



Featured Interview
with the **President of**
RAEWW GREECE

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ATHANASIOS DAGOUMAS, President of the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (RAEWW) of Greece



Assoc. Prof. Athanasios Dagoumas, President of RAEWW, Greece

Dear President Dagoumas, thank you for accepting our invitation for the Fall 2023 Newsletter interview. We congratulate RAEWW for becoming a full member of ERRA during the recent General Assembly held on the side of the 20th ERRA Annual Conference. What are RAEWW's expectations and ambitions regarding the newly obtained membership?

RAEWW has high expectations and ambitions regarding the newly obtaining membership in the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA). By becoming a member, we aim to actively contribute to shaping energy regulations, policies, and standards in the region. We strive to collaborate with other members to promote sustainable and efficient energy practices, foster innovation,

and drive positive change in the energy sector. Our ambition is to leverage our expertise and solutions to support the association's objectives, enhance energy market transparency, and facilitate the transition to a greener and more resilient energy future.

As presented during the conference Greece's first standalone BESS tender (Battery Energy Storage System) has witnessed a great response from developers. Could you please tell us what are the milestones of the BESS deployment plan in Greece and how exactly does RAEWW contribute to efforts to stimulate BESS investment in Greece?

RAEWW is running a tendering procedure of 1.000 MW, with three auctions of 400MW, 300MW, and 300MW, where the latter is expected to end by March 2024. RAEWW through developing online licensing tools (<https://licensing.rae.gr/>) and (<https://geo.rae.gr/>) has considerably decreased the time required by RAEWW for approving applications of RES and BESS projects, while also increasing transparency and competition. This has led to increased competition in the first auction of BESS, as projects with about 3200MW capacity made bids for the auctioned 400MW capacity, leading to a considerable decrease in the weighted average price of selected projects (50,000 euros/MW_a compared to 115,000 euros/MW_a of the starting price of the bid. Please consider that selected bids (through the pay-as-bid auction process), are eligible for extra compensation of 200,000 euros/MW_a from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which is expected to be decreased for the remaining BESS auctions due to increased competition).

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ERRA MEMBERS' NEWS

by 22 member organizations

The programming of selected BESS units is anticipated to be functional by the 1st of January 2026.

How will Greece's transition to Renewable Energy Sources be affected by the BESS implementation?

RES and BESS have a supplementary role, as BESS enhances the penetration of RES, increasing the available electric capacity in the grids. Moreover, they contribute to shaping the energy demand and decreasing the high prices in peak hours, mainly reported during the sunset effect in South Europe, due to the rapid decrease in electro-production from photovoltaics. BESS units also provide ancillary services that enhance the resilience of the energy system and support short-term security of supply. RES, BESS, and other flexible assets, such as demand response, already have a crucial role in the power systems and markets, facilitating the development of interconnections and the market coupling process in the Southeast Europe region. Greece with high solar and wind (onshore and offshore) capacity is expected to meet its ambitious targets concerning green transition and to become an electricity exporter in the medium-term. ■

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PSRC Armenia

Recent Developments

● In May 2023, based on changes in the exchange rate of foreign currency and inflation, **Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) of Armenia**, initiated a revision of the tariffs for the sale of electric energy delivered from electric energy generating stations using renewable energy resources with a capacity of up to 30 MW, which has a purchase

guarantee provided for by the Law on Energy.

● According to the provisions of the incentive tariff policy introduced in the gas supply system, in June 2023, by the initiation of PSRC, the tariffs for the provision of services and distribution of natural gas for "Gazprom Armenia" CJSC as the operator of the gas supply system, and the tariffs for transportation of natural gas of "Transgaz" LLC, were revised.

● In June 2023, by the initiation of PSRC, the tariff margin of "Electric

Networks of Armenia" CJSC, the tariffs for the provision of electric energy distribution service, as well as the tariffs of "Yerevan Thermal Power Center", "Armenian Atomic Power Plant" and "High Voltage Electric Networks" CJSC were recalculated and revised due to the actual activity of the mentioned companies based on the losses or benefits formed according to the existing methods of calculating the tariffs.

Internal Projects

● PSRC representatives participated in many events organized by Energy Community, NARUC, CEER, EU4Energy, USAID, and ERRA in online and offline formats.

Significant Energy News

● As part of the strategic programs approved by the Government Decision aimed at developing the energy sector in the Republic of Armenia, and in accordance with the planned schedule for implementation of these programs, it is anticipated that the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of RA, in collaboration with the Public Services Regulatory Commission of RA, will develop a new Law on Electricity for Armenia in 2023. This new Law aims to address the challenges that have arisen in the current electric power market model and develop the trading mechanism by incorporating the best international practices.

● Additionally, according to the abovementioned planned schedule a new Law on Gas Supply will be developed in 2023, which will incorporate modern principles. Currently, the drafting of both the Law on Electricity, supported by USAID, and the Law on Gas Supply, supported by the EU4Energy program, is in progress.

● The Market rules of the electricity retail market of the Republic of Armenia were revised by the

Resolution of PSRC N215-N of June 30, 2023.

● Among other current regulations, the above-mentioned amendments introduced two major reforms regarding autonomous solar power plants, namely:

□ a regulation was adopted that no electric energy distribution service fee will be charged for the autonomous energy producer, in case of an autonomous group for the group members in case of autonomous energy production in the same residential or public purpose building or a complex of building units located at the same address, if all participants of the group are autonomous energy producers or consumers of the same building or complex of building units located at the same address. This reform will enable the development of autonomous energy production using solar energy on the roofs of apartment buildings.

□ a second method of accounting and distribution of the amounts of electric energy produced and consumed in the autonomous group in the case of autonomous energy production by autonomous groups was introduced, which will ensure a more flexible procedure for distributing the amounts of electric energy produced in the group among other participants of the group and will allow the involvement of a larger group in autonomous groups number of autonomous energy producers.

● In August 2023, the methodology for calculating tariffs in the electric system, approved by Resolution No. 520 of PSRC on November 29, 2022, was revised.

● Taking into account the problems arising during the operation of the new model of the electricity market, the rules of the wholesale and retail electricity market, and the network

rules of the distribution of the electricity market were revised.

● Due to the amendments in the Law on Postal Communication, the alignment of legal acts of PSRC in the field of postal communication with the requirements of the above-mentioned law has started. ■

E-Control Austria

Recent Developments

● Monitoring Report on Renewable Energy Expansion

The market price continues to set the tone Renewable output increased - Share of green electricity and support volume subsidized according to ÖSG 2012 (Green Electricity Act 2012) continued to fall - Share of renewable electricity in domestic electricity consumption at a good 78% - Significant increase in the Vienna energy communities (October 12, 2023).

● Installed capacity increased

The installed capacity of renewables increased by 2,141 MW (net) by the end of 2022 compared to 2020,

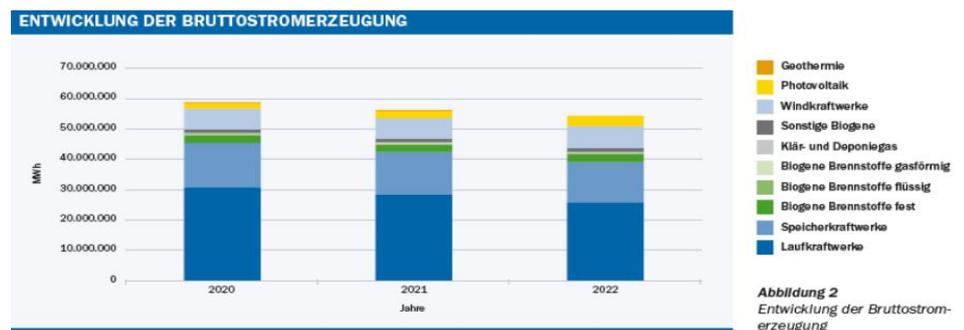
although the quantities generated fell by 3,611 GWh during this period. This reflects the increasing influence of good or comparatively bad water, wind, and solar years. (See **Figure 1**)

Internal Projects

● Online Talk on the Contribution of PV to the System

By 2030, electricity production from renewable energy sources is to be increased by 27 TWh. Photovoltaics (PV) is expected to contribute 11 TWh to this. PV systems on house roofs can make an important contribution to achieving these goals. What sounds simple in many cases fails due to the lack of network capacity and challenging network connections for the PV systems.

Energie-Control (E-Control) of Austria has therefore developed its own grid connection action plan, which provides for a series of measures for a quicker implementation of grid connections and which was presented accordingly in July 2023. Some of the measures proposed therein are already well on the way to being implemented. Nevertheless, there are still many challenges that need to be overcome. These were discussed in an



Quelle: E-Control

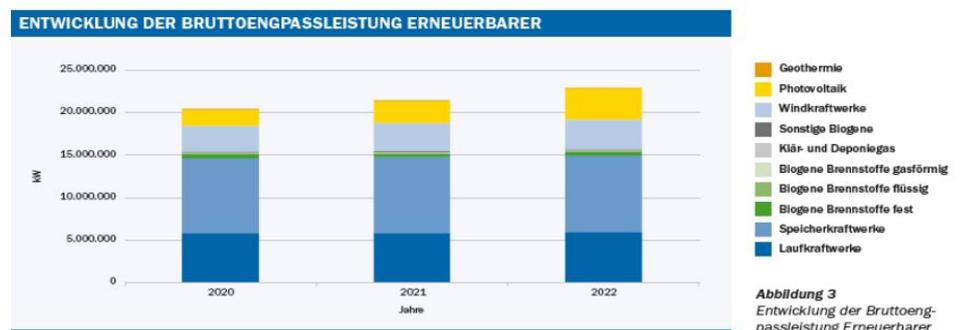


Figure 1. The Installed Capacity of Renewables

online talk between E-Control and the Federal Association of PV (Austria).

