

**THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN GAS REGULATORY FORUM  
25-26 April 2024  
CONCLUSIONS**

**Improving market functioning in the Energy Community - Update by Energy Community Secretariat:**

The Forum welcomes the progress among Energy Community Contracting Parties and emphasises the need to continue the work, given the importance of regional security of supply, future enlargement and the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Forum welcomes the specific focus in supporting Ukraine's energy sector via the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, which provides a platform for governments, international financial institutions, international organizations, and corporate donors to offer financial assistance or in kind donations. The Forum encourages all private and public partners to further support the Fund.

**Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package – Update on Hydrogen:**

The Forum invites Member States to swiftly transpose the recast Gas Directive and invites all relevant authorities and market participants to implement the recast Gas Regulation to create legal certainty for market participants. The Forum underlines the crucial role of regulatory authorities in ensuring an orderly development of the hydrogen market, including during its ramp-up phase. The Forum discussed the development of sufficient hydrogen storage capacity and reiterates the importance of developing fit-for-purpose technical standards for hydrogen quality in dedicated hydrogen networks.

The Forum invites Member States to consider measures to remove barriers to cross-border trading of renewable and low-carbon gases and recognises the importance of the Union Database being set up pursuant to Article 31a of the Renewable Energy Directive to harmonise the renewable gas market and to facilitate cross-border transfers. When preparing the delegated act setting out the methodology for determining the emission savings of low carbon fuels, the Commission should follow the process in line with the Better Regulation rules allowing stakeholders to provide input to ensure that stakeholder positions are appropriately considered. The Forum considers this delegated act as essential to enable investment decisions in low carbon gas production.

**REMIT 2.0 update:**

The Forum highlights the importance of the REMIT revision for the internal energy market as an energy sector-specific framework. The Forum takes note of the key elements of the revised REMIT (REMIT 2.0) and underlines the necessity for its effective implementation.

The Forum emphasises the need for consultation and involvement of all relevant stakeholders and authorities in the development of REMIT-related Delegated and Implementing Acts.

## **Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package – Next steps on Natural Gas:**

The Forum endorses the fact that the rapid implementation of the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package will be beneficial for the roll-out of renewable and low-carbon gases and calls for a swift transposition and implementation. It is highlighted that transparency and predictability in network tariff setting need to remain a priority in the course of the implementation. The Forum further highlights that interlinkages between energy carriers need to be taken into account. The Commission is invited to present the report on the removal of cross-border tariffs in line with the Gas Regulation and the majority of participants marked their strong opposition to such a possible removal.

## **CAM and CMP Amendment process revision:**

The Forum welcomes the preparatory work and further invites ACER to develop reasoned amendments proposals for the revision of the CAM Network Code. The Forum underlines the need to ensure a legally robust revision, able to ensure non-discriminatory access, effective competition and contribute to the efficient functioning of the market. The Forum also encourages stakeholders to constructively contribute to the upcoming public consultations and invites the Commission to report on the progress of the revision at the next Madrid Forum.

## **State of the Gas Market:**

The Forum notes that the internal gas market has played an essential role in managing the gas crisis. The market has recovered to a large extent, although it has not returned to pre-crisis levels in terms of congestion and price levels. Volatility and market tightness are expected to remain present for some time. Emergency measures should not remain in place for longer than needed and measures contributing to security of supply should not be financed through cross-border fees, as this negatively impacts diversification and the functioning of the internal market. In general, uncoordinated approaches should be avoided.

## **LNG session:**

The Forum highlights the relevance of LNG for the internal gas market and security of supply of the Union. The Forum takes note of the reports presented by ACER, CEER and GLE regarding LNG regulatory framework and the possible scenarios and challenges regarding the usage of LNG terminals in particular for the imports of renewable and low-carbon gases, including hydrogen and its derivatives.

The Forum calls for a proper implementation of the revised regulatory framework for LNG terminals envisaged in the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package, including the new transparency provisions.