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& the SEE countries of the Rokas network

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the highlight...

RENEWABLES

EnC: Secretariat Publishes Policy Guidelines on Grid Integration of Prosumers

On 5 February 2018, Energy Community Secretariat (EnC Secretariat) published its policy guidelines (Guidelines) on grid integration of prosumers. The Guidelines provide a set of recommendations of good practice for all important aspects that have to be considered to make self-consumption schemes fully operative in Energy Community Contracting Parties (CPs). They are a product of an initiative of ECDSO-E, an informal group bringing together Energy Community DSOs.



Energy Markets **what's new...**

EnC: Transposition of Third Energy Package Network Codes and Guidelines in Electricity and Gas

by *Tetyana Vyshnevska, (Kiev)*

On 12 January 2018, the Permanent High Level Group of the Energy Community (EnC) adopted a set of decisions on the transposition of the Third Energy Package network codes and guidelines by the EnC Contracting Parties (CPs), with necessary amendments, for the purpose of adapting the EnC energy acquis to the European Union law, and ensuring that the same principles, legal requirements and methodologies are applied for the establishment and operation of the EnC gas and electricity markets. These include: a) Decision No. 2018/01/PHLG-EnC on amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No. 715/2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks, as amended at EU level by Commission Decision (EU) 2012/490 of 24 August 2012 and Commission Decision (EU) 2015/715 of 30 April 2015; b) Decision No. 2018/02/PHLG-EnC on adopting Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2015/703 of 30 April 2015 establishing a Network Code on Interoperability and Data Exchange Rules; c) Decision No. 2018/03/PHLG-EnC on incorporating Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 of 14 April 2016 establishing a Network Code on requirements for grid connection of generators in the Energy Community; d) Decision No. 2018/04/PHLG-EnC on incorporating Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1447 of 26 August 2016 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of high voltage direct current systems and direct current-connected power park modules in the Energy Community and e) Decision 2018/05/PHLG-EnC on incorporating Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1388 of 17 August 2016 establishing a Network Code on Demand Connection in the Energy Community.

The Decisions came into force upon their adoption and are binding on all market participants. Save a few exceptions, the transposition deadlines are 1 October 2018 for a) and b), and 12 July 2018 for c), d) and e). The CPs are required to notify the EnC Secretariat about the completed transposition within two weeks after the adoption of such measures, and their national regulatory authorities shall be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the compliance with the Decisions.



Electricity what's new...

Bulgaria: Court Rejects Energy Producers' Appeals Regarding Hourly Production Forecast Schedules

by Apostolos Christakoudis, (Sofia)

On 15 December 2017, the Rules for amending and supplementing the Electricity Trading Rules, issued by the Chairman of the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC), entered into force after their publication in the State Gazette. With these amendments in the regulatory framework, it is assumed that in the event of market coupling of the Bulgarian market area with a neighboring market, the Independent Transmission Operator shall determine interconnection capacity for allocation through implicit auctions, which shall be conducted by the Operator of the Power Exchange. An important amendment is the introduction of a legal definition of the Power Exchange as all organized market segments, operated and administered by the Operator of the Power Exchange, where physical electricity transactions are concluded.



With regard to the original version of the Electricity Trading Rules, which entered into force on 26 July 2013, about a month after their adoption by EWRC, appeal proceedings were initiated by certain electricity producers from renewable energy sources (RES). As a consequence of application of the original Electricity Trading Rules, namely the requirement of hourly production forecast schedules, RES electricity producers suffered huge losses due to incorrect production forecasts. The Bulgarian Supreme Administrative Court used the Rules for amending and supplementing the Electricity Trading Rules as an argument to sustain the validity of the latter and to reject the energy producers' appeals. In the course of administrative proceedings in case No. 9320/2014, the Court put forward arguments that the appealed provisions had been amended and did not exist in their original version any more, thus the energy producers lost their interest to appeal the Electricity Trading Rules.