Significant Energy News

- As an energy efficiency monitoring body, our task is to monitor the progress of energy efficiency and to monitor compliance with the obligations under the Federal Energy Efficiency Act. The energy efficiency monitoring center is currently under construction. We offer an information service via email in which current developments in connection with the Energy Efficiency Act, such as reporting modalities and announced regulations, are announced. Registration for the information service "Information on energy efficiency" is possible via the E-Control Website. (<https://meine.e-control.org/verteilerlisten/>) (available in German only).

E-Control's Cooperation in the Creation of Promotion Video EU-Twinning due to its 20th anniversary

E-Control has been contributing to the creation of a promotion video for EU-Twinning as E-Control looks back to more than 15 years of expertise in international cooperation project management. Watch the Video here: <https://vimeo.com/877825724>.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● Sneak Preview: Our New Charging Tariff Calculator for Mobility

After the charging point directory, E-Control has also developed a charging point calculator. (More about this in the next newsletter). ■



AERA Azerbaijan

Recent Developments

- The new 'Law on Electricity' of the Republic of Azerbaijan (providing the law on the energy market, incl.

unbundling issues and transition periods).

- "The Rules on implementation of state control in the field of efficient use of energy resources and energy efficiency" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan N 2215 dated 17 July 2023.

- "The Rules on monitoring the implementation of technical examination and technical services" approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan N 214 dated 25 June 2023.

Internal Projects

- **Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency (AERA)**'s specialists participated in the EU4Energy/CEER Regional Training on International Relations and Project Management in Brussels, Belgium on 11-13 October 2023; as well as EU4Energy/CEER training on Covering Energy Issues in the Media in Batumi, Georgia on 13-14 July.

- A seminar was organized for specialists of the AERA by the experts of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) within the "EU4Energy" Programme Phase II - "Encouraging the clean energy transition in Eastern Partnership countries" on 16-18 October 2023 aimed to contribute to the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector.

- An online meeting was held between the experts of the Czech Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) and AERA aimed to exchange best practices in the fields of heating, monitoring, and renewable energy on 12 and 26 September 2023.

Significant Energy News

- Resolution no. 258 of 1 August 2023 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On approval of the "Form of a report on effective use

of energy resources and energy efficiency".

- Resolution no. 216 of 25 June 2023 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On approval of the "Rules on register keeping and its use for technical inspection and maintenance services".

- Resolution KQ-1 of 19 May 2022 of the Board of Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On approval of the "Form for the Act on the results of maintenance services".

- A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy transition was signed between the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Maire Tecnimont during the Baku Energy Week.

- "Jahangirbayli" Hydroelectric Power Plant with an installed capacity of 10,5 MW was put into operation in the Zangilan region of Eastern Zangezur economic region on 28 September 2023.

- The 230 MW Garadagh Solar PV Plant was inaugurated on 26 October 2023.

- The Government of Azerbaijan and Masdar Company of the United Arab Emirates signed three investment agreements on green energy projects with a total installed capacity of 1000 MW on 26 October 2023. The agreements cover the implementation of a 445 MW solar plant in the Bilasuvar region, a 315 MW solar power plant in the Neftchala region, and a 240 MW wind power plant in the Absheron-Garadagh region.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

- The dedicated state program and particular management were adopted for Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur economic regions. All transmission and distribution systems have been being built or renovated, depending on the local circumstances, since the

territories were liberated (incl. electricity, gas, and heat supply). ■



FERK Bosnia and Herzegovina

Significant Energy News

- According to the **Regulatory Commission for Energy in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FERK)** as of 17 August 2023, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a new set of energy laws. *The Law on Energy and Regulation of Energy Activities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the new Law on Electricity in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina* have entered into force on the specified date. As for the third law from the set, the new *Law on Usage of Renewable Resources and Efficient Cogeneration* entered into force on 2 November 2023.

- FERK has started to update its bylaws accordingly. The new *FERK Statute* entered into force on 14 October 2023 and the new *Rulebook on Eligible Electricity Producers* has been passed on 19 October and will enter into force on 11 November 2023. ■



ERO Czech Republic

Recent Developments

- **ERO Introduces Tariff Changes for High and Very High Voltage Levels**

Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) of Czech Republic is launching a public consultation process on the changes to the tariff structure that are expected to take effect from 1 January 2024. The changes mainly affect customers, producers, and local electricity distributors connected to the high and very high voltage levels. The aim of the proposal is to make more efficient use of the electricity system, freeing up

unused capacity in the networks. The released capacity in the networks will be used to connect new RES-generating plants and customer sites of active customers.

The main change introduced by the proposal is the abolition of the payment for reserved capacity and the price for exceeding it. The payment for the use of the grid at high and very high voltage levels will now be based on the reserved capacity and the maximum power taken.

The new adjustments are based on the Concept of Linking the New Market Design in the Electricity Sector with Regulated Prices, which the ERO presented at the end of last year. One of the main objectives is to strengthen the transparency of the entire tariff system and the targeting of payments, which should correspond to the costs or benefits generated. This is also why the proposal foresees the abolition of a number of exemptions or concessions that some customers, distribution system operators, or electricity producers have enjoyed so far. Part of the costs incurred by a group of network users with these exemptions have so far had to be borne by other customers.

Internal Projects

- The Operator of the Electricity and Gas Market (OTE, a.s.) and the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO), under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO), organized an online workshop where electricity and gas suppliers were informed about the procedure for submitting applications for payment of monthly compensation provided for the supply of electricity and gas at set prices in connection with Government Regulation No. 5/2023 Coll. The workshop was organized online on 5th April 2023.

The workshop aimed to familiarize those present with the methodology for processing documents for a request for compensation and the procedure for submitting an

application through the market operator's portal. Similarly, the market operator ensures, in close cooperation with the Energy Regulatory Office and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the payment of compensation for electricity and gas supplies for losses in distribution systems in an extraordinary market situation.

- **Board Member of ERO Martina Artina Altera KRČOVÁ is Nominated for the Environmental Award**

ERO board member Martina Krčová received a nomination for the Josef Vavroušek Environmental Award. It is awarded annually by the Partnership Foundation in memory of the ecologist, university teacher, and first federal minister of the environment († 1995).

Martina Krčová earned her nomination in the category "for long-term contribution". She has managed to connect a completely disparate group of actors who listen to her and are willing to work together under her leadership for the benefit of the Czech energy sector. It is thanks to her persistent pressure on the central energy sector that the decree allowing electricity sharing in apartment buildings was adopted and the amendment setting the rules for community energy was launched.

Significant Energy News

- The government authorized the state company ČEPS a.s. TSO for electricity in the Czech Republic, in September 2023 to buy NET4GAS Holdings, Czech gas TSO which operates an extensive system of gas pipelines and transfer stations. The Czech Republic is one of the few European countries that does not control a similar critical gas infrastructure. According to the Government, the purchase of the company is another measure, which will strengthen the energy security of the Czech Republic. The gas pipelines of the NET4GAS company could be part of the hydrogen corridor, which in

the future expects to transport up to 16 billion cubic meters of gas per year from Ukraine through Slovakia and the Czech Republic to Germany.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

- The government has authorized the acquisition of RWE Gas Storage CZ, which owns and operates six gas storage facilities in the Czech Republic. The government has assigned the purchase of RWE Gas Storage CZ to ČEPS a.s., Czech electricity TSO.

The contract was signed by both parties in August 2023 for a total of six storage facilities: Háje, Dolní Dunajovice, Tvrdonice, Lobodice, Štramberk and Třanovice. The agreed purchase price was EUR 360 million. The total capacity of all gas storage facilities in the Czech network is 3.45 billion cubic meters. Purchased gas storage facilities have a combined capacity of 2.7 billion cubic meters, which accounts for 36% of the annual consumption and about 45% during the heating season. The reservoirs function as storage facilities for gas traders to amass gas supplies during the summer in anticipation of the demand in winter. ■

the 1st of July 2023. Consumers who still had not switched to a market contract were transferred, within their incumbent supplier, to a preapproved "switchover" market offer. Since then, CRE has been assisting consumers in choosing gas supply contracts on the market by publishing a monthly benchmark of gas supply prices.

● **Increased Guidance for Professional Consumers**

CRE published in September 2023 its guide to best practices for private and public-sector professional consumers to help them with their gas and electricity purchases. In October 2023, CRE followed up with a specific guide for social landlords. CRE also renewed its 2022 autumn initiative and publishes weekly price indexes for small and medium enterprises as well as public buyers of a similar size.

Internal Projects

● **Positive Review of Market Functioning in France During the Crisis**

At this stage of its analyses, CRE has not identified any conclusive evidence of manipulation of wholesale electricity or gas prices in France in 2022. As for retail markets, between 2020 and 2022, consumers were largely protected from soaring prices, but the surge in wholesale prices temporarily led to a scarcity of available retail offers and standardization of retail supply contracts. For the future, CRE deems it necessary to introduce a prudential regulation of suppliers and to improve consumers' information. It also encourages the development of more innovative offers taking advantage of flexibility, sobriety, and self-consumption.

● **A Strategic Vision for the Flexibility of Large Service Sector Buildings**

Large commercial buildings represent a major source of flexibility and energy demand management that has yet to be fully exploited. Thus, CRE launched

a flash mission with Schneider Electric and the sector's stakeholders. The report was published in September 2023. It recommends concrete solutions to spread the culture of energy management, improve practices, and integrate economic value into flexibility.

