



# **EUTurbines & VGB amendment proposals**

## **Conclusions from the series of Stakeholder Workshops and Presentation of the Amendments**

GC ESC 22 September 2021



## General Context

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Grid Connection requirements and associated high level process is described in EU 631/2016 which has been introduced in the different countries in the following three years.

The introduction of the new regulation has been a long ongoing lesson for the different stakeholder involved in the process.

Concrete recommendations for improvements have been brought forward on different occasions.

## Recommendations

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- Alignment of NCs and Standards
- Exhaustive requirements: prevent national decisions to infringe NCs
- Non-exhaustive requirement: harmonise and justify
- Transparent implementation at national level
- Efficient implementation at national level (e.g. compliance).

These recommendations for improvement had been further developed through presentation and multiple workshop that saw a wide participation of stakeholder.

## Objectives

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The objective of raising this problematic is to optimise the **implementation of the RfG** and improve it where necessary.

Effective **harmonisation & alignment** of existing requirements call for **transparent and strong monitoring procedures**.

The aim is therefore to review the current processes on different levels, explicitly **clarifying roles and responsibilities** of different actors, to identify procedural gaps and **improve or propose clear process**.

A focus on improving the **transparency** of the implementation process on all levels, calls for proposals on **optimizing information sharing procedures, platforms and monitoring**.

# Amendment Proposal 1

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<p><b>Article 59 (1) and Article 59 (4)</b> Network Code Monitoring, Roles and Responsibility</p>	<p><b>Proposal to adapt existing article 59 (1):</b> <b>Delete</b> “ENTSO for Electricity shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation in accordance with Article 8(8) of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009.” <b>replace by</b> “ACER shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation in accordance with Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 2019/943. ACER performing its task of monitoring shall involve the European Stakeholder Committee”.</p> <p>Proposal to replace existing article 59 (4): “Draft amendments to this code can be proposed according to article 60(1) of EU 2019/943.”</p> <p>As a side activity it was proposed an editorial modification also to art 59(4) as follow:</p> <p>Where ENTSO for Electricity or the Agency establish areas subject to this Regulation where, based on market developments or experience gathered in the application of this Regulation, further harmonisation of the requirements under this Regulation is advisable to promote market integration, they shall propose draft amendments to this Regulation pursuant to Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009. draft amendments to this code can be proposed according to article 60(1) of EU 2019/943.</p>	<p>It was proposed to update the original article and use the opportunity to evaluate the involvement of European Stakeholder Committee due to its very active involvement along the years. This provides a formal role to European Stakeholder Committee in supporting ACER in its activities.</p> <p>During the discussion there was different opinion on the opportunity on adding the reference since the European Stakeholder Committee is already partly carrying out such activities.</p> <p>It was decided to propose a text amendment as outlined in the previous column.</p>

# Amendment Proposal 2

COMCommission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 59 (5) NEW</b> Feedback on implementation by Stakeholders	<b>Proposal for new article 59 (5)</b> "Stakeholders may provide feedback on the implementation of this regulation and identification of any divergences to it, supporting ACER in conducting its activities as described in article 32 (1) of EU 2019/943. ACER shall keep the stakeholders informed on the follow up actions."	There were opposite opinions on modifying the existing regulation based on the same justification that the practice is already permitted. However, it has been noted that it would be good to have the point formalized. It has been noted that in case of infringement due to national decision penalties are defined in art 66 of the 2019/943. During the last workshop the text proposal had been maintained as proposed in the previous line.