Bulgaria: Acquisition of IBEX

by Apostolos Christakoudis, (Sofia)

On 5 February 2018, a Share Transfer Agreement between the Bulgarian stock exchange - Sofia /BSE Sofia/ and Bulgarian Energy Holding for the transfer of 100% of shares of the Independent Bulgarian Energy Exchange (IBEX) entered into force after obtaining all the necessary permissions. The value of the transaction between BSE-Sofia and Bulgarian Energy Holding is BGN 5.2 million. BGN 4 million of the price were paid upon the acquisition of the shares, the remaining BGN 1.2 million will be transferred in three equal installments on the sixth, twelfth and eighteenth month after the transfer of the capital. The Energy exchange will operate like subsidiary of BSE-Sofia. Further, on 20 February IBEX will start the registration for Intraday market segment. The startup of the new trading platform is expected in March 2018. IBEX presented the main characteristics and principles of the new market segment as well as the opportunities for the market participants. Trading will be conducted through a web-based platform which supports round the clock trading with gate closure 60 min. before physical delivery, common settlement system and shared collateral with the Day Ahead market segment and also common REMIT reporting platform. IBEX will be counterparty to all transactions concluded on the Intraday market segment, providing additional opportunities for trading close to delivery and thus reducing the balancing costs of the market participants.

Croatia: Regulation Adopted to Simplify Grid Connection Procedures

by Sanja Tolj Par, (Zagreb)

On 19 January 2018, the Croatian Government adopted the Regulation on Issuing of Energy Permits and the Establishment of Conditions and Deadlines for Connection to the Electricity Network (Official Journal, 7/2018), pursuant to Article 32, Paragraph 1 of the Energy Act (Official Journal, 120/2012, 14/2014 and 102/2015), Article 68 of the Electricity Market Act (Official Journal, 22/2013 and 102/2015) and Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the Act on the Government of Republic of Croatia (Official Journal, 150/2011, 119/2014 and 93/2016). The long-awaited Regulation simplifies the grid connection procedure, particularly for the new category of users, households with own energy production. It is estimated that the number of simple connections to the grid is about 80% of the total number of connections in Croatia, which is why most users have keenly waited for this Regulation. For simple connections, the process is simplified so that the user obtains the power consent and an offer for the connection to the power grid, which also serves as a contract. Furthermore, it is no longer necessary to obtain a prior approval for grid connection.

Greece: RAE's Decision n. 94/2018 on the Approval of Intraday Coupling Products

by *Andriani Kantilieraki, (Athens)*

On 25 January 2018, RAE issued the decision n. 94/2018, regarding the approval of the NEMO Committee's (Nominated Electricity Market Operators) proposal on the single intraday coupling products. The decision was issued in accordance with article 53 para. 1 of the Regulation 2015/1222/EU and was published in the Official Gazette (n. 397/2018 B'). RAE provided for a public consultation on the matter and after taking under consideration the provisions of several national laws and EU Regulations as well as previous relevant regulatory decisions, reached the aforementioned decision, thus approving the amended proposal of NEMOs concerning the products that can be taken into account by NEMOs in intraday coupling process. Apart from the evaluation of intraday products, the decision also provides for other responsibilities of NEMOs as Market operators, such as publishing the list of available products and determining the price coupling and continuous trading matching algorithms.

Greece: RAE's Decisions on Supplier of Last Resort and Universal Service Provider

by *Maria Cheimona, (Athens)*

On 16 February 2018, following the relevant competitive tendering, conducted by the Energy Regulatory Agency (RAE) for the assignment of the Supplier of Last Resort (SOLR) and the Universal Service Provider (USP) for a three-year period starting on 23 March 2018, RAE published its decisions No. 1089/2017 and 1090/2017. Specifically, the first decision concerns the SOLR, while the latter - the USP. According to these decisions, the tendering procedures for choosing the SOLR and the USP of electricity were declared ineffective as no electricity providers participated in them. Furthermore, following the above conclusion, RAE initiated the procedure for implementing the provisions of Articles 57 para. 5 (b) and 58 para. 4 (b) of the Law 4001/2011. Pursuant to these articles, the electricity provider with the largest market share per customer category i.e. the Hellenic Public Power Corporation, will be appointed as the SOLR and as the USP of electricity respectively..

