) the provision of balancing services.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, Member States may provide that the regulatory authorities shall submit, for formal decision, to the relevant body in the Member State the tariffs or at least the methodologies referred to in that paragraph as well as the modifications in paragraph 4. The relevant body shall, in such a case, have the power to either approve or reject a draft decision submitted by the regulatory authority.

These tariffs or the methodologies or modifications thereto shall be published together with the decision on formal adoption. Any formal rejection of a draft decision shall also be published, including its justification.

4. Regulatory authorities shall have the authority to require transmission, LNG and distribution system operators, if necessary, to modify the terms and conditions, including tariffs and methodologies referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, to ensure that they are proportionate and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

5. Any party having a complaint against a transmission, LNG or distribution system operator with respect to the issues mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 and in Article 19 may refer the complaint to the regulatory authority which, acting as dispute settlement authority, shall issue a decision within two months after receipt of the complaint. This period may be extended by two months where additional information is sought by the regulatory authorities. This period may be extended with the agreement of the complainant. Such a decision shall have binding effect unless and until overruled on appeal.

6. Any party having a complaint against a transmission, LNG or distribution system operator with respect to the issues mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 and in Article 19 may refer the complaint to the regulatory authority which, acting as dispute settlement authority, shall issue a decision within two months after receipt of the complaint. This period may be extended by two months where additional information is sought by the regulatory authorities. This period may be extended with the agreement of the complainant. Such a decision shall have binding effect unless and until overruled on appeal.

7. Member States shall take measures to ensure that regulatory authorities are able to carry out their duties referred to in paragraphs 1 to 5 in an efficient and expeditious manner.

8. Member States shall create appropriate and efficient mechanisms for regulation, control and transparency so as to avoid any abuse of a dominant position, in particular to the detriment of consumers, and any predatory behaviour. These mechanisms shall take account of the provisions of the Treaty, and in particular Article 82 thereof.

9. Member States shall ensure that the appropriate measures are taken, including administrative action or criminal proceedings in conformity with their national law, against the natural or legal persons responsible where confidentiality rules imposed by this Directive have not been respected.

10. In the event of cross border disputes, the deciding regulatory authority shall be the regulatory authority which has jurisdiction in respect of the system operator, which refuses use of, or access to, the system.

11. Complaints referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 shall be without prejudice to the exercise of rights of appeal under Community and national law.

12. National regulatory authorities shall contribute to the development of the internal market and of a level playing field by cooperating with each other and with the Commission in a transparent manner.

CHAPTER VII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26

Safeguard measures

1. In the event of a sudden crisis in the energy market or where the physical safety or security of persons, apparatus or installations or system integrity is threatened, a Member State may temporarily take the necessary safeguard measures.

2. Such measures shall cause the least possible disturbance to the functioning of the internal market and shall not be wider in scope than is strictly necessary to remedy the sudden difficulties which have arisen.

3. The Member State concerned shall without delay notify these measures to the other Member States, and to the Commission, which may decide that the Member State concerned must amend or abolish such measures, insofar as they distort competition and adversely affect trade in a manner which is at variance with the common interest.

Article 27

Derogations in relation to take-or-pay commitments

1. If a natural gas undertaking encounters, or considers it would encounter, serious economic and financial difficulties because of its take-or-pay commitments accepted in one or more gas-purchase contracts, an application for a temporary derogation from Article 18 may be sent to the Member State concerned or the designated competent authority. Applications shall, according to the choice of Member States, be presented on a case-by-case basis either before or after refusal of access to the system. Member States may also give the natural gas undertaking the choice of presenting an application either before or after refusal of access to the system. Where a natural gas undertaking has refused access, the application shall be presented without delay. The applications shall be accompanied by all relevant information on the nature and extent of the problem and on the efforts undertaken by the natural gas undertaking to solve the problem.

If alternative solutions are not reasonably available, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 3, the Member State or the designated competent authority may decide to grant a derogation.

2. The Member State, or the designated competent authority, shall notify the Commission without delay of its decision to grant a derogation, together with all the relevant information with respect to the derogation. This information may be submitted to the Commission in an aggregated form, enabling the Commission to reach a well-founded decision. Within eight weeks of its receipt of this notification, the Commission may request that the Member State or the designated competent authority concerned amend or withdraw the decision to grant a derogation.

If the Member State or the designated competent authority concerned does not comply with this request within a period of four weeks, a final decision shall be taken expeditiously in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 30(2).

The Commission shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.

