

PRESS RELEASE

Dutch, Belgian and French energy regulators launch a consultation on regional electricity market integration

TUESDAY 5 JULY - THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, PARIS. In order to facilitate regional market integration between the wholesale electricity markets of The Netherlands, Belgium and France, the energy regulators DTe, CREG and CRE have launched a joint consultation document. Integration of electricity markets can improve liquidity, security of supply and price stability for the three countries. The objective of regional market integration is maximum availability of cross-border capacity and efficient cross-border trade, to the benefit of Dutch, Belgian and French consumers.

The consultation document covers a wide range of issues, for example trading of cross-border capacity, market transparency, market power and cooperation between regulators. The consultation takes into account the differences in design and rules of the three markets.

The DTe, CREG and CRE invite relevant market parties to send in their answers, observations, commentaries or recommendations on these important issues, preferably in English and no later than Monday 5 September 2005. The market parties' contributions will help the three regulators to define a common approach for the progressive regional integration of the three markets.

This common approach, planned for October 2005, will result in a joint synthesis of contributions from stakeholders and a common "Roadmap" for implementing the different steps of the regional integration in the three countries. Implementation of the first step is aimed for January 2006. DTe, CREG and CRE hope to expand this unique initiative to other neighbouring countries in the near future.

Note for journalists from Belgium:

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