Serbia: MoU on Merger of HUPX and SEEPEX

by *Vuk Stankovic, (Belgrade)*

On 7 February 2018, the Serbian Transmission System Operator (EMS), the Hungarian Power Exchange (HUPX), the Hungarian Independent Transmission Operator Company (MAVIR), the European Power Exchange (EPEX SPOT) and the South East European Power Exchange SEEPEX signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which anticipates the creation of a cross-regional power exchange in the Central and South Eastern European. Pursuant to the MoU EPEX SPOT, as well as the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) EMS and MAVIR, would act as founder shareholders of the newly established Central and South Eastern European power exchange based in Belgrade and Budapest. Envisaged merger of the two national power exchange SEEPEX and HUPX shall facilitate such creation whereas EPEX SPOT shall be in charge for services regarding the operation of a Day-ahead market and Day-ahead market coupling activities. The aim of the MoU is further integration of the Central Western European Internal Electricity Market with the Central Eastern European market. The deadline for implementation of the MoU will be announced subsequently.



Oil & Gas what's new...

EU/Romania: Non-Compliance with Oil Stocks Directive and Rules on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure

by Tetyana Vyshnevska, (Kiev)

According to the European Commission press releases and Memo of 25 January 2018, it has decided to refer Romania to the European Court of Justice due its failure to: a) correctly implement and apply the Council Directive 2009/119/EU of 14 September 2009 imposing an obligation on Member States to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products (the Oil Stocks Directive); b) notify its national policy framework under Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure.

In particular, under the Oil Stocks Directive, which aims to ensure security of supply of petroleum resources to the EU, Romania was required to put in place emergency procedures and a contingency plan in the event of a major supply disruption, and to establish a clear and effective framework for operators to be able to delegate their stockholding obligations. Moreover, the Commission was concerned with the fact that Romanian legislation prohibited the use of oil stocks as collaterals, which could make it more difficult for economic operators to fulfil their obligation to hold stocks. As regards the second case, pursuant to Directive 2014/94/EU, which sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, Romania was required to notify its policy framework to the Commission by 18 November 2016. The Commission had called on Romania to comply with the requirements of the Oil Stocks Directive and Directive 2014/94/EU in its reasoned opinions of 18 November 2016 and 13 July 2017 respectively. Thus, Romania's failure to fulfil its obligations resulted in the Commission's decision to proceed with the infringement procedures and refer these matters to the Court of Justice.

Serbia: Assessment of Infringement of Competition Rules by the Gas TSO

by Vuk Stankovic, (Belgrade)

On 17 January 2018, the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia initiated procedure before Serbian Commission for the Protection of Competition (Commission) against the Natural Gas Transmission System Operator PE Srbijagas (Srbijagas) based on letter submitted by an undisclosed natural gas supplier. Pursuant to the letter, Srbijagas has not fulfilled mandatory obligation to provide to the supplier access to the Horgos entry point on the border with Hungary, which represents the only import point of natural gas in Serbia. In line with Article 38 of the Law on Energy, Agency acts as natural gas market supervisor, in charge for detection and prevention of the competition infringement on the market. In the forthcoming months, the Commission should decide whether the restriction of access to the Horgos point prevents the import of natural gas for other suppliers except for Srbijagas and whether this disturbs competition in the natural gas markets.

Greece: Lease Agreement on the Right to Research and Exploit Hydrocarbons

by Evridiki Evangelopoulou, (Thessaloniki)

On 15 February 2018, three draft laws of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy regarding the ratification of three Lease Agreements between the Hellenic Republic and specific companies about granting the right to research and exploit hydrocarbons in various regions of Greece were filed to the Parliament's competent Committee of Production and Trade. The agreements are between: a) the Hellenic Republic and "ENERGEAN OIL & GAS - AEGEAN ENERGY SA", regarding the land area Aitolokarnania, b) the Hellenic Republic and HELLENIC PETROLEUM SA about the "Arta-Preveza" land area and c) the Hellenic Republic and "Total E & P Greece B.V.", "Edison International S.p.A." and "Hellenic Petroleum SA" concerns the marine area 2, Ionian Sea. Under these draft laws the above Lease Agreements are in the Parliament's procedure of ratification. The contribution of the Lease Agreements' ratification is important for Greece as it promotes the process hydrocarbon research in the Greek territory, strengthening the existing conditions for the substantial participation of this sector in the development of the Greek economy.



