

ENTSO-E Transparency User Group (ETUG) – 4th Meeting

Date: 2 February 2016

Time: 10h00 – 14h30

Place: ENTSO-E premises, Brussels

MINUTES

Participants:

NGUEN Hoang	RTE
DA CRUZ Christian	Elia
COTINO Cris	Terna
TROUPAKIS Athanasios	ENTSO-E
RABOUCHE Ikram	ENTSO-E
DE JONG Kees	ENTSO-E
GYULAY Zoltan	ENTSO-E
SULGA Dalius	ENTSO-E
MONTOISY Christophe	ENTSO-E
ABRAMOWICZ Adam	ENTSO-E
DAOUTIDIS Ioannis	ENTSO-E
VIEVEEN Peter	ENTSO-E
NEGREL Thomas	RTE
PINCHO Marco	EC
MURUAIS Rafael	ACER
WOZA Wojciech	ACER
TZANKA Tzvetelina	Elcom CH
STANCHEV Georgi	Vattenfall
KLAAS Papjes	ACM
VISCOR Martin	CEZ
DECROUBELE Sigurd	ENGIE
UTTICH Ralf	RWE
RAUCH Lothar	Oeko
HEWITT Phil	Enapsys
GHANTY Zaahir	ELEXON

Connected via web-conference

YATES Kevin	TESLA
BACH Paul-Frederik	Mail
RODRIGUEZ Rosa Maria	AXPO
BUISSON Pierre	GENSCAPE

1. Opening remarks

Zoltan opened the meeting by thanking the participants for their constant interest and eagerness to provide feedback. As a user-focused consultative group, ETUG can give clear indications about the priorities and also foster the implementation of developments by adopting a clear and common position. Final decisions are of course subject to financial, technical and operational constraints.

This meeting is meant to provide more details on the steps taken since October 2015 in the agreed solutions to improve the usability, the download and data quality.

Ralf shared a general comment on the exact role of the ETUG, suggesting that members be regularly informed without waiting for the next ETUG meeting. Another suggestion was on the organisation of the meetings, especially on sharing the material in advance in order for members to be able to provide feedback. The ETUG dedicated SharePoint site could be very helpful in that direction but not many documents are available there.

Ikram confirmed that SharePoint was developed to support the work of ETUG group, especially at the initial stages of the group. Unfortunately, the low number of access requests led us to believe that it was not the preferred way of communicating. In light of propositions made, ENTSO-E will provide access to SharePoint and will upload all relevant documents. Ikram also clarified to the group that granting access to SharePoint should go through a specific approval process due to confidentiality issues.

Rafael proposed to precise the exact role of ETUG in every topic presented. Both ENTSO-E and ETUG might benefit by defining whether or not a topic is presented for feedback.

Actions

- An access to SharePoint will be provide to ETUG members and relevant documents will be uploaded.
- When proposing an agenda, ENTSO-E will clarify the status of topic (for information or for feedback)

2. Data extracts

Data repository

The slides circulated before the meeting were presented to the group. On this basis, the discussion focused on the update of data processing and the way of access. Following a question, Adam explained that files in the data repositories will be regularly updated and in case of missing data (incomplete set due to delays or missing data) “n/a” will appear.

Ralf and Phil raised a concern regarding the data update and time stamp. In many cases, there is no time stamp when data are published or updated. For the end-users of the Platform it is very important both to have an easy access to data published (including historical data) and also to avoid the laborious work of looking after updates and missing data.

Cris highlighted that the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform was established to comply with the European regulation No. 543/2013 and that this need was not addressed in the regulation. ENTSO-E is implementing solutions to improve the usability of the platform and in that sense the point raised on having timestamps is acknowledged. However, the change requests are assessed within ENTSO-E in light of budget and technical constraints.

Ralf asked on the possibility of having access to files in data repository without using FTP as this solution might be incompatible with some firewall settings. Marco proposed to ENTSO-E to zip the files in order to save space.

Adam and Dalius explained that it is needed to find the right balance between these requests and the possible fixes that could potentially lead to more complexity and decrease speed.

The discussion ended with a request from Marco, Thomas and Rafael to add generation items to the intermediate list of data available in data repository. Dalius acknowledged the importance of generation category but it will require much more work to make it available, this proposition needs to be further discussed.

REST API

The discussions under this point were based on the presentation from ENTSO-E. Regarding the authentication and authorization, Marco suggested that it would be more useful to also allow machines to use the functionality and an alternative to the log-in with username and password should be in place. ENTSO-E clarified that this solution was implemented so as to control download and avoid undue load and impact the smooth running of the transparency platform.

The discussion continued on the different format of the files proposed ENTSO-E. Zaahir proposed the use of JSON format (in addition to XML and CSV) as JSON is lighter and less verbose than XML. Marco suggested to put in place an option to make the change format easier. Dalius outlined that these ideas are interesting, however ETUG members need to bear in mind that such changes will have an impact on the budget. Given that CSV is still used in many places, adopting a solution with JSON seems difficult to implement. This proposition need to be discussed and assessed.

Action

- Specifications will be uploaded on SharePoint for feedbacks

3. User interface

Ioannis presented the list of fixes under implementation and made a live presentation in the testing version of the ENTSO-E transparency platform. ETUG members requested to receive the link which gives access to testing platform in order to provide feedbacks. ENTSO-E welcomed this proposition.

Action

- ENTSO-E will sent the link in order for ETUG to provide feedbacks on the quick fixes made.

4. Data quality

Athanasios gave a presentation on the updates in data completeness and data quality. Regarding the review of the manual of procedure (MoP), Cris updated the group and following the discussions, invited ETUG members to send their concrete inputs on data items listed for review. On the process side, Athanasios confirmed that all data providers have been informed about the start of the MoP review and that they will be informed on all the intermediate steps of the process.

Thomas asked a specific question on review of total capacity nominated by explicit allocation as a feedback to the proposal of the ENTSO-E expert group to propose publishing separately long term allocation and total. Thomas recommended to distinguish intraday allocation from the total. Athanasios considered that the solution proposed by ENTSO-E as a good compromise which will permit to solve the issues raised by the users while following the provisions of Regulation 543/2013. With the proposed display, the intraday value can be easily calculated.

Action

- ETUG members are invited to give inputs on data items listed for revision

5. Conclusions and AOB

Athanasios updated ETUG members on the project of German NRA to launch a National Information Platform (NIP). ENTSO-E has engaged into discussions with the NRA and the intention is to send all relevant data via a subscription channel. In its latest correspondence, the German NRA acknowledged the good support provided by the ENTSO-E D&I team.

Athanasios reviewed the actions taken in the meeting and thanked ETUG members for their constructive contributions. He also proposed to plan the next ETUG meeting in end of April.

Action

- A doodle will be sent with several proposal for a date.