3. When deciding on the derogations referred to in paragraph 1, the Member State, or the designated competent authority, and the Commission shall take into account, in particular, the following criteria:

- (a) the objective of achieving a competitive gas market;
- (b) the need to fulfil public service obligations and to ensure security of supply;
- (c) the position of the natural gas undertaking in the gas market and the actual state of competition in this market;
- (d) the seriousness of the economic and financial difficulties encountered by natural gas undertakings and transmission undertakings or eligible customers;
- (e) the dates of signature and terms of the contract or contracts in question, including the extent to which they allow for market changes;
- (f) the efforts made to find a solution to the problem;
- (g) the extent to which, when accepting the take-or-pay commitments in question, the undertaking could reasonably have foreseen, having regard to the provisions of this Directive, that serious difficulties were likely to arise;
- (h) the level of connection of the system with other systems and the degree of interoperability of these systems; and
- (i) the effects the granting of a derogation would have on the correct application of this Directive as regards the smooth functioning of the internal natural gas market.

A decision on a request for a derogation concerning take or pay contracts concluded before the entry into force of this Directive should not lead to a situation in which it is impossible to find economically viable alternative outlets. Serious difficulties shall in any case be deemed not to exist when the sales of natural gas do not fall below the level of minimum offtake guarantees contained in gas purchase take or pay contracts or in so far as the relevant gas purchase take-or-pay contract can be adapted or the natural gas undertaking is able to find alternative outlets.

4. Natural gas undertakings which have not been granted a derogation as referred to in paragraph 1 shall not refuse, or shall no longer refuse, access to the system because of take-or-pay commitments accepted in a gas purchase contract. Member States shall ensure that the relevant provisions of Chapter VI namely Articles 18 to 25 are complied with.

5. Any derogation granted under the above provisions shall be duly substantiated. The Commission shall publish the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

6. The Commission shall, within five years of the entry into force of this Directive, submit a review report on the experience gained from the application of this Article, so as to allow the European Parliament and the Council to consider, in due course, the need to adjust it.

Article 28

Emergent and isolated markets

1. Member States not directly connected to the interconnected system of any other Member State and having only one main external supplier may derogate from Articles 4, 9, 23 and/or 24 of this Directive. A supply undertaking having a market share of more than 75 % shall be considered to be a main supplier. This derogation shall automatically expire from the moment when at least one of these conditions no longer applies. Any such derogation shall be notified to the Commission.

2. A Member State, qualifying as an emergent market, which because of the implementation of this Directive would experience substantial problems may derogate from Articles 4, 7, 8(1) and (2), 9, 11, 12(5), 13, 17, 18, 23(1) and/or 24 of this Directive. This derogation shall automatically expire from the moment when the Member State no longer qualifies as an emergent market. Any such derogation shall be notified to the Commission.

3. On the date at which the derogation referred to in paragraph 2 expires, the definition of eligible customers shall result in an opening of the market equal to at least 33 % of the total annual gas consumption of the national gas market. Two years thereafter, Article 23(1)(b) shall apply, and three years thereafter, Article 23(1)(c). Until Article 23(1)(b) applies the Member State referred to in paragraph 2 may decide not to

apply Article 18 as far as ancillary services and temporary storage for the re-gaseification process and its subsequent delivery to the transmission system are concerned.

4. Where implementation of this Directive would cause substantial problems in a geographically limited area of a Member State, in particular concerning the development of the transmission and major distribution infrastructure, and with a view to encouraging investments, the Member State may apply to the Commission for a temporary derogation from Article 4, Article 7, Article 8(1) and (2), Article 9, Article 11, Article 12(5), Article 13, Article 17, Article 18, Article 23(1) and/or Article 24 for developments within this area.

5. The Commission may grant the derogation referred to in paragraph 4, taking into account, in particular, the following criteria:

- the need for infrastructure investments, which would not be economic to operate in a competitive market environment,
 - the level and pay-back prospects of investments required,
 - the size and maturity of the gas system in the area concerned,
 - the prospects for the gas market concerned,
 - the geographical size and characteristics of the area or region concerned, and socioeconomic and demographic factors.
- (a) For gas infrastructure other than distribution infrastructure a derogation may be granted only if no gas infrastructure has been established in this area, or has been so established for less than 10 years. The temporary derogation may not exceed 10 years from the time gas is first supplied in the area.
- (b) For distribution infrastructure a derogation may be granted for a time period which may not exceed 20 years for the distribution infrastructure from the time gas is first supplied through the said system in the area.

6. Luxembourg may benefit from a derogation from Articles 8(3) and 9 for a period of five years from 1 July 2004. Such a derogation shall be reviewed before the end of the five year period and any decision to renew the derogation for another five years shall be taken in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 30(2). Any such derogation shall be notified to the Commission.