Infrastructure what's new...

EU: Member States Invest in Clean Energy Projects

by Ilias Marlafekas, (Athens)

On 25 January 2018, following the proposal of the European Commission, EU Member States agreed on investing €873 million in clean energy infrastructure projects. These projects, also referred to as PCIs (Projects of Common Interest), are key infrastructure projects with cross-border effects that are intended to help Europe's transition to clean energy. More specifically, the 17 selected projects in the electricity and gas sector concern both construction works and studies. They will be funded from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a European support programme for trans-European infrastructures. Through these projects the Energy Union aims to pave the way for energy security improvement, competition enhancement and internal energy market integration.



EU: ENTSO-E Publishes Reports on 2040 Vision

by Mira Todorovic Symeonides, (Athens)

On 2 February 2018, ENTSO-E published on its Internet page the Europe Power System 2040: completing the map (hereafter: the Report) together with six Regional Investment Plans (hereafter: the Regional Reports). The Report takes the analysis from the Ten-Year Network Development Plan 2016 further in regard to investments that will be required after 2030. The conclusions of the Report are that until 2040 very high levels – up to 75% of the total demand – of renewable energy sources (RES) will be reached, and European countries will more than ever need to rely on each other through cross-border exchanges. This means more capacity at borders, which requires also the reinforcement of national grids. The Report presents how to complement the power system maps by 2040 in the most efficient way.

The Regional Reports cover the following regions: Baltic Sea, Continental Central East, Continental Central South, Continental South East (CSE), Continental South West, and North Sea. The CSE region covers the Balkan area and Italy. The Regional Group CSE comprises the TSOs of Albania,

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. The conclusions for the CSE Region include that there is a need for increasing cross-border capacity. The Turkish power system size along with the very high renewable capacity assumed in the 2040 examined scenarios creates the need for capacity increases in the BG-TR and GR-TR borders. Serbian power system already today has to cope with transit power flows due to its position in the regional network. In the 2040 horizon these power flows increase considerably resulting in the need to increase transfer capacity in all the RS borders with neighbouring countries.

Competition - State Aid **what's new...**

[EU SA.48780: Prolongation of the Greek Demand Response Scheme](#)

by Viktoria Chatzara, (Athens)

On 7 February 2018, the European Commission published its decision to approve the prolongation of a Greek energy capacity mechanism, in case No. SA.48780. The capacity mechanism authorized has the form of a demand response scheme, in the sense that it provides for payment of the customers to reduce their electricity consumption during time periods that the electricity is scarce. According to the Commission's announcement, such demand response schemes present the advantage that the response operators' reaction may be faster than the electricity generators' one, whereas such schemes are considered to be more environmentally friendly, as they promote the reduction of consumption and not the production of additional energy, thus having the potential to render the construction of new power plants unnecessary. In the case of the Greek capacity mechanism, the Commission approved its prolongation, noting that it proved useful during December 2016 and January 2017, when electricity supply was in a tight situation during severe cold periods, and it is estimated that it may be called upon again in the future. Furthermore, the Commission took into account the fact that the state aid measure in question is temporary and that support will be granted through regular, competitive tenders, in order to ensure cost minimization, concluding that the scheme at hand is compatible with the EU state aid rules. The approval of the Greek demand response scheme was granted at the same time as the approval of other five capacity mechanisms in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Poland. The European Commission, having closely cooperated with the competent Member State authorities, found that the above mentioned capacity mechanisms were designed in a way that meets the criteria under the applicable EU state aid rules and the Commission's 2014-2020 Guidelines on State Aid for Environmental Protection and Energy and that they may contribute to the enhancement of competition between potential capacity providers, to the ultimate benefit of the European consumers.