# Amendment Proposal 3

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<p><b>Article 59 (3)</b> Single Focus Point of Information</p>	<p><b>Proposal to adapt existing article 59 (3):</b> Delete “Relevant TSOs shall submit to ENTSO for Electricity the information required to perform the tasks referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.” replace by “Relevant TSOs and DSOs shall submit and keep updated to ACER through the national regulatory authority, the information requested by ACER to perform the tasks referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.”</p> <p>Addition to article 59 (3): “The ACER in cooperation with ENTSO for electricity shall set-up a public online tool where national relevant information is collected and accessible to all relevant parties and interested individuals. The information to be gathered are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link to legal text</li> <li>- Definition of exhaustive and non-exhaustive parameters</li> <li>- TSOs requirements and compliance tests and process to be performed (this can consist of a link to the TSO website)</li> <li>- DSOs requirements and compliance tests and process to be performed (this can consist of a link to the EU DSO website)</li> <li>- National website</li> <li>- Contact mail and contact phone where requests can be posted.</li> <li>- Any information relevant that can be useful for any person that has an interest in the code.</li> </ul> <p>The online tool can be used by TSOs and DSOs for eventual additional communication specific to their system. The information shall be organized to permit easy access and provide a complete usable information to relevant party including plant owners and manufacturers. Stakeholders shall be involved in developing the online focal point.</p> <p>TSOs and DSOs shall ensure the information provided is, up to date.</p> <p>TSOs and DSOs shall provide the requested information within three months, or in case of specific requests within a given realistic deadline, after receiving the request, that can be calendarized.</p>	<p>There were opposed opinion on the opportunity to keep the proposal. The ones against the proposal were promoting a solution without having to add or modify the regulation and noted that someday single focus point had been already developed.</p> <p>The ones in favour noted that the information like the ones provided in the active library shall be reliable and up to date and that the single focus point is for sure very important.</p> <p>It has been noted that to maintain such a single point of focus requires resources. However, it is expected that a quality process can be set-up and it could a good way to harmonize the way information are provided (e.g. based on NC structure).</p> <p>It has been noted that the text proposal provided many bullet points in term of minimum information to be provided. However, these are already the typical information expected in the active library and the list can help harmonizing the way the information is provided.</p> <p>To have the information updated, it has been proposed to have the owner of the information updating the correspondent data within two months from when the modification enters into effect. As an alternative it has been proposed to set-up a calendarization for updating the information (e.g. every 2 months or every 3 months) to make it easier for the involved parties to schedule the correspondent activities. This point has been discussed and it can be further considered as a possible improvement of the present proposal. Finally, no alternative had been proposed to support the present need for transparent information.</p> <p>During the last workshop it has been decided to keep the proposal for amendment.</p>

# Amendment Proposal 4

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 59. (6) NEW</b> Focus on production and compliance costs for the industry	<b>Proposal for new article 59 (6)</b> "Based on the experience gathered in the implementation and application of this regulation, ACER and ENTSO for Electricity, may propose amendments to the present <b>requirements with focus on reliable and effective operation and to prevent or limit incidents on the system considering an efficient, harmonized and cost containing implementation of the regulation, also taking into account the needs of all stakeholders in the value chain involved.</b>  <del>To this end,</del> Experience gathered in the implementation and application of this regulation shall be shared within the regional coordination centres as part of their task as defined in EU 2019/943 and with the mandatory participation of involved stakeholders at least once a year. The feedback from the regional coordination centres shall be shared among TSOs and DSOs at least to the ones belonging to the same synchronous area."  The aim is to achieve a common understanding, to harmonise, <del>where possible, the</del> requirements, to define organisational measures and to effectively optimise the compliance process and the connection to the grid, with a focus on reliable and effective operation and to prevent or limit incidents on the system. The target is also to have a cost effective solutions.  Based on the outcome of the communication and information sharing, stakeholders may issue recommendations to promote good practices."	<p>The text contains a reference to regional coordination centres. However, it is still to be confirmed if a better definition of the reference focus points is corrected.</p> <p>During the discussion a concern on the opportunity to introduce a new article had been raised.</p> <p>No alternative proposal had been received from stakeholders nor in term of alternative text or alternative procedure.</p> <p>The text had been improved during the workshop activities.</p> <p>It has been decided to keep the amendment proposal in its latest text revision.</p>