7. The Commission shall inform the Member States of applications made under paragraph 4 prior to taking a decision pursuant to paragraph 5, taking into account respect for confidentiality. This decision, as well as the derogations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

8. Greece may derogate from Articles 4, 11, 12, 13, 18, 23 and/or 24 of this Directive for the geographical areas and time periods specified in the licences issued by it, prior to 15 March 2002 and in accordance with Directive 98/30/EC, for the development and exclusive exploitation of distribution networks in certain geographical areas.

Article 29

Review Procedure

In the event that the report referred to in Article 31(3) reaches the conclusion whereby, given the effective manner in which network access has been carried out in a Member State — which gives rise to fully effective, non-discriminatory and unhindered network access —, the Commission concludes that certain obligations imposed by this Directive on undertakings (including those with respect to legal unbundling for distribution system operators) are not proportionate to the objective pursued, the Member State in question may submit a request to the Commission for exemption from the requirement in question.

The request shall be notified, without delay, by the Member State to the Commission, together with all the relevant information necessary to demonstrate that the conclusion reached in the report on effective network access being ensured will be maintained.

Within three months of its receipt of a notification, the Commission shall adopt an opinion with respect to the request by the Member State concerned, and where appropriate, submit proposals to the European Parliament and to the Council to amend the relevant provisions of the Directive. The Commission may propose, in the proposals to amend the Directive, to exempt the Member State concerned from specific requirements subject to that Member State implementing equally effective measures as appropriate.

Article 30

Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.
3. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

Article 31

Reporting

1. The Commission shall monitor and review the application of this Directive and submit an overall progress report to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of the first year following the entry into force of this Directive, and thereafter on an annual basis. The report shall cover at least:

- (a) the experience gained and progress made in creating a complete and fully operational internal market in natural gas and the obstacles that remain in this respect including aspects of market dominance, concentration in the market, predatory or anti-competitive behaviour;
- (b) the derogations granted under this Directive, including implementation of the derogation provided for in Article 13(2) with a view to a possible revision of the threshold;
- (c) the extent to which the unbundling and tariffication requirements contained in this Directive have been successful in ensuring fair and non-discriminatory access to the Community's gas system and equivalent levels of competition, as well as the economic, environmental and social consequences of the opening of the gas market for customers;
- (d) an examination of issues relating to system capacity levels and security of supply of natural gas in the Community, and in particular the existing and projected balance between demand and supply, taking into account the physical capacity for exchanges between areas and the development of storage (including the question of the proportionality of market regulation in this field);
- (e) special attention will be given to the measures taken in Member States to cover peak demand and to deal with shortfalls of one or more suppliers;
- (f) a general assessment of the progress achieved with regard to bilateral relations with third countries which produce and export or transport natural gas, including progress in market integration, trade and access to the networks of such third countries;
- (g) the need for possible harmonisation requirements which are not linked to the provisions of this Directive.

Where appropriate, this report may include recommendations and measures to counteract negative effects of market dominance and market concentration.

2. Every two years, the report referred to in paragraph 1 shall also cover an analysis of the different measures taken in Member States to meet public service obligations, together with an examination of the effectiveness of those measures, and in particular their effects on competition in the gas market. Where appropriate, the report may include recommendations as to the measures to be taken at national level to achieve high public service standards or measures intended to prevent market foreclosure.

3. The Commission shall, no later than 1 January 2006, forward to the European Parliament and Council, a detailed report outlining progress in creating the internal gas market. The report shall, in particular, consider:

- the existence of non-discriminatory network access;
- effective regulation;
- the development of interconnection infrastructure, the conditions of transit, and the security of supply situation in the Community;
- the extent to which the full benefits of the opening of the market are accruing to small enterprises and households, notably with respect to public service standards;
- the extent to which markets are in practice open to effective competition, including aspects of market dominance, market concentration and predatory or anti-competitive behaviour;
- the extent to which customers are actually switching suppliers and renegotiating tariffs;
- price developments, including supply prices, in relation to the degree of the opening of markets;
- whether effective and non-discriminatory third party access to gas storage exists when technically and/or economically necessary for providing efficient access to the system;
- the experience gained in the application of the Directive as far as the effective independence of system operators in vertically integrated undertakings is concerned and whether other measures in addition to functional independence and separation of accounts have been developed which have effects equivalent to legal unbundling.

Where appropriate, the Commission shall submit proposals to the European Parliament and the Council, in particular to guarantee high public service standards.

Where appropriate, the Commission shall submit proposals to the European Parliament and the Council, in particular to ensure full and effective independence of distribution system operators before 1 July 2007. When necessary, these proposals shall, in conformity with competition law, also concern measures to address issues of market dominance, market concentration and predatory or anti-competitive behaviour.

Article 32

Repeals

1. Directive 91/296/EEC shall be repealed with effect from 1 July 2004, without prejudice to contracts concluded pursuant to Article 3(1) of Directive 91/296/EEC, which shall continue to be valid and to be implemented under the terms of the said Directive.