[EU: SA.49509: Commission Decides on Slovak Preferential Taxes for Biofuels](#)

by Aleksandar Mladenovic, (Belgrade)

On 21 December 2017, the European Commission rendered the decision not to raise objections to the proposed decision of Slovakian authorities providing for preferential taxes for biofuels. The notified aid measure, which takes the form of excise duty reductions applicable to fuel blends meeting the conditions for sustainability and containing a required minimum content of biofuel, targets to improve the environmental protection by increasing the production of renewable energy, via the production of sustainable biofuels from biomass. The respective measure will be applicable in the period 2018-2020, and shall replace the existing biofuels support scheme, approved by the Commission on 19 July 2007 by Commission decision C (2007) 3562.

Renewables what's new...

EU: IRENA Issues its RES Report

by *Stefania Chatzichristofi, (Athens)*

On 19 February 2018, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) issued a report following the request of the European Commission regarding the renewable energy (RES) perspectives for the European Union. The report highlights that the EU can increase the share of RES in its energy mix to 34 % by the year 2030 – double the share in 2016 – with a net positive economic impact. Moreover, the report identifies cost-effective RES options across all EU countries and technologies, in order to meet – and even exceed – the proposed 27% target for the year 2030. It also provides for an open platform for EU countries to assess the impacts of their national RES energy plans at an EU level and highlights the role that RES could play in the long-term decarbonisation of the EU energy system. Furthermore, all RES transport options –including electric vehicles and both advanced and conventional biofuels- will be needed to reach the EU's long-term decarbonisation objectives.

Greece: RAE's Opinion on RES Auctions Until 2020

by *Mira Todorovic Symeonides, (Athens)*

On 7 February 2018, the Energy Regulatory Authority (RAE), by the application of article 7 of the Law 4414/2016 regulating the new national support scheme for electricity from RES and High Efficiency CHP, issued an Opinion no. 2/2018 regarding the RES auctions to be held in the period from 2018 until 2020, which will determine the amount of operating aid for RES produced electricity for the next 20 years. RAE, in the Opinion, proposes that in the auctions which will be organised in 2018 and in 2019 the maximum annual capacity of the plants which may receive the aid will not exceed 300 MW for PV, 300 MW for wind, and 400 MW for both PV and wind determined in joint auctions, while in 2020 the maximum capacity may not exceed the quantities remaining from the previous year increased by the new 300 MW for PV and 300 MW for wind. The maximum price (i.e. the initial price) for the first auctions in 2018 is proposed to be 85 €/MWh for PV with capacity equal or below 1 MWp, 80 €/MWh for PV with capacity above 1 MWp, and 90 €/MWh for wind plants.

Romania: ANRE Decisions Concerning Electricity Producers in High-Efficiency Cogeneration

by *Madalina Simion, (Bucharest)*

On 17 January 2018, the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE) issued the Order No. 19 on the application for the year 2017 of the provisions of art. 21 par. (2) and art. 27 of the Qualification Regulation for the production of electricity in high-efficiency cogeneration, and the verification and monitoring of fuel consumption and production of electricity and useful heat in high-efficiency cogeneration, approved by the ANRE Order No. 114/2013 (hereafter: Regulation 1), and of the provisions of art. 21-23 of the Regulation establishing the method for collecting the contribution for high-efficiency cogeneration and the payment of the bonus for electricity produced in high-efficiency cogeneration (hereafter: Regulation 2), approved by the ANRE Order No. 116/2013. The above-mentioned provisions of the Regulation 1 determine the content of the qualification documents for the producers of electricity and heat in cogeneration using natural gas, as well as the content of the annual qualification decision for the year 2017. Withal, the Order stipulates for the producers of electricity and heat in cogeneration using natural gas that art. 21-23 of the Regulation 2, which concern the regularization of the bonus payments made by the Scheme Administrator to respective producers, shall be applied for each semester of 2017. It is also established that the amount of electricity for the year 2017, for which the producer has received an undue/unpaid bonus, and on the basis of which the adjustment invoice is drawn up, shall be calculated by summing up the counter values determined for each semester of 2017.

