

Regional Coordination System for Gas

as

a common network operation tool to ensure coordination of
network operation in emergency conditions

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1. Introduction

This document describes principles and procedures of the Regional Coordination System for Gas (ReCo System for Gas) which is established as a common network operation tool to ensure the coordination of network operation in emergency conditions.

Gas Transmission Systems, like any other utility infrastructure systems, are exposed to varying types of hazards. These hazards have the potential to impact not only one part of the system, but the system in its entirety, if not adequately addressed.

The European gas market is continuously developing, and operation of the networks is becoming more complex. In that context, it is beneficial for each transmission system operator (TSO) to operate efficiently and to ensure security of supply.

Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply states that the regional cooperation should gradually be complemented with a stronger Union perspective, allowing recourse to all available supplies and tools in the entire internal gas market. Union-level assessment of the emergency supply corridors should be incorporated into the regional cooperation.

Regional cooperation and coordination between TSOs play an important and significant role in security of gas supply, handling emergencies and helping to minimise negative effects.

Following the Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 the provisions of this document regarding cooperation and information exchange shall be regarded as binding requirements upon the EU TSOs in case regional or Union emergency crisis is declared.

2. Legal Background

Article 8 (3) (a) Regulation (EU) 715/2009 stipulates that ENTSOG shall adopt common network operation tools to ensure coordination of network operation in normal and emergency conditions, including a common incidents classification scale. The purpose of this document is to discharge this obligation.

Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 stipulates that “in the event of a regional or Union emergency, the transmission system operators shall cooperate and exchange information using the Regional Coordination System for Gas (ReCo System for Gas) established by ENTSOG. ENTSOG shall inform the Commission and the competent authorities (CA) of the Member States concerned accordingly”.

3. Main objectives

- To avoid, prevent or mitigate negative impact of gas disruption in regions affected by an emergency
- To be well prepared for possible crises or emergency situations
- To improve the possibilities to react in a security of gas supply (SoS) crisis and to coordinate the necessary actions on an operational level
- To improve international and regional cooperation between TSOs
- To provide operational expertise on an ad-hoc basis to concerned TSOs in case of crisis, as well as information to the European Commission and CA of the Members States in the event of an emergency.
- To have a broader overview of all gas flows in EU Member States and the gas balance per balancing zone in case of crisis
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4. Establishing Regional Coordination Teams (ReCo) Teams and communication between them

To address the above-mentioned objectives, the European Union's TSOs have established specific groups - Regional Coordination Teams (ReCo Teams). Each ReCo Team is a community of TSOs for one of the supply corridors, which are explained in Reg. (EU) 2017/1938: *"Union gas supply routes that help Member States to better mitigate the effects of potential disruption of supply or infrastructure"*. These include TSOs from the relevant gas supply risk groups defined in Annex 1 of Regulation 2017/1938 as well as other EU TSOs if reasonable. Non-EU TSOs can also be invited by ENTSOG (after approval by the ENTSOG's Board) to be a member of a ReCo Team whenever their participation is considered helpful during possible future emergencies.

ReCo Teams provide operational expertise on an ad-hoc basis to the concerned TSOs in case of crisis enabling ENTSOG to provide relevant information to other stakeholders such as the Gas Coordination Group (GCG), the European Commission and the Member States.

4.1. ReCo Teams' members

Each TSO shall be part of one (or more) of the ReCo Team(s) established by ENTSOG.

- The ReCo Team East

At least those TSOs in Member States included in the Eastern Gas Supply Risk Group should be a member of the ReCo Team East as well as other TSOs involved in that supply corridor.

- The ReCo Team North-West

At least those TSOs in Member States included in the North Sea Gas Supply Risk Group should be a member of the ReCo Team North West as well as other TSOs involved in that supply corridor.

- The ReCo Team South

At least those TSOs in Member States included in the North African Gas Supply Risk Group should be a member of the ReCo Team South as well as other TSOs involved in that supply corridor.

TSOs can participate in more than one ReCo Team, especially if such participation enhances regional cooperation to increase the security of gas supply and enables an agreement on appropriate and effective cross-border measures.

The composition of the ReCo Teams should not prevent any other form of regional cooperation supporting the security of gas supply.

If considered necessary and appropriate, ENTSOG and TSOs can agree and approve the creation of new ReCo Teams and concerned TSOs will be invited to join.