Significant Energy News

● **Low Risk for the Security of Supply During the 2023-2024 Winter**

Balancing the gas system this winter will still require sustained LNG imports, careful management of storage facilities, and maintaining sobriety at levels similar to those seen last winter. Yet, analyses show that the French gas grid will have the capacity to ensure consumption and exports even in the event of cold weather. The risk for the security of electricity is deemed low if consumption remains significantly reduced. This winter's perspectives have significantly improved thanks to the increased availability of electricity production resources, high levels of hydro and gas stocks, and fluid exchanges at the European level.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● **Development of France's energy and climate strategy.**

France will shortly be debating its next multi-year energy program. CRE has informed the proposed choices with a report on the future of gas infrastructures. CRE also presented a contribution based on the foresight work it has carried out over the past 5 years. It is structured around 5 pillars:

1. Accelerating the decarbonization of our energy mix by transforming our energy system
2. Developing a long-term electricity market to successfully decarbonize the industry
3. Accompanying the transformation of our networks by



Recent Developments

● **Smooth Ending of Regulated Gas Supply Tariffs**

As of November 20, 2019, it was no longer possible to subscribe to a regulated gas supply contract in France. However, small consumers could continue to benefit from their pre-existing contracts. On March 31st, 2023, they still accounted for 25% of sites. Following an information campaign overseen by **Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) of France** regulated gas supply tariffs have been effectively phased out since

prioritizing investment in networks and infrastructures

4. Involving consumers and local authorities in the new energy system

5. Preparing the regulatory framework for low-carbon hydrogen infrastructures. ■



GNERC Georgia

Internal Projects

● Dr. Maia Melikidze, Chair of ERRA and chief strategic advisor to the Chairman of the **Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC)** was elected as the vice chairman of the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER). The election was held at the World Forum of Energy Regulation (WFER) in Lima, Peru.

● David Tvalabeshvili was elected as a member of the National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission of Georgia.

● The European Union-funded Twinning Project in the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) - "Green Energy Regulation in Georgia" was completed. The objective of the 4th project, "Green Energy Regulation in Georgia," which was funded by the European Union with 1,500,000 Euros, was to aid the development of renewable energies by aligning Georgia's existing regulatory framework for electricity and natural gas markets with the European Union standards. The duration of the project was 27 months, which was implemented by the Austrian Energy Regulatory Authority (E-Control) in cooperation with the German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA). The direct beneficiary of the project was the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC).

● The Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) has approved the activity report for 2022. The report describes in detail the state of the electricity, natural gas, and water supply sectors and the projects implemented for the purpose of development of regulation, the main directions and priorities of the GNERC's activities.

● A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission and the National Agency for Energy Regulation of the Republic of Moldova. The Memorandum will contribute to the integration of the energy market, the liberalization of energy trade and investment, and the creation of new opportunities for market participants. The parties will strengthen cooperation, and exchange information and experience on issues related to the electricity, natural gas, and water supply sectors.

● A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC), Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and Elizbar Eristavi Energy Training Centre. The Memorandum aims to share information and experience by the GNERC representatives on the basis of the Energy Training Centre, raising awareness in the field of energy among Zhvania school students, including citizens living in mountainous regions and ethnic/national minorities.

Significant Energy News

● The Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission has approved the rules for supplying irrigation water. The new regulatory act will regulate the relations between the primary water user - the supplier and the consumers related to the supply of irrigation water.

● Irrigation Water Supply Rules defined the obligations of suppliers and consumers, and established norms

that will ensure service conditions based on transparent and fair principles.

● There is a draft law being prepared to transpose the energy storage-related obligations of the Recast Electricity Directive into Georgian law. These amendments will require a regulatory impact assessment and are expected to be initiated in the next year.

● The Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) was granted the right to hold the largest energy forum in Georgia. GNERC will host the event in 2026. The World Forum on Energy Regulation has been held every three years since 2000 under the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER). ICER members include various organizations such as the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA). ■



MEKH Hungary

Internal Projects

● **20th ERRA Annual Conference in Budapest**

Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (MEKH) was the co-host of the anniversary conference held in Budapest in October 2023. MEKH President Ms. Edit Juhász gave an introductory speech at the event and the gala dinner was hosted by MEKH at the prestigious Royal Riding Hall.

The ERRA report "Energy Crisis and Regulatory Considerations" was presented during the conference. The paper shows an overview of short-term policy and regulatory measures adopted to address the energy crisis and also gives consideration of longer-

term policies and measures, including for electricity market design. The report was elaborated by Economic Consulting Associates (ECA) as part of ERRA's energy transition activity, to which MEKH granted financial support.

● Night of Power Plants

At the end of October MEKH organized the program called "Night of Power Plants" for the fourth time. The successful annual event is a one-night open event when anyone interested can visit power plants, heating facilities, water, and waste utilities participating in the campaign. In 2023 visitors could choose from 70 venues.

Significant Energy News

● MEKH Imposed a Fine due to the REMIT Breach

In June 2023 MEKH imposed an app. EUR 1.4 million fine on Croatian energy trader Prvo Plinarsko Drustvo (PPD) for market manipulation.

In the period between 17 and 26 January 2022, PPD participated in an auction for the allocation of capacity at the Mosonmagyaróvár border crossing point for the transport of natural gas from Austria to Hungary. The market operator bid continuously for the entire amount of capacity offered and left the auction without any capacity reservation. PPD gave a misleading indication of the demand for the capacity product during the auction and artificially fixed the price of the capacity product as a wholesale energy product.

The procedure carried out by MEKH concluded that PPD's conduct in the capacity auction violated the prohibition of market manipulation in REMIT. ■



State Department, Kyrgyz Republic

Recent Developments

● According to the **Department of the Fuel and Energy Complex Regulation under the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic** in pursuance of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Amendments to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Approval of the Medium-Term Tariff Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for Electricity for 2021-2025" dated September 30, 2021 No. 192" (hereinafter referred to as the SSTP) dated April 6, 2022 No. 199, the Department issued Order No. 79 "On Electricity Tariffs for End Consumers" dated April 29, 2023.

At the same time, this tariff policy provides for an annual adjustment to the actual inflation rate of the previous year.

Thus, from May 1, 2023, electricity tariffs for industrial and other consumers were adjusted by 13.9%, amounting to 287.0 tyiyn per 1 kWh.

It should be noted that according to the SSTP for thermal energy, from 2023, a gradual increase in the tariff for thermal energy by 10% and hot water by 14% per year is envisaged.

● In addition, in order to ensure sustainable development to ensure the stable and reliable functioning of the electric power industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as to increase the transparency of the calculation procedure for setting electricity tariffs, the methodology for electricity was approved by the order of the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the Methodology for determining electricity tariffs" dated October 6, 2023 No. 01-13/199.

Internal Projects

● From May 15 to 19, 2023, the USAID Power Central Asia Project held a workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on the topic "License Transfer as a Means of Ensuring Reliable Supply to Consumers".

● From 05 to 09 June 2023, within the framework of the Central Asian Energy Regulatory Partnership (CAERP) project, a seminar on the quality of electricity service to subscribers was held in Yerevan, Armenia.

● From 12 to 14 July 2023, within the framework of the project "Partnership for Energy Regulation in Central Asia (CAERP)" in Tbilisi, Georgia, a workshop was held on the topic: "Cost-Reflecting Tariffs for Vulnerable Consumers and Social Protection Measures in the Kyrgyz Republic".

● On September 5 and 7, 2023, within the framework of the Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM) project, a seminar was held on the topic "National Strategies for Participation in the Regional Electricity Market - CAREM".

Significant Energy News

● In pursuance of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated October 20, 2023 No. 635-r, Bishkek CHPP and Bishkekteploset OJSC were merged into one State Enterprise "Bishkek Center for Thermal Electric Systems".

● Also, by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the liquidation of OJSC "National Energy Holding Company" dated September 18, 2023 No. 482, OJSC "National Energy Holding Company" was liquidated. ■



PUC Latvia

Recent Developments

● **New Tariffs for the Captive Consumers of Gas**

According to **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Latvia**: As of July 1, electricity distribution and transmission rates increased by 32% and 36%, respectively, in Latvia. Last

year, the TSO (Augstsprieguma tīkls, AST) and the DSO (Sadales tīkls, ST) developed tariff projects. Initially, the transmission rates were expected to grow 2.1 times but distribution rates by 75%.

- To limit the risk of energy poverty, the changes pushed by the Ministry of Climate and Energy provide for a 60% reduction in fixed component charges for system service (electricity distribution and transmission). The amendments foresee that initially the fee reduction will be applied in the period from September 1 (the fee reduction would be applied in the October electricity bill) until December 31 (the last reduction in charges would be reflected in the January electricity bill).

- Law on Aid for Energy Costs is on its way which, in case electricity, natural gas, and heating prices exceed a certain threshold, will provide support for households with low and moderate-income during the heating season for 2023/2024 (from 1 October 2023 to 30 April 2024).

Energy Price Developments

According to data gathered by the PUC:

- the weighted average retail electricity price without taxes and system services in 2023 Q2 was 130.93 EUR/MWh for commercial consumers (-0.5% compared to 2022 Q2) and 170.50 EUR/MWh for households (+35% compared to 2022 Q2); (See *Figure 2*)

- the weighted average retail gas price without taxes and system services in 2023 Q2 was 61.78 EUR/MWh for commercial consumers (-20.4% compared to 2022 Q2) and 96.96 EUR/MWh for households (+73.17% compared to 2022 Q2). (See *Figure 3*)

