

**THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN GAS REGULATORY FORUM
11-12 May 2023**

CONCLUSIONS

Gas network codes – Implementation and future challenges

Network Codes and Guidelines play an essential role to ensure the proper functioning of the European gas market. Markets have evolved since the adoption of the Network Codes and Guidelines and the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Markets Package will require the adoption of further tertiary legislation.

Without pre-empting the outcome of the negotiations on the Package, the Forum invites the Commission to look into the prioritisation and sequencing of the review of existing Network Codes and Guidelines and to take the revision process forward, notably on the Capacity Allocation Mechanisms Network Code and Congestion Management Procedures Guidelines, whilst adequately involving stakeholders.

Scaling up the EU hydrogen market: technical standards for hydrogen

Standardisation of hydrogen quality in hydrogen networks and end-use is very important for rolling out of hydrogen supply chains and markets, as well as for supporting new uses of hydrogen, including in hard to decarbonise sectors.

Significant progress has been achieved by CEN towards adoption of technical specifications for hydrogen quality in re-dedicated hydrogen networks, whilst a number of existing hydrogen installations are subject to contractual arrangements. Progress has been also achieved on national regulations for hydrogen quality and on development of systematised standardisation roadmaps for hydrogen supply and use.

The Forum recognises the importance of development of fit-for-purpose technical standards corresponding to the development of an EU-wide internal market for hydrogen, technical capabilities of hydrogen production, networks and end-uses. The Commission is invited to adopt without delay a standardisation mandate to CEN for hydrogen quality in dedicated hydrogen networks by taking into account economic analysis of hydrogen purification costs and cost allocation.

Decarbonizing the natural gas system

As a result of the energy transition required to meet Europe's decarbonisation goals, network assets will be either reinvested in, decommissioned or repurposed. There is no one-size-fits-all solution and Member States will take a variety of avenues. The Forum takes note of the examples in Denmark and the Netherlands.

There are, however, specific regulatory challenges related to the decommissioning of gas infrastructure. In order to ensure security of supply, system integration and avoid stranded assets, integrated network planning will play an important role. There will be questions around investments and cost allocation that will need to be answered and possible EU-wide and cross-border implications will need to be studied further and closely monitored.

Gas quality in the energy transition

The Forum confirms its support and invites CEN to finalise the process on the Wobbe Index standardisation and to continue its work in support of the use of renewable and low-carbon gases in gas infrastructure and gas applications, while considering different end-users requirements. The Forum also calls on all market participants to be constructively engaged in this process.

Following the adoption of the hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package and finalisation of the process on the Wobbe Index standardisation, the Forum encourages the Commission to initiate the revision of the Interoperability Network Code to include the regulatory framework for the Wobbe Index classification system.

LNG session

The Forum invites regulators and the Commission to analyse and report to the Forum on the new developments on the EU LNG market, including the significant increase of LNG imports and its impacts on the existing regulatory framework.

The Forum invites GLE to further analyse and report to the Forum on the possible scenarios and challenges regarding the usage of LNG terminals for the imports of renewable and low-carbon gases, including hydrogen and its derivatives.