# Amendment Proposal 5

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Prologue (27) and Art 7.3 (f))</b> Use of existing and consolidated standards.	<b>Proposal for adding to Prologue (27)</b> The regulatory authorities, Member States and system operators should ensure that, in the process of developing and approving the requirements for network connection, they are harmonised to the extent possible, in order to ensure full market integration. Established technical standards should be taken into particular consideration in the development of connection requirements. <b>Development of requirements shall be carried involving European standardisation organisations therefore permitting the evolution of product standards and, as a consequence, the adoption of the same by industry.</b>  Modify art 7.3.(f) as follow:  (f) take into consideration agreed European standards and technical specifications. TSOs or ENTSOE shall inform national and European technical committees respectively on applicable new requirements in due time.	<p>It has been recognized that technical standards are an important brick of the wall.</p> <p>It has been recognized that today in the text of the regulation there is a missing leverage in improving cooperation with the technical standardization when it comes to developing requirements.</p> <p>To improve such cooperation, it has been proposed a modification to art 7.3(f), so that at least TSOs or ENTSOE shall inform European technical committees on modification to requirements in due time and an additional to the prologue (27) which was already referencing the use of standard.</p> <p>Basically, the discussion was expressing two different expectations, from one side the fact that the development of requirements shall not be limited by technical committees activities, from the other side the expectation that using technical committees to develop requirements is considered a most effective way due a larger audience contributing to the requirement itself.</p> <p>It has been decided to promote the amendment proposal.</p>

# Amendment Proposal 6

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<p><b>Proposal for new article 4 (x)</b> Introduction of new or amended requirements and associated applicability</p>	<p><b>Proposal for new article:</b></p> <p>The introduction of new requirements or amendments to the present regulation shall be regulated by an approval process. Information about new requirements or amendments to the existing regulation and associated approval process shall be publicly available free of charge.</p> <p><b>Proposal for consideration:</b> “Once the new requirements or the amendment is approved, its applicability will be defined based on a timeframe that will permit the manufacturers to understand and adopt it in their new product. This time shall be coordinated among stakeholders and shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicability to ongoing projects (costs for retrofitting)</li> <li>- Applicability to projects for which the major components had been bought (costs for retrofitting)</li> <li>- Time to certify the generating unit or plant (if certification process applies)</li> <li>- Time for a certification body to get its own approval for certifying the new requirement.</li> <li>- Roll-out of the requirement</li> </ul> <p>The new requirements shall be introduced considering a minimum time of 1 year (or ??) between the date of their publication and the entering into force and will affect only installations for which major components are not ordered yet at the moment of official publication of the approved new requirements.”</p> <p>Article 4 would permit to adapt the wording on applicability to existing plants. As an alternative modification to article 7 and reference to article 4 for existing plants (which shall then be a bit adapted).</p>	<p>There is a common agreement that art 4 shall be revisited.</p> <p>During the discussion it has been noted that an amended version of the code would correspond to a new code and therefore somehow the present structure of art 4 can be still considered.</p> <p>In addition to the proposed text introducing associated process for new requirements, it has been suggested to check definition of existing unit, in the new or amended revision of the regulation for consistency.</p> <p>It has been recommended a legal recheck of the content of the chapter considering a proper flow of activities in the approval of the requirements and their implementation.</p> <p>It has been noted that the proposed text presents several bullet points that could be eliminated.</p> <p>It has been agreed to present the amendment to ACER for evaluation.</p>

# Amendment Proposal 7

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 41 (Addition)</b> Site Test compliance	<b>Proposal for an addition to article 41.7</b>  “In the frame of compliance testing, when the system operator requires proof of compliance of specific requirements, it shall establish a procedures permitting generating units to be connected to the grid with the purpose of conducting such tests and verifications, including certification test process when requested.”.	<p>It has been noted that Art 42.2 is already permitting such a solution, but it provides the system operator to decide if this is a possibility or not. The idea is that a solution shall be found, it shall not be the only responsibility of the manufacturer or plant owner to solve the issue. The compliance procedure shall not prevent compliant generating unit to be connected to the grid. As an alternative to the proposed text an amendment to art 42.2 can be evaluated.</p> <p>It has been recommended to share this point to the team working on compliance IGD (to be done).</p>

# Amendment Proposal 8

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 42 (Addition)</b> Tests and Tests reports carried in a different facility as proof of compliance. .	<b>Proposal for an addition to this article 42.2.</b> “(d) allow the use of alternative or same set of tests carried out in a different facility provided that those tests are efficient and suffice to demonstrate that a power-generating module complies with the requirements of this Regulation.”	It has been noted that Expert Group Interaction Studies and Simulation Models (EG ISSM) developed a similar approach when it comes to testing procedure (“similar” approach).  It has been noted that a similar procedure is adopted for example in Belgium (see Synergrid C10_26_conformity_document check list).