4.2. Functioning of ReCo Teams and usage of the Incident Classification Scale (ICS)

In case of crisis (hereafter meaning crisis, including events of an emergency, alerts, early warnings, significant incidents, supply disturbances, or preliminary information from one of the TSOs concerning possible/existing negative situations), the ReCo Teams' members, using the Incident Classification Scale (annex I), will come together for a virtual meeting as soon as possible if required by the incident level.

During the virtual meeting, TSOs exchange information, experiences and recommendations which may be important, helpful and relevant to avoid, prevent or mitigate negative impacts in the affected region(s).

TSO's representatives taking part in ReCo Teams' meetings should have appropriate knowledge of the operation of gas grids, dispatching and security of gas supply.

4.3. Facilitators

To enable the ReCo Teams to meet virtually on short notice, a facilitator for each team is elected.

The facilitator's role is to set up the conference call, invite and inform all TSOs of the relevant ReCo Team. If it seems reasonable and helpful, TSOs can suggest inviting TSOs from other ReCo Teams to the meeting and the facilitator will send the invitation to these TSOs.

The facilitator's role will be appointed for two years on a rolling basis. The handover of the facilitator's role will be carried out during a meeting organised by ENTSOG and will include a communication exercise to test the proper functioning of the whole communication chain.

4.4. Initiating the meeting

In case of an incident requiring regional cooperation/exchange of information, the affected TSO may initiate - depending of the scale of the incident- the relevant ReCo Team meeting by calling the facilitator.

The meeting can also be requested by other TSOs if there is high demand for information due to incidents with a potential high impact on gas supply. In such a case, the facilitator agrees the time of the meeting with the affected TSO or those who are the closest to the incident or have the most relevant information.

4.5. Communication details

ENTSOG maintains all ReCo Teams' members' contact details of their dispatching centres (24/7 e-mail and phone number) so that they can be contacted by the facilitator or other TSOs (following p.4.3.-4.4. above). As a back-up, TSOs may provide other additional contact details.

All ReCo Teams' members will be informed about relevant facilitators and their contact details.

4.6. The coordinator

The coordinator (one of the TSOs) chairs and coordinates the ReCo Team meeting and in coordination with ENTSOG may provide information to the European Commission and the CA of Members States acc. to Article 3 Para 6. Reg. (EU) 2017/1938.

The ReCo Team will agree at the start of the meeting which TSO will be given the role of the coordinator.

4.7. Communication steps

Following the ICS, the steps below will be taken:

1. TSO(s) (ReCo Team's Member) will act accordingly to the incident level (contact the facilitator or send an informative e-mail to ReCo Team's members).
2. If the affected TSO(s) calls the facilitator and asks for the meeting or there is high demand for information from ReCo Team's members, the facilitator sets up the meeting and invites the ReCo Team members, ENTSOG and also TSOs from other ReCo Teams if requested.
3. Invited TSOs join the meeting.
4. Participants of the meeting agree on which TSO will act as coordinator.
5. During the meeting participants exchange information, discuss the situation and possible solutions to mitigate or to eliminate the impact of the incident. Based on the discussion, participants agree on the recommended actions.
6. Participants agree on the message to be communicated to the European Commission and CA of Members States.
7. Participants agree on the date of the next meeting if needed.

4.8. Communication tools and "Guideline how to set up a ReCo Team Meeting".

To enable the facilitators to organise the meetings and to enable ReCo Teams' members to join them, a reliable well-functioning communication tool should be used (e.g. telecommunications application software products). The ReCo Teams' members and ENTSOG decide which solution should be used.

Based on the chosen method of communication, ENTSOG together with the TSOs develop the "Guideline how to set up a ReCo Team Meeting" in which the communication tool for meetings, instructions for the facilitator on how to set up a meeting, instructions for ReCo Team members on how to join and other functions are specified.

ENTSOG provides the "Guideline how to set up a ReCo Team Meeting" and possible updates to all ReCo Teams' members in due time.

4.9. Communication exercise

To ensure reliable and efficient communication between dispatching centres in case of crisis, TSOs together with ENTSOG agree on the procedure and carry out communication exercises at least once per year for each ReCo Team.

4.10. Responsibility

All TSOs taking part in the ReCo teams are acting on their own behalf and they alone are responsible for any specific actions taken.