Internal Projects

- PUC introduced a tradition of organizing visits to various utilities for

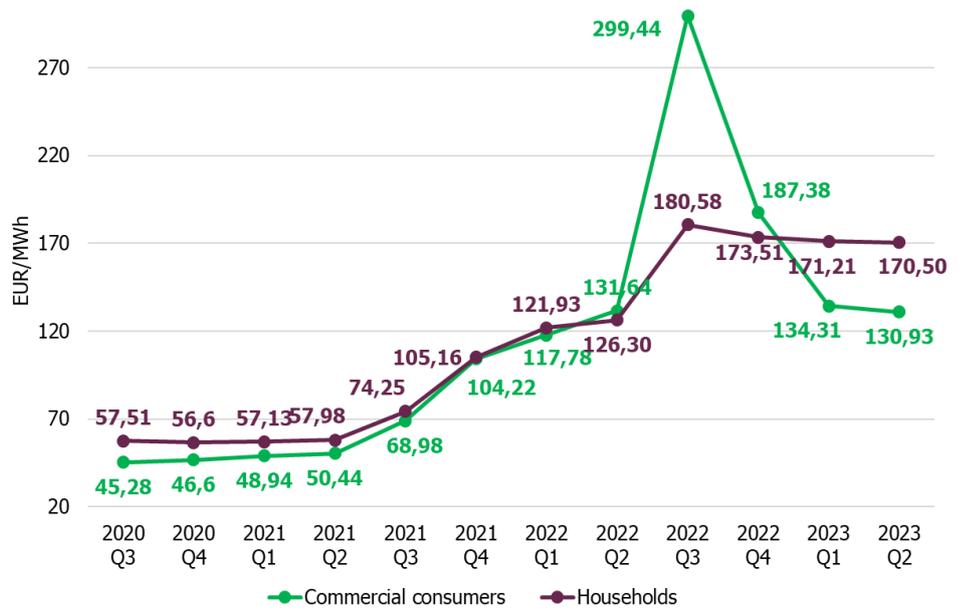


Figure 2. Weighted Average Retail Electricity Prices

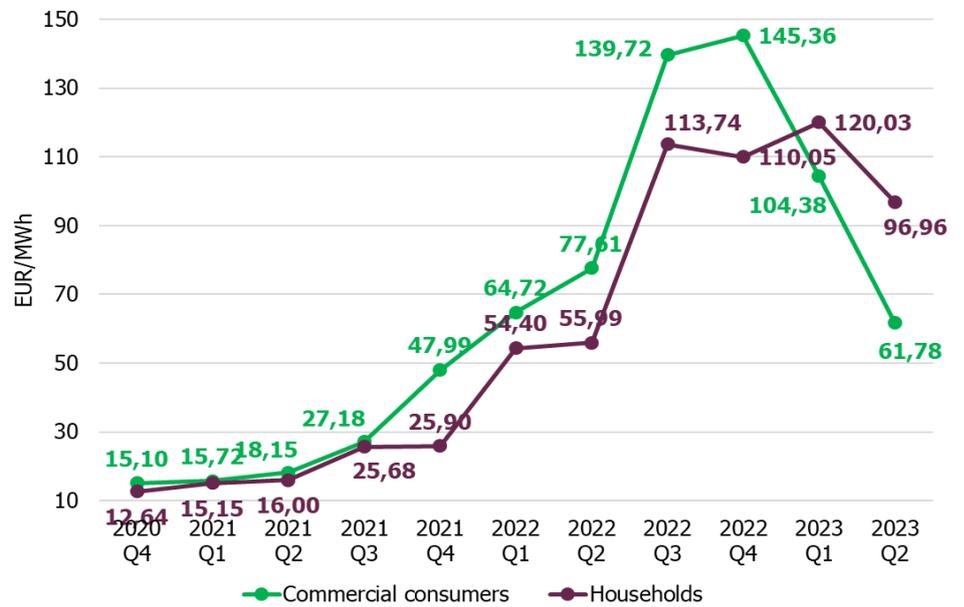


Figure 3. Weighted Average Retail Gas Prices

PUC experts who are not working directly with a specific sector. Experts are interested in these visits that facilitate an exchange of experience of experts of multi-sector regulators.

Thus, in April PUC organized a meeting with the gas TSO/Underground Gas Storage (UGS) Conexus Baltic Grid to find out more about how the Inčukalns UGS works, get acquainted with projects already implemented or planned within the modernization process of the gas storage. Conexus Baltic Grid is the only natural gas transportation and storage system operator in Latvia and enables certified traders to use the Latvian natural gas transportation system for

trading not only in Latvia but also in the nearest regions.

In October, PUC visited the “Rīgas siltums” heating plant “Zasulauks”. During the visit, it was possible to get acquainted with the biofuel boiler house, where wood chips are used to produce heat energy. The boiler house has been operating for ten years, its heat capacity is 20 MW, and its operation is ensured without the presence of permanent service personnel. It was also a chance to see the historic boiler house and chipper.

Significant Energy News

- Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian electricity TSOs Elering,

Augstsprieguma tīkls (AST), and Litgrid signed an agreement on August 1 to ensure the synchronization with the continental European network in February 2025. The Baltic States' electricity TSOs and the Gdańsk branch of the Polish Energy Institute conducted studies on the possibility of synchronization earlier than the previously set deadline of the end of 2025. Research results show that the electricity transmission systems of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia will be ready to safely disconnect from the Russian-controlled system and synchronize with continental Europe at the beginning of 2025.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● On August 8, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the amendments to the Electricity Market Law. Currently, discussions are ongoing on this draft law in the Parliament.

The amendments determine the expiration date of the operation of the electricity net metering system (NMS) and clarify the definition of "active user". in Latvia, households that produce electricity from renewable energy resources for their own consumption, for example, by installing solar panels, use electricity NMS. Households that are already using the NMS will be able to use it until February 28, 2029.

□ A household user who plans to install, for example, solar panels to produce electricity for his own needs this year, will be able to join the NMS until December 31, 2023. Joining the NMS is automatic. Users who are already using the NMS or will join it by the end of this year, can use it until February 28, 2029. From January 1, 2024, users who have not joined the NMS will be able to use the net payment system (NPS).

□ The new electricity NPS will be more based on market principles, and offer wider benefits to its users. Among the innovations will be the

possibility to consume the surplus electricity produced in one user facility of the NPS in another facility of the same user. CEER recommends the transition to market-based mechanisms to improve the flexibility of the system and promote interest in more active participation in the electricity market.

□ Within these amendments, the definition of an active user is clarified. It states that an active user is an end user who produces electricity for his own needs or for his own energy community and consumes at least 80% of the electricity he produces for his own needs in a 12-month period. During the 12-month period, the user can transfer the surplus of the generated electricity to the trader within the NPS, share, sell, or engage in flexibility services or energy efficiency schemes. The active user is not an energy trader. The transfer of surplus electricity produced by an active user to the trader is not considered an economic activity. ■

lower public electricity price caps for household consumers for the second half of 2023. (See Figure 4)

● **NERC approved tariffs of natural gas for household consumers from July 1, 2023**

Tariffs include the forecasted price of the natural gas product together with the price of the security of gas supply and the margin of natural gas supply - the price of the natural gas transmission service per quantity approved by NERC, as well as the price of the natural gas distribution service for the relevant subgroup and the security component. The amount of compensation, determined by the Government's resolution, for the part of the company's natural gas supply price related to natural gas acquisition costs is 0.63 EUR/m3 with VAT, or 0.521 EUR/m3 (without VAT). Tariffs of natural gas for household consumers decreased due to the lower price of natural gas imports. (See Figure 5)

● **NERC Ordered AB "Litgrid" to Take Measures to Promote the Development of the Derivatives Market**

NERC, in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1719 (hereinafter - Regulation) together with the Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate, prepared a Report on hedging opportunities of the electricity futures market in the

NERC Lithuania

Recent Developments

● **National Energy Regulatory Council (NERC) of Lithuania** in response to changes in the wholesale energy market and the forecasted lower market price of electricity, set

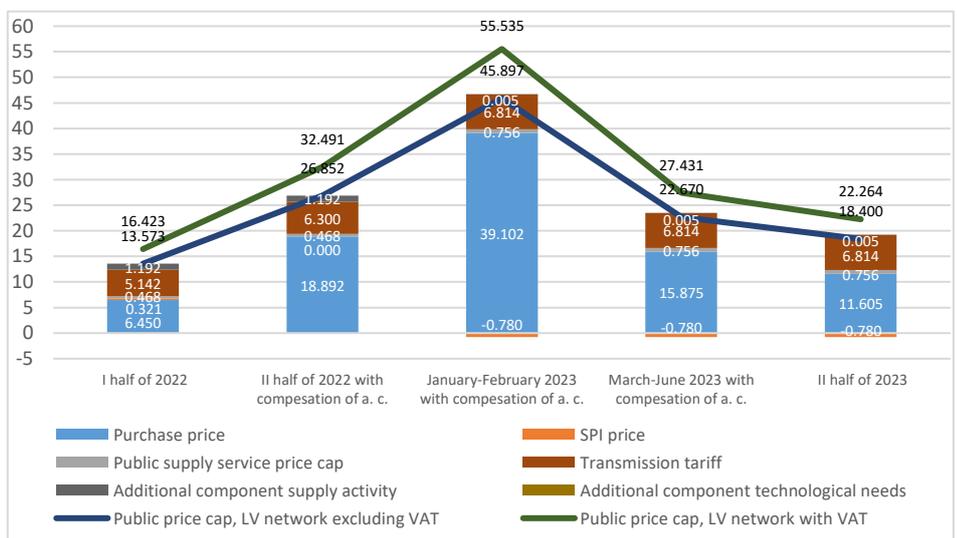


Figure 4. Public Electricity Price Caps

Group of household customers	Part of the tariff	2023 1 st half	2023 2 nd half	Variation, %
For users of 1 st subset Q ≤ 300 m ³	fixed part of the tariff, EUR/mo.	0.56	0.56	0
	variable part of the tariff, EUR/m ³	1.40	1.36	-2,86
For users of 2 nd subset 300 < Q ≤ 20 thous. m ³	fixed part of the tariff, EUR/mo.	3.99	3.99	0
	variable part of the tariff, EUR/m ³	0.92	0.87	-5,43
For users of 3 rd subset Q > 20 thous. m ³	fixed part of the tariff, EUR/mo.	3.99	3.99	0
	variable part of the tariff, EUR/m ³	0.88	0.83	-5,68

Figure 5. Natural Gas Tariffs for Household Customers (VAT included) in 2023

Lithuanian bidding zone and obliged the TSO AB "Litgrid" within the deadline set in Article 30 (6) of the Regulation to make sure that other long-term cross-zonal hedging products are made available to support the functioning of wholesale electricity markets as defined in the Regulation and thus promote the operation of wholesale electricity markets, without granting long-term transmission rights (Article 30 (1) of the Regulation). Implementation of the adopted decision should contribute to the development of the derivatives market and create opportunities for market participants to manage risks more effectively, which would indirectly have a positive impact on end users as well.

