

Political Declaration on implementing the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity networks with the Continental European Network via Poland

Sides:

the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

the Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia

the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania

the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Republic of Poland

the European Commission

HAVING REGARD TO:

The Memorandum of Understanding on the reinforced Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan ('BEMIP') of 8 June 2015, which acknowledges the synchronisation of the Baltic States with the continental European networks as a self-standing objective that contributes to achieving a fully functioning and connected internal energy market and to increasing energy security in the electricity sector of the Baltic States;

The Political Roadmap on the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity networks with the Continental European Network via Poland (the "Political Roadmap") signed on 28 June 2018 between the European Commission, the Baltic States and Poland providing for the synchronisation timeline and solution;

The Political Roadmap on implementing the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity networks with the Continental European Network via Poland (the "Implementation Roadmap") signed on 20 June 2019 between the European Commission, the Baltic States and Poland and the actions that have already been implemented;

The Agreement of the Baltic States' transmission system operators on Accelerated Synchronization of Baltic Power System with Continental Europe Synchronous Area concluded on 1 August 2023, including a key list of necessary technical, organizational, and legal measures to ensure that the Baltic Power System will be ready for de-synchronization from Integrated Power System of Belarus/Unified Power System of Russia (IPS/UPS) and synchronisation with the Continental European Network by February 2025; and

The Joint Declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Baltic States on the Accelerated Synchronisation of the Baltic States' Electricity Networks with the Continental European Network from 3 August 2023 agreeing to redouble concerted efforts and full mobilization in ensuring political support for de-synchronisation from IPS/UPS and achieving the synchronous operation of Baltic States' electricity systems with the Continental European Network not later than by February 2025.

RECOGNISING THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYNCHRONISATION PROJECT THE SIDES AGREE:

To continue the political commitment and support to proceed at full speed with the implementation of synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity system with the continental European network via Poland in the newly agreed accelerated timeline at the latest by February 2025;

To continue close political supervision of the practical implementation of the project via the *BEMIP High Level Group* at political and technical levels with continuous support from the European Commission;

To remain fully committed and support all required steps in view of timely completion of those elements of synchronisation whose implementation is envisaged after February 2025 but which remain crucial for secure and efficient synchronous operation, including the commissioning of the Harmony Link;

To mandate the Baltic States' and the Polish transmission system operators (TSOs), with the support of their respective Member States, ENTSO-E and the European Commission, to implement all necessary measures within their respective responsibilities and competence to make sure that all necessary investments and actions are taken in preparation for the de-synchronisation from IPS/UPS and achieving the synchronous operation of Baltic States' electricity systems with the Continental European Network not later than by February 2025, and also to implement all the remaining investments and measures beyond February 2025 aimed at ensuring market integration and further strengthening the safe and secure operation of the Baltic systems, that includes to:

- a) maintain a strong cooperation and coordination, including with ENTSO-E, as regards all aspects of the synchronisation process and ensure system readiness to react in all situations;
- b) continue the intense efforts into the timely development of all the necessary infrastructure investments and of the timely implementation of all necessary measures essential respectively for the start of synchronous operation and its sustained security afterwards;
- c) develop, plan, design and implement without further delay the Harmony Link Interconnector between Lithuania and Poland together with related enhancements in TSOs grids, either as (i) a submarine high-voltage direct current line or as (ii) an alternating current 220kV interconnector constructed along the Rail Baltica infrastructure – jointly agreed in view of the impact on the safe and secure synchronous operation of Baltic States' electricity systems with the Continental European Network and in view of market integration potential, taking into account the time and cost of implementation;
- d) work together with the support of their respective Member States, and with the European Commission, to ensure that the co-financing of the Harmony Link Interconnector between Lithuania and Poland from the Connecting Europe Facility is safeguarded; and

- e) cooperate with ENTSO-E and the European Commission on the implementation of all applicable internal market requirements as of February 2025, i.e. the synchronous operation of Baltic States' electricity systems with the Continental European Network, taking into account, as relevant, applicable temporary derogations and transition periods, if required.

The Sides re-confirm the validity of the scenario of no cross-border transmission capacity available for trade flows between Baltic States and third countries after the de-synchronization process as provided for in the *Implementation Roadmap*, and already officially communicated by the Baltic TSOs to the Russian and Belorussian system operators in March 2019.

This Political Declaration records a political intent alone. It does not establish any new legal commitments and does not replace or modify any existing legal obligations with regard to the Sides or any third persons.

Signed in Brussels on 19 December 2023.

For the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia - Mr KRISTEN MICHAL, Minister of Climate



For the Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia - Mr KASPARS MELNIS, Minister for Climate and Energy



For the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania – Mr DAINIUS KREIVYS, Minister of Energy



For the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Republic of Poland - Mr. MIŁOSZ MOTYKA, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Climate and Environment



For the European Commission – Ms KADRI SIMSON, European Commissioner for Energy