4.11. The ReCo System for Gas functioning and process flowcharts are illustrated in Annex 1

5. ENTSOG's role

- ENTSOG revises this document on a yearly basis and propose changes when needed.
- ENTSOG organises internal meetings for the handover of the facilitator's role, including a communication exercise to check the proper functioning of the whole communication chain. During the meeting, the functioning of the communication between ReCo Team's members will be evaluated and results will be used to improve the processes.
- ENTSOG organises communication exercises with the ReCo Teams in accordance with p.4.9.
- ENTSOG ensures that all ReCo Team's members are provided with all necessary information about the functioning of the ReCo System for Gas including contact details of each ReCo Team.
- ENTSOG provides the communication tool based on the decision according to section 4.8 above.
- ENTSOG cooperates with the ReCo Teams to ensure a well-functioning process of the ReCo System for Gas, e.g. by collecting and implementing recommendations, and developing additional technical tools. ReCo Team members can request ENTSOG to evaluate any change to this document.

6. Communication with ENTSOG

In case of crisis, ENTSOG's representatives are invited to participate in ReCo Team meetings to provide their input and support.

7. Communication with the European Commission

In the event of a regional or Union emergency, the TSOs shall cooperate and exchange information using the ReCo System for Gas established by ENTSOG. ENTSOG shall inform the Commission accordingly. ENTSOG and the European Commission will also communicate in case of other events which are related to the security of gas supply.

ENTSOG informs the European Commission about the situation and the recommendations as agreed at the ReCo Team meeting.

The affected TSO(s) or the coordinator together with ENTSOG may communicate with the European Commission in case of crisis.

ENTSOG and the European Commission agree and exchange the list of people to be contacted and their contact details (e.g. emails, phone numbers) or other specifics.

8. Communication with ACER

In the event of a regional or Union emergency ENTSOG informs ACER about the situation and the recommendations as agreed at the ReCo Team meeting.

ENTSOG and ACER should agree in advance and exchange the list of people to be contacted and their contact details (e.g. emails, phone numbers).

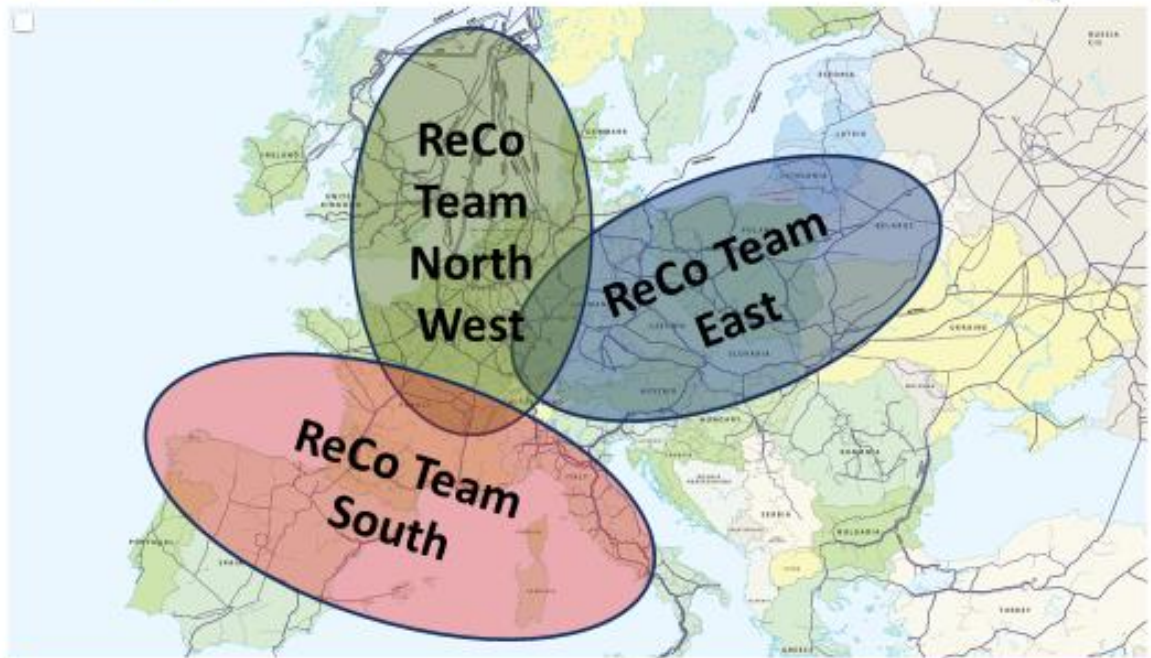
9. Information exchange between the Gas Coordination Group and the ReCo Teams via ENTSOG

ENTSOG forwards all information received from the Gas Coordination Group (GCG) or the European Commission to all ReCo Teams' members regarding incidents, declaration of crisis in any Member State, or upcoming events with significant impact on the gas market or gas flows.

ENTSOG as a part of the GCG will participate in relevant meetings and discussions taking into consideration ReCo Teams' opinions and recommendations.