● **NERC Approved Changes to the Methodology for Determining the Fees and Rates for Connection to Natural Gas Systems.**

NERC supplemented it with provisions defining economically reasonable methods of calculating connection rates, aiming to ensure non-discriminatory connection conditions for household users, and that the calculation principles would eliminate one-off spikes in cost changes and fluctuations in connection rates. Substantial changes:

1. to assess the price cap of the prices or income of the past 5 years (instead of the current or next year's), which would allow to avoid fluctuations in connection rates;
2. the principles of calculation of connection rates for consumers whose length of the pipeline being

built is greater than 150 m are provided;

3. possibility for the natural gas distribution operator, upon submission of a reasoned request or if it has not connected a single new user in the last 4 quarters, to apply previously approved rates in effect is provided.

● **NERC Coordinated a Draft Amendment to the Rules on the Use of the AB „Enerģijos Skirstymo Operatorius“ Natural Gas Distribution System.**

Substantial changes:

1. established provisions related to the inspection of gas measuring devices;
2. provided changes regarding compliance with gas quality requirements;
3. amended provision on emergency energy situation and restriction of gas supply for consumers with uninterrupted natural gas supply regime;
4. the submission deadline of the service schedule has been revised taking into account the factual ongoing service schedule submission process (instead of the 15th the 23rd day of each month is provided);
5. in order to ensure uninterrupted gas supply to consumers, the procedure for mutual borrowing of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is regulated. The provision according to which, the delivery of the LNG cargo to the LNG distribution

station is taken care of by the operator in case the system user does not ensure the delivery of the LNG cargo, has been abandoned.

Internal Projects

● On September 28, 2023, an international meeting took place to celebrate the start of the TSI 2023 **Flagship technical support project on "Accelerating Permitting for Renewable Energy"** aimed at making the procedures for issuing permits for RES in Lithuania more efficient, contributing to the improvement of the investment climate and the implementation of RES development goals. The meeting was attended by representatives of the EC, OECD, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, NERC (the main institution implementing the project), the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation (institutions participating in the project), other institutions participating in the process of issuing RES permits, market participants.

Significant Energy News

● In September 2023, NERC revoked the permit to carry out electricity supply activities of UAB "EGTO energija", as the company did not ensure the amount of equity capital for the activity and no longer had a valid balancing service contract. UAB "EGTO energija" as an independent electricity supplier supplied electricity to 5,533 households and 1,859 commercial consumers.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● On 12 October 2023, NERC acknowledged that the successful bidder of the **tender for the use of the maritime area for the development and operation of renewable energy power plants** is UAB "Ignitis Renewables" and OW OFFSHORE, S.L., operating on a joint basis. The

winner of the tender offered a development fee of EUR 20 million for the development of offshore wind farms. It is expected that offshore wind farms will be built by 2030 and will produce about 3 TWh of electricity per year, which would provide up to a quarter of Lithuania's electricity needs and reduce the country's dependence on electricity imports. ■



ANRE Moldova

Recent Developments

● The Progress of Unbundling the TSOs in the Republic of Moldova

After several years of repeated attempts and amendments to the law, the Republic of Moldova has made significant progress in unbundling the transmission system operators (TSOs) in 2023.

In July 2023, the Moldovan energy regulator **National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE)** finally certified the transmission system operator state enterprise Moldelectrica, which operates the electric transmission networks and carries out the centralized management of the power system.

The TSO Moldelectrica was certified according to the model of Independent System Operator (ISO). This separation model provides that the enterprise that does not own the electric transmission networks can independently manage and operate the electric transmission networks. It allows vertically integrated enterprises or transmission network owners to retain ownership of assets while ensuring an effective separation of interests. The ISO can carry out all specific activities and allow an extensive mechanism of monitoring exercised by the regulatory authority.

Before issuing the final decision on certification, ANRE took into account the opinion of the Energy Community

Secretariat and implemented all the recommended measures. These measures included: the consolidation of the TSO's ability to make independent decisions related to investment planning, the approval by the Ministry of Energy (as the owner of the system) of a compliance program, the appointment of a compliance agent, and signed statements of impartiality from all state representatives that are members of the board of directors of state-owned suppliers and producers.

During 9 months, the Ministry of Energy shall strengthen the role of the State Secretary designated to exercise the role of the Ministry of Energy as the sole shareholder of the TSO Moldelectrica and introduce new selection procedures to appoint the next members of the board of directors of the TSO Moldelectrica, based on transparent and merit-based recruitment.

An important milestone for gas market liberalization was achieved in September 2023. As the TSO Moldovatrangaz, failed to comply with legal obligations to separate from the vertically integrated supplier Moldovagaz, in which Russia's Gazprom is the major shareholder, ANRE has imposed a 34 million MDL (1.8 million Euro) fine and withdrew its license.

ANRE has approved a 5 years Lease Agreement between Moldovatrangaz as the owner of natural gas transmission networks and TSO Vestmoldtrangaz, and on September 19 2023 has provisionally appointed TSO Vestmoldtrangaz responsible for the operation of all the natural gas transmission networks of the Republic of Moldova.

Unlike Moldovatrangaz, the TSO Vestmoldtrangaz passed the certification procedure under the property separation model on September 3, 2021. The TSO owns the Iasi-Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline.

The certification of TSO Vestmoldtrangaz according to the ISO model is expected to be done in the coming months.

Unbundling or separating the gas supply activities from the gas transportation activities is a mandatory requirement of the European Union's Third Energy Package. ■



ERC North Macedonia

Recent Developments

● In July 2023, the Parliament of North Macedonia appointed the **Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission (ERC)** President and 3 Board Members, each serving a five-year term. Mr. Marko Bislimoski was re-appointed as ERC President, bringing his experience and expertise to continue leading the organization. Joining him in this vital role, the Parliament also appointed Mr. Aleksandar Chebotarev, Mr. Faton Ambari, and Ms. Merita Dema as ERC Board Members. Moving forward to September 2023, the Parliament made another pivotal decision by approving an essential amendment to the ERC Statute. This amendment brought about a significant change in the official name of the institution, now known as the "Energy, Water Services and Municipal Waste Management Services Regulatory Commission of the Republic of North Macedonia." This alteration underscores the Commission's expanded regulatory responsibilities, which now encompass the critical realm of municipal waste management services, reflecting its commitment to comprehensive regulatory oversight in the Macedonian energy and environmental sectors.

● The ERC has achieved full harmonization of its secondary legislation with the REMIT Regulation,

which is applicable to Energy Community Contracting parties. Notably, the Rulebook on the Manner and Procedure for Monitoring the Functioning of Energy Markets was adopted in late April, and in July 2023, the Rulebook for Supervision was finalized. Furthermore, the ERC has exhibited its dedication to transparency and compliance by adopting and publishing the Guidance on the obligation to publicly disclose inside information, in alignment with ACER's REMIT regulation guidelines. Additionally, the National REMIT Register has been established and is accessible through the newly instituted web section dedicated to REMIT. This section offers a multitude of resources, including the national legal framework, the Procedural Act, ECRB's Guidelines on REMIT, relevant forms, and an FAQ section to address all REMIT-related inquiries.

- In June 2023, the ERC took a substantial step to improve its regulatory framework with the approval of updated Rules for Complaints Proceedings and Dispute Resolution. These revisions were made in line with the Energy Law Amendments from November 2022, broadening the Commission's jurisdiction to handle a wider array of issues and subjects eligible for complaints, including disconnection fees, district heating conditions, as well third-party access to pipeline for transport of oil derivatives. Furthermore, these updates brought greater clarity to the dispute resolution procedure, ensuring a smoother and more transparent process for all involved parties.

- In late June 2023, the ERC took a significant step by approving new decisions regarding regulated electricity prices, notably maintaining the average electricity prices for households with low consumption at their existing levels. Starting from July 1, 2023, another noteworthy change came into effect as the Value Added

Tax (VAT) for residential electricity supply reverted to 18%, after being temporarily set at 10% and, prior to that, 5% during the energy crisis that had persisted for the previous two years.

- Moving into July 2023, the ERC continued its commitment to enhancing the regulatory landscape by approving a new Tariff System for Electricity Supply by the Universal Supplier and Supplier of Last Resort, aligning with the Energy Law Amendments from November 2022. This new Tariff System is set to be implemented in December 2023 and represents a significant change as the ERC will no longer determine tariffs for these entities; instead, they will establish their own tariffs in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Tariff System. Nevertheless, the ERC will maintain its competence in setting tariffs for grid operators and market operators, ensuring fair and efficient pricing in these crucial areas.

- Between January and September 2023, the ERC demonstrated remarkable progress in the energy sector by awarding a total of 417 licenses for electricity generation, resulting in the addition of a substantial 310.5 MW of newly installed capacity. This significant growth was primarily observed in PV plants. ■



PERC Palestine

Recent Developments

- **Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council (PERC)** is issuing a complementary regulation for the licensing of electric vehicle charging stations.

Internal Projects

- Workshops:
 - RE PPA Reform in Palestine
 - RE with Storage System

- RE Self-Consumption Systems
- DSM for Utility-Scale Systems. ■



URE Poland

Internal Projects

- **Head Office of URE in a New Location**

From 1 September, the head office of the **Energy Regulatory Office (URE) of Poland** is located at 25a Towarowa Street in Warsaw.

- **Knowledge Academy of URE**

At URE, they have professional trainings for all URE employees conducted by our colleagues and external organizations. This internal initiative allows staff to develop the knowledge needed to work for URE. Monthly training sessions are devoted to various aspects of the regulator's activities and/or new trends in the energy sector. They are open to all URE's employees. Then, all training materials are available for all employees in the virtual library.

Recent most interesting training courses covered:

1. The most important changes to the new Energy Law Act.
2. Effective Transformation Charter – presentation for employees.
3. Energy for the economy and hydrogen

It was another anniversary project, realized on the occasion of Children's Day.