The National Power Grid Company – Transelectrica S.A together with the producers of electricity and heat in cogeneration shall fulfil the provisions of the aforementioned Order No. 19 under the supervision of respective divisions of ANRE. The Order No. 19 was published in the Official Gazette No. 61 on 19 January 2018.

Serbia: EMS Establishes Issuance and Administration of Guarantees of Origin

by *Aleksandar Mladenovic, (Belgrade)*

In accordance with the obligations of the Transmission System Operator, defined under the applicable laws, EMS AD successfully established a new market process - issuance and administration of guarantees of origin for electricity produced from RES in the market area of the Republic of Serbia. With the information platform for the Register of guarantees of origin, in addition to other technical and legal prerequisites in place, EMS AD shall be in position to successfully perform all the tasks and obligations that it has in this process, from the aspect of establishing and maintaining the Register of guarantees of origin, and estimating the national mix that suppliers use for determining the share of all types of energy sources in the electricity sold to end customers in the Republic of Serbia.

RENEWABLES highlight...

EnC: Secretariat Publishes Policy Guidelines on Grid Integration of Prosumers

by *Stefania Chatzichristofi, (Athens)*

On 5 February 2018, Energy Community Secretariat (EnC Secretariat) published its policy guidelines (Guidelines) on grid integration of prosumers. The Guidelines provide a set of recommendations of good practice for all important aspects that have to be considered to make self-consumption schemes fully operative in Energy Community Contracting Parties (CPs). They are a product of an initiative of ECDSO-E, an informal group bringing together Energy Community DSOs.

The Guidelines define the “prosumer” as an electricity consumer that produces part of his or her electricity needs from his or her own power plant and uses the distribution network to inject excess production and to withdraw electricity when self-production is not sufficient to meet his or her own needs. The Guidelines consist of eight sets of recommendations: i) Legal and Regulatory; ii) Technology and Capacity Criteria; iii) Self-consumption Commercial Schemes; iv) Excess Energy Treatment; v) Grid Costs; vi) VAT and other Taxes and Levies; vii) Imbalance Settlement ; viii) Grid Connection.

It is noted that most of the CPs lack comprehensive legislation in relation to small scale RES installations for self-consumption purposes. The Guidelines aim to provide the basis for establishment of the missing legal and regulatory framework in these countries. The guidelines insist on the fact that net metering on net billing schemes should be applied in all the CPs, and that, where necessary, secondary legislation must be implemented, in order to unblock un-applied provisions coming from main regulatory frameworks, as is the case in several of these countries.

Furthermore, the Secretariat advises that future or amended distributed generation (DG) schemes provide precise definitions of consumer categories and their eligibility for self-consumption schemes. Moreover, the adoption of statistics on the sharing of self-consumption at the power system level is recommended, via a reporting system and key statistical indicators defined in a comprehensive manner. With the exception of the Ukraine, that has recently reformed its energy market, all remaining CPs have a very low development of residential and commercial PV.



Environment **what's new...**

EU: Revision of the European Emissions Trading System - Phase 4

by Stefania Chatzichristofi, (Athens)

On 6 February 2018, the European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the Commission's proposal regarding the Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments and Decision (EU) 2015/1814. The outcome of voting in the European Parliament reflects the compromise reached between the institutions and now it remains to be acceptable to the Council. It should be noted that the European Parliament and Council have reached a provisional agreement to revise the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for the period after 2020 in July 2015. The said revision will contribute to put the EU on track to achieving a significant part of its commitment under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030. The EU Emissions Trading Scheme includes: i) revision of the system of free allocation to focus on sectors at highest risk of relocating their production outside the EU; ii) a significant number of free allowances set aside for new and growing installations; iii) more flexible rules to better align the amount of free allowances with production figures; iv) update of benchmarks to reflect technological advances since the year 2008. Once endorsed by both co-legislators, the revised EU ETS Directive will be published in the Official Journal of the Union and will enter into force twenty days after its publication.



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