Annex 1. The ReCo System for Gas functioning and process flowcharts

ReCo Teams



Each ReCo Team is a community of TSOs for one of the supply corridors and includes TSOs from the relevant gas supply risk groups defined in Annex 1 of Regulation 2017/1938 as well as other TSOs if reasonable.

ReCo Teams



Members

- Participation in the teams is open for all TSOs in the corresponding gas supply corridor

Facilitator

- Each ReCo Team has the facilitator which is the first TSO to be contacted in case of a crisis event
- The facilitator establishes a communication session for the ReCo Team in case of request or crisis and invites TSOs to participate
- The facilitator carries out communication exercises with the members of the ReCo Team

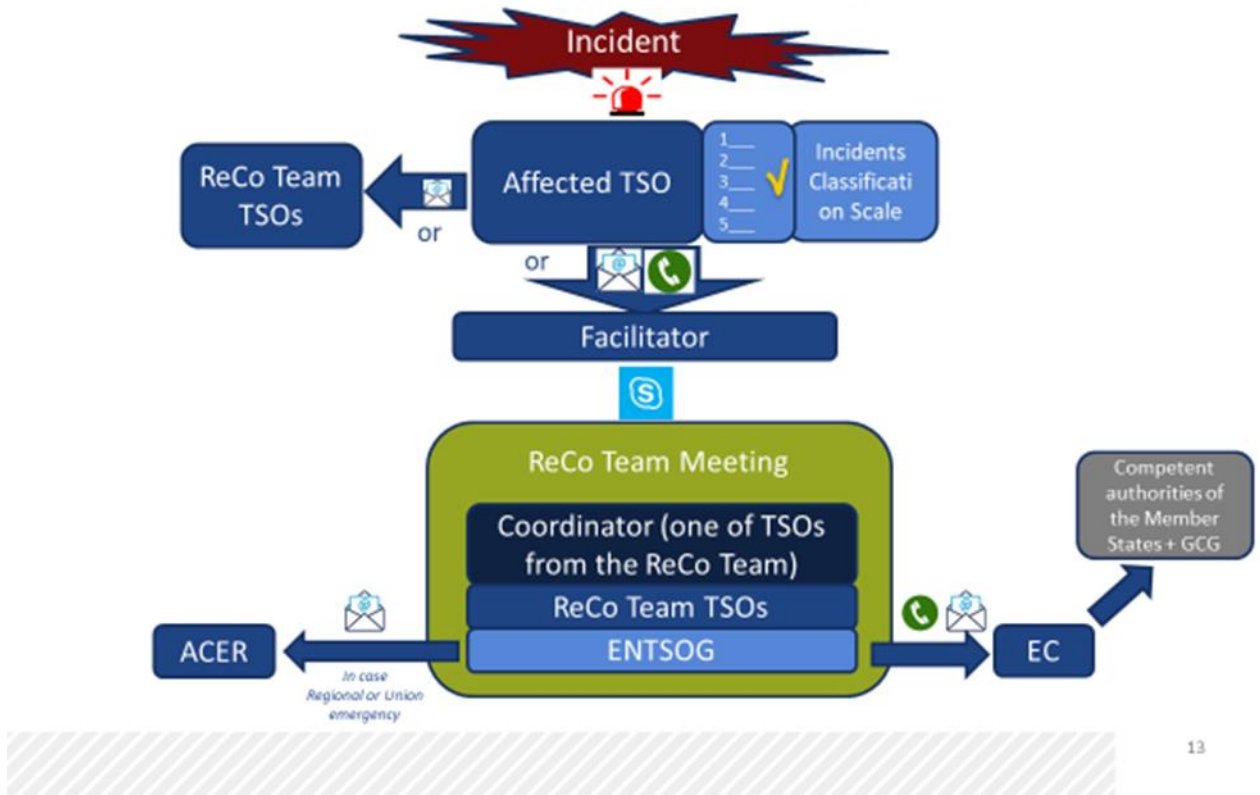
Coordinator

- The coordinator is chairing the ReCo Team whenever it comes together
- The coordinator acts as the spokesman of the ReCo Team in order to provide first-hand information
- This role will be allocated to one of the TSOs when ReCo team comes together

ENTSOG

- ENTSOG organises meetings for the experts and for changing the facilitators, prepare presentations and Terms of Reference for the ReCo Teams
- ENTSOG provides tools for communication between TSOs
- Informs the EC and ACER about the situation

ReCo Team Meeting. High Level Setup



ReCo Team Meeting. High Level Setup