Significant Energy News

- **On April 11**, The President of URE approved the operational rules of the Energy Market Information Operator. The rules, which were approved for the first time, specify the way the Central Energy Market Information System (CSIRE) operates and the rules

of cooperation between the TSO and the entities that will use the system.

● **May 12** - The President of URE approved an **incremental capacity project for the Poland-Ukraine interconnections** (direction from Poland to Ukraine). The solutions provided in the project proposal had been consulted with the Ukrainian regulator, the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (NEURC). The relevant capacity at the level of 3,095,890 kWh/h/y will be made available to the market as of the 2030/2031 gas year and will be offered in a yearly capacity auction for a period of 15 years.

● **October 17** - The President of URE approved the gas storage code for the SSO - Gas Storage Poland. The code defines, among other things, the procedures for storage contracting, provision, and allocation of storage capacity. The current code is the first Storage Code approved by the regulator - the relevant obligation to submit the storage code for the regulator's approval was introduced into Polish law in 2021.

● **Liquid fuels market - The fuel platform was launched on 1 July** - an electronic reporting system for traders operating in the liquid fuels market. A new ICT system operated by the Governmental Agency for Strategic Reserves (RARS) is expected to help tighten up fuel trading and simplify reporting. The scope and timing of reporting will remain unchanged.

● **Procedures and deadlines were changed - 1 July 2023**, an epidemic emergency has no longer been in effect in our country. Following the revocation of the emergency, the administration is returning to its standard pre-pandemic procedures in handling cases.

● **Electricity Market - September 27** - The President of URE approved the Balancing Conditions prepared by the transmission system operator. The

decision will enter into force on June 14, 2024, in order to allow all market participants to adapt to changes. The decision is a continuation of the balancing market reform, which Poland has to prepare, as a country using a mechanism to ensure power adequacy in the form of the capacity market.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● **The Significant Amendment to the Energy Law Entered into Force on 7 September**

The Act introduces several market-oriented and pro-consumer solutions that will make the Polish energy market more competitive and open to the changes, which the energy industry is undergoing at the time of transformation.

It implements several European acts in the field of energy into the Polish legal order, including the Electricity Directive. Some of the provisions concerning the extension of the powers of the President of URE and related to the need for the operation of the Central Energy Market Information System (CSIRE) will enter into force at later dates.

Main Changes:

- ☐ Direct line - connecting electricity generators and consumers bypassing the distribution network;
- ☐ Price comparison tool - for household and micro-consumers Direct;
- ☐ Citizen Energy Community (OSE) - a way to reduce energy costs (August 2024);
- ☐ The right (for consumers) to enter into contracts with dynamic electricity prices with any that serves more than 200,000 customers - August 2024;
- ☐ Supplier switching in 24 hours;

☐ A new model for electricity backup supply - simplified procedure for starting backup supply while increasing customer protection;

☐ The obligation to conclude only comprehensive agreements with consumers of gaseous fuel or electricity in households;

☐ Regulatory sandboxes - a secure legal space for testing and implementing new technologies, products, and models of cooperation among systems users.

President of URE Competences:

☐ Setting the direction of network development and implementation of priority investments;

☐ The possibility of refusing to grant a license to any who does not provide a guarantee of the proper performance of the licensed activity;

☐ Market participants will not be able to deny mediation with the Negotiation Coordinator (ADR body). Until now participation in pre-court proceedings has been voluntary for both parties, which meant that energy companies often refused to mediate.

● **October 1, 2023 - Amendment of the RES Act** implements into Polish law another part of the RED II Directive concerning support for RES, both on the electricity market and the heat market. The amended act also covers new solutions for distributed generation, regulations for renewable hydrogen and cooling, and additional duties for the President of URE.

Some of the solutions in terms of support system (support for modernized units, operational support, clusters) are conditional on either a positive state aid decision of the Commission or the Commission's acknowledgment that the changes to the regulations do not constitute new state aid.

Support for Modernized RES Installations.

- ❑ a new, broader definition of the modernization of a RES installation
- ❑ modernized installations using different types of biogas, hydropower, or biomass will be covered by the FIT support scheme (RES installations with a total installed electrical capacity of less than 500 kW) and the FIP support scheme (RES installations with a total installed electrical capacity of not less than 500 kW and not more than 1 MW)
- ❑ the duration of support and its level for modernized installations are linked to the amount of capital expenditure incurred on the modernization.

Operational support – A New Support for RES Installations Whose Support Period Has Expired.

- ❑ for installations with an installed electrical capacity of 1 MW or less, using different types of biogas, hydropower, or biomass, a market price subsidy scheme (similar to the FIP mechanism currently in place) has been designed. Operational support under this scheme is foreseen for a maximum of 10 years from the date of the first day of sale of electricity, but no longer than until 31 December 2034
- ❑ for installations with a total installed electrical capacity of more than 1 MW, using various types of biogas, hydropower, and biomass, including hybrid systems, biomass co-firing in dedicated multi-fuel combustion installations, and thermal waste conversion installations for high-efficiency cogeneration – the possibility to enter an auction for operational support has been foreseen. The winner will be supported for one year after winning the auction, after which they will be eligible to re-enter the

next auction. The maximum period of support will also last no longer than 31 December 2034.

Biomethane – A New Type of Gaseous Fuel. Support Scheme for Generators.

- ❑ the support scheme dedicated to biomethane producers involves a market price subsidy framework modeled on the FIP scheme, and a certificate from the President of URE has to be obtained to receive the support. The period of support under this scheme is 20 years from the first day of sale of the biomethane covered by the support scheme, but no longer than until 30 June 2048.

Energy Clusters.

- ❑ a modification of the definition of an energy cluster to accelerate the development of this form of distributed energy
- ❑ support for energy clusters in the form of discounts for distribution rates, fees under support schemes for RES, high-efficiency cogeneration, and energy efficiency was introduced. In order to benefit from these discounts, registration in the cluster register kept by the President of URE is necessary.

Guarantees of Origin also for Biomethane, Heat, Cooling, Renewable Hydrogen And Biogas.

- ❑ the catalog of guarantees of origin issued by the President of URE has been extended to include guarantees issued for biomethane, heat or cooling, renewable hydrogen, biogas, and farm biogas.
- ❑ new tasks have also been introduced for the operator of the Guarantees of Origin Register (currently the Polish Power Exchange – TGE) regarding the development and publication on its website of information on the so-called annual residual mix.

Cable Pooling.

- ❑ the possibility of sharing connection infrastructure was regulated. It consists in using the secured transmission capacity, e.g. for a previously developed wind farm, to run a photovoltaic plant at the same location (via the same connection). Importantly, the new infrastructure may belong to the same or different investors.
- ❑ the amendment provides for cable pooling among the beneficiaries of the auction support scheme and the FIT/FIP schemes, provided that the generator at the plant planned for connection does not benefit, nor will benefit, from any mechanism supporting electricity generation from renewable sources provided for in the RES Act. ■



ANRE Romania

Recent Developments

- Starting from April 23, 2023, *Mr. George-Sergiu Niculescu* was appointed by the Parliament as **Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE)** president and *Mr. Gabriel Andronache* took over the position of vice-president of ANRE.
- In April 2023, ANRE approved Order no. 63/2023 regarding the Rules necessary for the adoption of the Hydrogen Code. The order ensures the basic guidelines for the development of the Natural Gas Distribution System Transformation Plan and aims to plan natural gas systems conversion areas/distribution systems that can operate for a period with a mixture of natural gas and hydrogen, hydrogen or natural gas.
- The performance of the virtual assistant Eva has been improved considerably - ANRE has integrated the virtual assistant Eva for the use of the online platform for changing the

supplier of electricity and natural gas at the national level (POSF) with CHATGPT, provided by the famous OpenAI platform.

- ANRE issued, in July, the Order no. 78/04.07.2023 for the amendment of the Regulation on the operation of the centralized market for electricity from renewable sources supported by green certificates, approved by the Order of the President of the National Energy Regulatory Authority no. 160/2019.

- In September, ANRE completed the operationalization and digitization process of the Natural Gas Market Reporting and Monitoring Platform. The platform, exclusively developed on internal resources, represents a significant step in the direction of increasing and monitoring the transparency and efficiency of the energy sector in Romania, it demonstrates the Authority's commitment to providing innovative digital solutions for the natural gas market and to support the monitoring and reporting process, thus facilitating the communication with the operators and with the centralized market administrators.

- ANRE issued Order no. 95/2023 supplementing the General Conditions associated with the license for aggregation activity, approved by ANRE Order no. 196/2020. The new provisions support electricity producers, final electricity customers, and owners of electricity storage facilities that associate with aggregate entities, increasing the flexibility of the energy system and encouraging electricity producers to collaborate and supply energy collectively.

Internal Projects

- In June ANRE the meetings for ACER-AEWG, CACM, and FCA task forces.

- Participation in the fourth plenary meeting of the CA-RES4 European Project – Green Deal - main objectives

supporting the transposition and the implementation of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources by creating and strengthening a network of experts with the aim of sharing their knowledge and experience gained through common approaches to enable stronger coordination between participating countries.

- In September, ANRE attended the Romanian Energy Symposium - SIREN 2023 organized by the Romanian National Committee of the World Energy Council (CNR-CME).

- ANRE's staff participated in some training programs organized by CEER, ERRA, and Florence School of Regulation.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

- Considering the European decarbonization targets and requirements, ANRE, as mentioned above, issued order no. 63/2023 setting out the rules for the Hydrogen Code adoption. Also, ANRE continuously issues, amends and supplements the regulations regarding renewable sources in order to ensure flexibility and openness for the progress in this area, for example, the regulation for issuing green certificates, the regulation for organization and operation of the certificate market green, the methodology for establishing the mandatory annual quota for the purchase of green certificates (Orders no. 56-59/2023), the regulation on the functioning of the market centralized for electricity from sources renewables supported by green certificates – Order no. 78/2023. ■



AERS Serbia

Recent Developments

- **APRIL 1 2023** - On the session held on April 20, 2023, the Council of the

Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS) has adopted a decision on the approval of the Oil Transportation System Network Code of TRANSNAFTA AD Pančevo. The main reason for the adoption of the Code is the harmonization with new legal framework, i.e. regulations which were adopted in the meantime or amended in the fields of environment and fire protection.