# Amendment Proposal 9

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 42 5. (NEW)</b> Use of Equipment Certificate	<b>Proposal for a new additional point 5 to Article 42:</b>  “Instead of carrying out the relevant test, power-generating facility owners may rely upon equipment certificates issued by an authorised certifier to demonstrate compliance with the relevant requirement. In such a case, copies of the equipment certificates shall be provided to the relevant system operator.”	The proposal raised some doubts, since the Equipment Certificate is already foreseen except in Art 42 they are not mentioned.  It is recommended a legal crosscheck to verify the indication is requested. The text amendment proposal is provided as reference.

# Amendment Proposal 10

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 43 (NEW)</b> Common provisions on compliance simulation	<b>Proposal for new Article 43 (6)</b> “43.6 The relevant system operator shall allow the use of compliance simulation as described in article 43.2 also for Type A and Type B generating module. The provision described in art 15.6(c) are in this case applicable also to Type A, and Type B when validated model is used.”	It has been recommended the use of Validated model instead of compliance simulation which seems more appropriate.

# Amendment Proposal 11

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Article 3.3 (NEW) or art 7.10</b> Use of English as a second language for relevant documents	art 3.3 (NEW) or art 7.10 (NEW) the documents defining the requirements and the verification of the compliance as defined by each Member State and system operators shall be available also in english. Unless the english is the official language of the Member State, the english version in case of a translation of the original document shall bear the words "Translation of the original document".	<p>It has been noted that in Network Code on Electricity Emergency and Restoration EU 2017/2196 there are several references to report to be prepared in English (e.g. NC ER art 14.4).</p> <p>Another example of document with multiple language that has been used as reference is Machinery Directive.</p> <p>It has been noted that there could some resistance in accepting a strict request for an English translation, due to legal reason.</p> <p>It has been proposed a wording similar to the one used for the machinery directive, where the text in the original language remains as reference and the translation bear a corresponding wording.</p>

# Amendment Proposal 12

Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631	Draft Amendments and Proposals	Workshop Discussion
<b>Art 2 (NEW)</b> Definition of families of generating unit and of generating plant	"Families are normally defined as set of generating units or set of generating plants with same technology and similar behaviour and design but allowing for instance different rated power and/or allowing for instance different rated voltage."	<p>Different possible definition has been discussed during the workshop.</p> <p>The definition of families had been extended from the single generating to plant concept.</p> <p>As a result, an initial definition has been proposed.</p> <p>It was planned to share this definition with the team working on the IGD compliance. In addition it has been noted that it is planned in the future an Expert Group which works are focused on the use of families in the compliance process. It is therefore expected the concept will be widely discussed in such teams. It is however reported here below the definition proposed during the workshop.</p>



## Process Timeline

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- EUTurbines & EUGINE presentation “Connection Network Code Feedback from Industry” (11/09/2019)
- EUTurbines presentation (12/12/2019) and interventions at the ESC.
- ENTSO-E request for a concrete proposition (Autumn 2020)
- Joint presentation of EUTurbines & VGB (09/03/2021)
- Stakeholder Workshop Part I (18/05/2021)
- GC ESC: Progress Report (10/07/2021)
- Stakeholder Workshop Part II (18/06/2021 )
- Stakeholder Workshop Part III (20/07/2021)
- GC ESC: Presentation of Stakeholder Workshop conclusions (22/09/2021)

## Collaboration and next steps

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- Share the Stakeholder Workshop Series Report “Connection Network Code Amendments - The Necessity of procedural improvements” with the Workshop participants.
- Final alignment with other cooperation partners. (If you have any additional comments please contact [Magdalena.kurz@euturbines.eu](mailto:Magdalena.kurz@euturbines.eu). You may request the dedicated contribution form.)
- Submission of Amendment proposal

## Contact

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