2. Directive 98/30/EC shall be repealed from 1 July 2004, without prejudice to the obligations of Member States concerning the deadlines for transposition and application of the said Directive. References made to the repealed Directive shall be construed as being made to this Directive and should be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex B.

Article 33

Implementation

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 1 July 2004. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

2. Member States may postpone the implementation of Article 13(1) until 1 July 2007. This shall be without prejudice to the requirements contained in Article 13(2).

3. When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by Member States.

Article 34

Entry into force

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

Article 35

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 26 June 2003.

For the European Parliament

The President

P. COX

For the Council

The President

A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ANNEX A

Measures on consumer protection

Without prejudice to Community rules on consumer protection, in particular Directives 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ and Council Directive 93/13/EC ⁽²⁾, the measures referred to in Article 3 are to ensure that customers:

- (a) have a right to a contract with their gas service provider that specifies:
- the identity and address of the supplier;
 - the services provided, the service quality levels offered, as well as the time for the initial connection;
 - if offered, the types of maintenance service offered;
 - the means by which up to date information on all applicable tariffs and maintenance charges may be obtained;
 - the duration of the contract, the conditions for renewal and termination of services and of the contract, the existence of any right of withdrawal;
 - any compensation and the refund arrangements which apply if contracted service quality levels are not met; and
 - the method of initiating procedures for settlement of disputes in accordance with point (f).

Conditions shall be fair and well known in advance. In any case, this information should be provided prior to the conclusion or confirmation of the contract. Where contracts are concluded through intermediaries, the above information shall also be provided prior to the conclusion of the contract:

- (b) are given adequate notice of any intention to modify contractual conditions and are informed about their right of withdrawal when the notice is given. Service providers shall notify their subscribers directly of any increase in charges, at an appropriate time no later than one normal billing period after the increase comes into effect. Member States shall ensure that customers are free to withdraw from contracts if they do not accept the new conditions, notified to them by their gas service provider;
- (c) receive transparent information on applicable prices and tariffs and on standard terms and conditions, in respect of access to and use of gas services;
- (d) are offered a wide choice of payment methods. Any difference in terms and conditions shall reflect the costs to the supplier of the different payment systems. General terms and conditions shall be fair and transparent. They shall be given in clear and comprehensible language. Customers shall be protected against unfair or misleading selling methods;
- (e) shall not be charged for changing supplier;
- (f) benefit from transparent, simple and inexpensive procedures for dealing with their complaints. Such procedures shall enable disputes to be settled fairly and promptly with provision, where warranted, for a system of reimbursement and/or compensation. They should follow, wherever possible, the principles set out in Commission Recommendation 98/257/EC ⁽³⁾;
- (g) connected to the gas system are informed about their rights to be supplied, under the national legislation applicable, with natural gas of a specified quality at reasonable prices.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 144, 4.6.1997, p. 19.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 95, 21.4.1993, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 115, 17.4.1998, p. 31.

ANNEX B

Correlation table

Directive 98/30/EC	This Directive	
Article 1	Article 1	Scope
Article 2	Article 2	Definitions
Article 3	Article 3	PSOs and Customer protection
Article 4	Article 4	Authorisation procedure
—	Article 5	Monitoring of security of supply
Article 5	Article 6	Technical rules
Article 6	Article 7	Designation of TSOs
Article 7	Article 8	Tasks of TSOs
—	Article 9	Unbundling of TSOs
Article 8	Article 10	Confidentiality for TSOs
Article 9(1)	Article 11	Designation of DSOs
Article 10	Article 12	Tasks of DSOs
—	Article 13	Unbundling of DSOs
Article 11	Article 14	Confidentiality for DSOs
—	Article 15	Combined operator
Article 12	Article 16	Right of access to accounts
Article 13	Article 17	Unbundling of accounts
Article 14-16	Article 18	Third Party Access
—	Article 19	Access to storage
Article 23	Article 20	Access to upstream pipeline networks
Article 17	Article 21	Refusal of access
—	Article 22	New infrastructure
Article 18 and 19	Article 23	Market opening and reciprocity
Article 20	Article 24	Direct lines
Article 21(2)-(3) and 22	Article 25	Regulatory authorities
Article 24	Article 26	Safeguard measures
Article 25	Article 27	Derogations in relation to take-or-pay commitments
Article 26	Article 28	Emergent and Isolated Markets
—	Article 29	Review procedure
—	Article 30	Committee

Directive 98/30/EC	This Directive	
Article 27 and 28	Article 31	Reporting
—	Article 32	Repeals
Article 29	Article 33	Implementation
Article 30	Article 34	Entry into force
Article 31	Article 35	Addressees
	Annex A	Measures on consumer protection