- **September 21, 2023** - The Council of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia on the session held on September 21, 2023. gave consent to the decisions of the management bodies of 31 public suppliers on the new prices of natural gas for public supply, which will be applied starting from November 1, 2023. The average price of natural gas for all customers who have the right to public supply at regulated prices is higher by 10.0%.

- **September 28, 2023** - On the session held on September 28, 2023, the Council of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia gave consent to the decision on the price of electricity for guaranteed supply, which will be applied starting November 1, 2023. The average price of electricity for customers who have the right to guaranteed supply at regulated prices (households and small customers), amounts to 14.29 din/kWh with taxes and fees and is higher than the existing average price by 8%.

Internal Projects

- **May 29-30, 2023** - Balkan Energy School (BES) virtual seminar on electricity balancing.

- **May 29 - June 03, 2023** - GiZ Study RES Tour in Germany.

- **September 13-14, 2023** - Balkan Energy School (BES) seminar on FCA (Forward Capacity Allocation).

- **September 26, 2023** - Workshop on the Study on the 70% target for electricity interconnection capacities to be made available to market participants.

● **October 04, 2023** - Trilateral CEER-ECRB-MEDREG customer workshop.

Significant Energy News

● **June 15, 2023** - At the session held on June 15, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Plan for the development of energy infrastructure and energy efficiency measures for the period until 2028, with projections until 2030, which defines goals in all areas of energy: electricity production, transmission, and distribution network, gas and oil sectors, energy efficiency, as well as assumptions for their fulfillment. that produce electricity from renewable energy sources (wind and solar) with a total installed capacity of 2 GW.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● **September 28, 2023** - At the session held on September 28, the Government of Serbia adopted the Regulation on the conditions of delivery and supply of electricity. The regulation, among other things, defines the conditions for issuing approval for connection to the transmission or distribution system. Considering more than 20 GW of requests from wind power plants and solar power plants in the connection process with the EMS transmission system operator, it is expected that the new regulation will bring order to the system. ■



ÚRSO Slovakia

Recent Developments

● In the context of the ongoing structural changes in Slovakia's energy sector and also reflecting the requirements of the EU Clean Energy Package, the **country's centralized Energy Data Center (EDC)** went operational as of 2 October 2023 in an initial, limited form. The project is coordinated by OKTE, Slovakia's electricity short-

term market operator. EDC is intended to simplify and accelerate the exchange of data flows between electricity market participants, including completely new entities such as the active customer/prosumer, flexibility aggregator, electricity storage facility operator, or energy community. The new electronic platform enables new activities and new actors to enter the energy market and is also intended to allow end consumers to access their electricity consumption data quickly and efficiently. ÚRSO as the national regulator will also be able to retrieve data from the EDC for the purposes of regulatory oversight. Full implementation of EDC is set for 1 July 2024.

Internal Projects

● A project is ongoing in **Regulatory Office for Network Industries (ÚRSO) of Slovakia** based on the national requirements for the **optimization of administrative burden in state administration** (G2G, G2B, and G2C) aimed at the digitalization of processes via the creation of an analytical database, digitalization and streamlining of data collection, automatization of the process of checking eligibility for receiving financial support for producers of electricity from renewable sources, and generation of relevant data sources. The main goal is to reduce the administrative burden of state institutions but also towards consumers and businesses.

This project is interlinked also with another part of the project and relates to the implementation of cybersecurity - **"Expanding the competence of ÚRSO in the field of information and cyber security"**. Another goal is ensuring compliance of ÚRSO's information systems operation with the requirements of national laws no. 95/2019 Coll. and no. 69/2018 Coll. which are also in line

with European NIS1 and NIS2 directives.

● Under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project **"Structural reform of the regulatory framework"**, a **working visit aiming at the exchange of best practices with Spanish regulatory authority** - the Commission for National Markets and Economic Competition (CNMC) took place in Madrid under the leadership of CNMC. Current developments in the energy market still bring great uncertainty not only in Slovakia but also in the entire EU. It concerns not only the area of price volatility but also the security of supply. The visit was aimed at exchanging mutual experiences on topics such as connecting new resources to the network, increased protection of the final consumer, or resource adequacy in the implementation of market surveillance, but also the process of implementing the requirements of the Clean Energy Package into Slovak legislation, as well as the discussion on the upcoming revision to Regulation (EU) 1227/2011 on the integrity and transparency of the wholesale energy market (REMIT).

Significant Energy News

● **Slovenské elektrárne (SE) completed the power start-up of Unit 3 of the Mochovce nuclear power plant (NPP)** with a final 144-hour test at 100% of the reactor's capacity. The start-up of the reactor began in September last year with the loading of the first fuel assemblies into the reactor. At the end of January, the unit was connected to the grid for the first time and started to supply electricity. After a gradual increase in power, the unit reached 100% of its rated power on 22 September 2023.

The new nuclear unit in Mochovce has a capacity of 471 MW, which will cover approximately 13% of the country's total electricity consumption. In terms of electricity generation, Slovakia has thus become energy self-sufficient

already this year. The lifetime of the new unit is planned to be at least 60 years.

The fourth unit of Mochovce NPP is foreseen to be operational in 2024. The state has a 34% stake in Slovenské elektrárne.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● As of July 2023, **URSO adopted new market rules for electricity as secondary national legislation**. The reason for the development of the new market rules was primarily the amendment of the two cornerstones of the primary energy legislation - Act on Regulation in Network Industries and Act on Energy, which took effect in October 2022 and transposed the requirements of the EU Clean Energy Package (CEP). That needed to be also reflected in the secondary legislation, which also took into account the changes and needs arising from the application practice. Moreover, compared to the previous legislation considering the specific aspects of both markets, URSO divided the original Decree (market rules) for electricity and gas into two separate regulations, the electricity market rules and the gas market rules. The electricity market rules set forth conditions for the introduction of new activities and new actors (e.g. energy communities) on the market arising from CEP. ■



EMRA Türkiye

Recent Developments

● For Türkiye's third FSRU terminal, BOTAŞ Saros FSRU, the **Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) of Türkiye** granted a storage license to BOTAŞ in April 2023, and the Procedures and Principles for the use of this terminal were approved by the EMRA Board in April. Türkiye's first FSRU terminal was put into service in 2017, the second FSRU terminal was

put into service in 2018, and the start of the operation of the Saros FSRU terminal plays an important role in increasing Türkiye's gas storage capacity and contributing to the security of supply.

● With the amendment to the By-Law for Unlicensed Electricity Generation in July 2023, it has been regulated that unlicensed electricity generation applications will be received electronically.

Significant Energy News

● In April 2023, amendments were made to the provisions of the Natural Gas Market Law No. 4646 regarding transmission tariffs and long-term natural gas import activities and export activities.

● "Procedures and Principles Regarding the Use of Natural Gas Export Exit Points" were approved by the EMRA Board and entered into force in April 2023. The regulation in question aims to carry out natural gas export activities in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner between equal parties.

● In August 2023, the Regulation on Measures Concerning Natural Gas Market Distribution Licenses was adopted by EMRA. With this regulation, provisions are determined regarding the detection of situations that may prevent the continuous and quality supply of natural gas to consumers in advance, and taking

distribution service and to protect consumers.

● With the exploration that started in August 2020, a total of 710 billion m³ of natural gas reserves were discovered in the "Sakarya" Gas Field in the Black Sea, Türkiye. Following these discoveries, Black Sea gas was delivered to the land for the first time in April 2023, and it began to be actually used in August 2023. The Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) will also play an important role in providing domestic natural gas to consumers in the most economical way by carrying out the necessary licensing and regulation studies. This discovery is rather important for Türkiye because Türkiye's ultimate aim is to be a regional natural gas hub and Türkiye may find the opportunity to use its own gas in this hub.

● The amendment to the Electricity Market Law in July 2022, and the corresponding changes in secondary legislation in November 2022, gave investors the right to apply for the construction of electricity storage units integrated with wind or solar power plants without having to participate in the capacity allocation auction or conduct wind or solar measurement. In this context, applications have been received by EMRA since November 2022, and the current number of applications received and the number of pre-licenses given are listed in the picture below. (See Figure 6)

	Number	Installed Capacity (MWe)
Stored Solar Power Plant Applications	4.085	133.702
Stored Wind Power Plant Applications	1.883	126.729
Stored Solar Power Plant Pre-Licenses	245	10.748
Stored Wind Power Plant Pre-Licenses	169	11.800
Total Applications	5.968	260.431
Total Pre-Licenses	414	22.548

Figure 6. The Current Number of Applications Received & Number of Pre-licenses given by EMRA

measures such as cancellation of the distribution license and transfer of the network in order to prevent the disruption of the natural gas

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

● **EV Charging Services**

In terms of e-mobility activities, as of October 2023, 143 companies have been granted charging network operator licenses. License applications and licensing activities continue. Since July 2023, the number of charging stations across Türkiye has increased from 3.155 to 4.823 and the number of charging points (sockets) has increased from 6.326 to 10.114.

With the amendment to the Charging Service Regulation in August 2023, definitions of "green charging station" and "YEK-G" were added to the Charging Service Regulation. YEK-G system is a Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin System designed to monitor all processes of the generated electricity from the producer to the consumer by utilizing blockchain technology. The system is operated by Turkish electricity market operator, EPIAŞ. Charging network operators can designate all or some of their charging stations in their charging network as green, as long as they purchase YEK-G certificates guaranteeing electricity supplied to EVs in their charging stations has been generated through renewable energy resources. In this context, the legislative basis for creating a synergy between the EV ecosystem and the YEK-G system has been completed.

