

Energy regulators' new Agency (ACER) starts work

- Inaugural meeting of the Agency's Board of Regulators
- Lord Mogg was elected the ACER Board of Regulators' Chair and Walter Boltz its Vice Chair

Inaugural meeting of the Agency's Board of Regulators

On 4 and 5 May, energy regulators' new EU Agency, formally called the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER in short), held the inaugural meeting of its Board of Regulators in Brussels¹.

ACER becomes fully operational in March 2011². ACER's seat will be in Ljubljana, Slovenia³. ACER will at European level complement the regulatory tasks performed at national level. It will play a key role in the integration of the EU's markets in electricity and natural gas, providing a framework at EU level for national regulators to cooperate and providing greater clarity and regulatory certainty. ACER's existence redresses the regulatory gap on cross-border issues and will provide regulatory oversight of the cooperation between transmission system operators.

Lord Mogg was elected the Chair and Walter Boltz the Vice Chair of ACER's Board of Regulators

At the inaugural meeting, Lord Mogg³ was elected the first Chair of ACER's Board of Regulators and Mr Walter Boltz⁴ the Vice Chair, each appointed for a 2.5 year (renewable) period.

Lord Mogg who already heads up the European energy regulators⁵, and who also chairs the British energy regulatory authority (Ofgem), commented

"Much has been achieved over past 10 years through the voluntary cooperation of CEER and later ERGEG. With this new EU Agency, ACER, energy market integration moves up a gear. Preparatory work is already well underway on a 10-year Network Development Plan in electricity and gas and the first ever EU-wide Network Codes.

Brussels, 5 May 2010

Ends
(see Note for Editors on next page)

Notes for Editors:

1. The legal basis of the Agency is Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. This Regulation is one of the set of five legislative acts comprising the Third Legislative Package for the Liberalisation of the Energy Market adopted in Summer 2009. The Agency (i.e. ACER) is a Community body with legal personality. ACER's governance consists of a:
 - (a) Board of Regulators comprising (a senior representative and one alternate of) the 27 national regulatory authorities (NRAs) and one non-voting European Commission representative;
 - (b) Administrative Board comprising 9 members and each member has an alternate. 2 members (and their alternates) are appointed by the European Commission, 2 (and their alternates) by the European Parliament and 5 (and their alternates) by the Council;
 - (c) Director;
 - (d) Board of Appeal.
2. The competences of ACER include:
 - Providing an important role in developing framework guidelines with which the European Network for Transmission System Operators (ENTSOs) must comply in developing European electricity and natural gas network codes;
 - Taking binding individual decisions on terms and conditions for access and operational security for cross border infrastructure if National Regulatory Authorities cannot agree or they jointly request the intervention of the Agency;
 - Providing opinions to various actors on the electricity and natural gas markets;
 - Giving advice on electricity and natural gas related issues not just to the European Commission (as is the case with ERGEG today) but also opinions and recommendations to all of the European Institutions; and
 - Extensive monitoring powers including monitoring the development and implementation by ENTSOs of EU Network Codes and their effect on the harmonisation of applicable rules aimed at facilitating market integration; the internal market including retail prices, access to network and compliance with consumer rights; progress in the implementation of projects to create new interconnection capacity; the implementation of the 10 year network development plan; and the regional cooperation of TSOs.
3. With effect from 3 March 2011, ACER will have to fulfil all tasks assigned to it under the Third Legislative Package for the Liberalisation of the Energy Market, in particular the Agency Regulation itself. The Agency is expected to employ a staff of 45-50 people. Its budget will be around EUR 6-7 million per year. For more information on ACER visit www.energy-regulators.eu

4. John Mogg heads up Europe's energy regulators. On 4 May 2010, he was elected Chair of the Board of Regulators of the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators (ACER). John Mogg who was first elected Chairman of ERGEG in December 2005 was re-elected as ERGEG Chair in December 2008. Lord Mogg is also the President of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), the body which the energy regulators themselves set up on their own initiative to enhance cooperation among Europe's energy regulators. He is the non-executive Chair of Ofgem, the UK energy regulatory authority, since 1 October 2003. He was knighted by the Queen in 2003 and since May 2008 is a Member of the UK House of Lords.



Press Contact:

5. On 4 May 2010, Walter Boltz was elected Vice Chair of Chair of the Board of Regulators of the Chair of the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators (ACER). Since 2001, Mr. Boltz is Chair of E-Control, the Austrian energy regulatory authority. Since December 2005, he also holds the post of Vice President of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), Vice Chair of the European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG) and he chairs ERGEG's Gas working group.



6. The Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) is the body through which Europe's national energy regulators voluntarily cooperate. It was set up in 2000 by the regulators on their own initiative. The European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG) is the European Commission's formal advisory group of energy regulators on internal energy market issues in Europe, set up by the Commission in 2003. The CEER acts a preparatory body for the work of the ERGEG. See www.energy-regulators.eu

Press Contact: