



Gestionnaire
du Réseau de Transport d'Electricité



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RTE and Elia join forces to create a coordination centre aimed at strengthening power security in Central Western Europe.

The French and Belgian transmission system operators RTE and Elia today signed an agreement to set up a joint regional technical coordination centre in February 2009. The centre will develop grid forecasts and support real-time monitoring of electricity flows on the grids of the Central Western European region in preparation for market coupling. The German transmission system operator Vattenfall Europe Transmission has already expressed its interest in this initiative.

In June 2007, the transmission system operators (TSOs) of the Central Western European region, together with the energy ministers, regulators, power exchanges and market players of Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, signed an important Memorandum of Understanding aimed at developing a large regional electricity market.

RTE and Elia have today taken a further step in this direction with their plans to create a regional coordination centre. The move will strengthen the operational security of their grids, notably in response to the current expansion of market coupling. RTE and Elia undertake to work closely with the other TSOs in the Central Western European zone to expand the initiative across the region. Vattenfall Europe Transmission has already expressed its interest in joining this initiative.

The regional coordination centre which will be located in Brussels is expected to be ready by the end of the year. In the initial phase, scheduled for February 2009, it will supply integrated forecasts related to grid security to the national control centres (afternoon for the next day), seven days a week. In the second phase, due to begin in July 2009, the centre will be operational around the clock, providing continuous monitoring and analysis of grid security.

The creation of this regional centre is in line with the need for increased operational cooperation between TSOs, as clearly expressed by the European Commission in its draft Directive and by electricity market players. Its main aim is to enable better regional integration of renewable generation and to guarantee safe management of cross-border flows, which are increasing sharply with the development of intraday markets.

"We welcome this major step in the development of regional cooperation and hope that our other colleagues in the region will come on board soon" said the management of the TSOs involved.

*(1) RTE is the French transmission system operator. A public service company, its remit is to operate, maintain and develop France's high and very-high voltage grids. It is responsible for the operation and safety of the electricity system.
(2) Elia is the operator of Belgium's high and very-high voltage networks and is responsible for transmitting electricity from producers to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers.*

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