● Digital Transformation

EMRA believes that digitalization has a pivotal role in advancing the energy transition. To this end, a dedicated group known as the Digital Transformation Group works within the Energy Transition Department and tracks global developments and best practices and disseminates them to other EMRA departments through a monthly bulletin. To date, 21 issues have been released. Digital Transformation Group plans to continue the monthly bulletin.

Furthermore, "Glossary of Digital Transformation in Energy" has been published in order to ensure linguistic unity in this field. This glossary encompasses fundamental energy

terminologies, alongside contemporary themes of digital transformation, including cloud computing, cyber security, blockchain, artificial intelligence, big data, data analytics, the internet of things, and quantum computing.

In addition, EMRA promotes the use of digital technologies in regulated companies. Digital technologies are among the priorities in electricity and natural gas distribution companies whose research and development projects are approved by EMRA.

● R&D Developments

In October 2023, the 2nd R&D Dissemination Workshop was held with the participation of EMRA's R&D Commission and electricity distribution companies. In this workshop, the completed R&D projects were introduced for use in the electricity network. After the project presentations, memorial gifts were presented to successful projects and it was aimed to increase the motivation in R&D studies in Türkiye. ■



Recent Developments

● **Abu Dhabi Department of Energy (DoE) released on 13 June 2023 the Second Regulatory Control (RC2)**, establishing the maximum revenue limits that transmission and distribution network companies operating in the water, electricity, recycled water, and wastewater sectors can generate during the period spanning 2023 to 2026.

The controls outline the maximum allowed revenues and individual allowed profit margins for the network companies, restricting them to generating a maximum revenue of AED50 billion from January 2023 to December 2026. Over the next four years, an estimated investment of AED16.2 billion is projected for the development of the sector's

infrastructure. Agreements on investment levels are also made to achieve the desired goals while maintaining the predetermined and essential cost levels for business operations.

The main objectives of the newly implemented controls are to protect customer interests by ensuring the security of supplies, accommodating the ongoing growth of the sector, providing top-of-the-line services, and safeguarding investor interests by offering a reasonable return on infrastructure investments, and financially and technically feasible projects.

Moreover, the controls aim to fulfill the Abu Dhabi Government's goals of mitigating carbon emissions, fostering sustainability, facilitating the transformation of the energy sector, improving the regulatory framework for companies, and continuously enhancing performance, while also ensuring companies' ability to fund their operational and capital endeavors.

● DoE has announced that it aims to implement Demand Side Management Regulations

These Regulations form a comprehensive framework for designing, implementing, and evaluating energy and water efficiency initiatives related to demand-side management. They aim to achieve bigger energy and water savings, load distribution, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, peak reduction, and reduction in government subsidy to customer electricity and water bills, while simultaneously enhancing customers' comfort, health, and safety.

DOE continues to update and expand the Abu Dhabi Demand Side Management and Energy Rationalization Strategy (DSM) 2030. The strategy aims to balance supply and demand in the energy sector to secure significant economic and environmental gains, ensure the

stability of the energy demand ecosystem, and the sustainability of its sources in the Emirate.

The new Regulations will also support future plans and projects of the supply side, by postponing or avoiding the need for investments in generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, in addition to reducing losses in the transmission and distribution network.

As part of the planning phase, DoE will issue the DSM Plan Guidelines every year. These guidelines will highlight the key focus areas and priorities that need to be captured by relevant stakeholders who shall develop and submit their DSM Plan to DoE for approval.

Internal Projects

- The Department of Energy (DoE) organized Awareness Workshops on Energy and Water Conservation (In coordination with the Family Development Foundation (FDF)).
- The Abu Dhabi Gas Safety Committee at the DoE organized a series of workshops under the theme "Ensuring Safe Gas Supplies and Applications."
- DoE organized a workshop to update the Abu Dhabi Demand Side Management and Energy Rationalization Strategy 2030.
- DoE Organized its first workshop in 2023 on Energy Efficiency Policy for Government Entities in Abu Dhabi.

Significant Energy News

- World Utilities Congress 2023 was held on 8-10 May 2023 in Abu Dhabi.

Developments in Energy Transition process since July 2023

- The UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) will take place in UAE from 30 November until 12 December 2023. For more details, please see the following website: <https://www.cop28.com/en/>.

- For more information on regulatory developments, news, and projects, please see the following website: <https://www.doe.gov.ae/Media-Centre/News>. ■

NEURC Ukraine

Recent Developments

- According to the **National Energy and Utilities Regulatory (NEURC) of Ukraine**, the electricity price for households is fixed by a PSO mechanism. Since June the Government almost doubled the price for households to the level of 7.2 euro cents per kilowatt hour (with VAT). Such an increase should improve the financial standing of the state-owned generation performing public service obligations. And this is the first step to the gradual phaseout of the household PSO.

As regards wholesale market segments, in the light of price volatility on the day-ahead, intraday, and balancing market since the end of June 2023 the Regulator increased price caps.

- The Regulator made a decision on a two-stage increase of tariffs for DSOs. In the first stage, tariffs were raised by an average of 20%, in the second stage, from July 1, tariffs will be raised by another 20%.
- NEURC initiated the strengthening of measures to protect vulnerable electricity consumers by:

- definition of categories of vulnerable consumers based on certain characteristics;
- introduction of mechanisms for calculation, monitoring, and control of consumers' pertinence to the vulnerable category;
- special measures to protect vulnerable consumers from power outages in order to meet the needs of such consumers in electricity during certain periods.

The Regulator has developed a respective draft Procedure for vulnerable consumers' protection of the CMU, which has been sent to the Government for consideration.

Significant Energy News

● REMIT Law

In July the Law was adopted implementing provisions of REMIT Regulation. This law basically closed the legal gap that did not allow the Regulator to implement REMIT due to lack of such powers. It introduced the term insider information, and market manipulations and empowered NEURC to investigate fraud and sanction the violators.

The Law provides for gradual stages of REMIT implementation. During the first stage, until April 2024, the Regulator will be developing the secondary legislation. 7 legal acts are to be developed in total. Three of those have already been approved for public consultation by the Regulator.

During the next stage, until July 2024, the insider information platforms and data transfer from RRM's will start to operate.

Persons professionally arranging transactions with wholesale energy products will have to launch surveillance systems to detect abuses in the wholesale energy market until January 2025.

Thus, REMIT will become fully operational in Ukraine in 2025. The key feature of the Ukrainian REMIT Law is that the Regulator will de facto perform not only investigations of infringements, but it will also perform ACER's functions of collecting data from Ukrainian RRM's and PPATs to monitor the market and detect manipulations and infringements.

● The Green Transformation Law

Another important event in Ukraine in July was the adoption of the Law on green transformation of the Ukrainian energy system, which also implements

a number of provisions from the EU Clean Energy Package.

This Law covers a lot of challenges and issues of the renewable energy sector of Ukraine and introduces new terms and mechanisms, such as prosumers and application of NET billing.

It also introduces a feed-in premium mechanism for stimulating renewables instead of green tariffs.

Also, the Law introduces the system of the guarantees of origin of electricity generated from renewables

NEURC was designated an issuing body that is responsible for setting up a public register of the guarantees of origin, which will be launched starting the next year.

- The government has approved the Energy Strategy of Ukraine until 2050, which is based on the development of modern and safe nuclear generation, renewable energy sources, modernization, and automation of transmission and distribution systems.

- On April 07, NEURC adopted a final decision on the certification of the gas storage operator. ■



NARUC USA

Recent Developments

- **New Report Explores Benefits of Clean Energy Microgrids for Consideration by State Energy Offices and Regulators** (June 21, 2023)

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) of the USA and the National Association of State Energy Officials released a [report](#), *Clean Energy Microgrids:*

Considerations for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions to Increase Resilience, Reduce Emissions, and Improve Affordability, which discusses the potential benefits of clean energy microgrids for states.

- **New Report Explores Federal, State Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Regulation** (June 28, 2023)

NARUC released a [new report](#) authored by Public Sector Consultants, *Onshore U.S. Carbon Pipeline Deployment: Siting, Safety, and Regulation*, that explores barriers and opportunities for the deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technology.

- **Advancing Women Leaders in Energy (AWLE) Guide to Mentoring** (July 6, 2023)

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Advancing Women Leaders in Energy (AWLE) project focuses on mid-career training, human resource policies, internships, mentoring, and the creation of women in energy associations in the Europe and Eurasia region. Currently, NARUC is in the process of institutionalizing mentoring programs that involve mid- and senior management-level staff and is working with interested regulatory authorities to set up mentoring programs within their commissions. The [AWLE Guide to Mentoring](#) complements these programs.

- **Guidelines on Regulatory Accounting for the Central Asian Context** (July 18, 2023)

With support from USAID, NARUC produced a set of [four guidelines](#) on regulatory accounting for the context

of Central Asian energy sectors. By improving their capacity to evaluate the true costs of providing service, regulators, and decision-makers can gain a better sense of what measures could be taken to address a financing shortfall in the energy sector.

- **New NARUC-NASEO Joint Report Provides Microgrid Framework for Public Utility Commissions and State Energy Offices** (August 21, 2023)

NARUC and the National Association of State Energy Officials released a [report](#), *State Microgrid Policy, Programmatic, and Regulatory Framework*, that is a resource for public utility commissions and State Energy Offices as they develop policies, regulations, and programs to support microgrids.

- **NASEO and NARUC Release Solar Cybersecurity Toolkit for States** (October 2, 2023)

The National Association of State Energy Officials and NARUC, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, released the [Cybersecurity Advisory Team for State Solar \(CATSS\) Toolkit](#). The CATSS Toolkit provides State Energy Offices and public utility commissions with actionable information on cybersecurity for solar power and supports state cybersecurity enhancements for solar and other distributed energy resources. ■

The Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) is an inter-institutional non-profit organisation unified by the shared goal of its regulatory members to improve energy regulation. ERRA's focus is to bring together effective energy regulators with the necessary autonomy and authority to make positive change. ERRA is widely seen as an example of a highly successful regional association and is recognized as an important international institution in facilitating the advancement of regulatory policy.

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