



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B - Security of supply, Energy markets & Networks

Acting Director

Brussels, 31 JAN. 2012
ENER B2/AR/mta/s107798

ACER
The Director
Mr Alberto Pototschnig
Ljubljana
Delivered by e-mail

Subject: Invitation to start the procedure on a framework guideline on interoperability rules for gas

Dear Mr. Pototschnig,

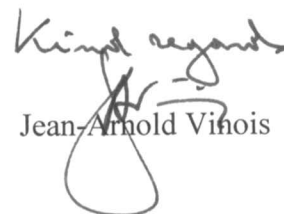
In accordance with the priorities and planning agreed I would like to invite the Agency in accordance with Article 6 (2) of Regulation (EC) No. 715/2009 to submit to the Commission by 31 July 2012 a framework guideline to set out the necessary level of harmonization on interoperability rules and data exchange in the EU gas sector. The framework guideline should build on the scoping and problem identification work undertaken by ACER and should be accompanied by an impact assessment.

The Commission reminds the Agency that the framework guideline shall set out clear and objective principles for the development of a network code on interoperability rules and data exchange. The framework guideline should contribute to non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market.

The Commission believes that an important aspect of ensuring the quality of the framework guideline, is to undertake an impact assessment. The accompanying impact assessment shall therefore identify the problems to be solved, justify the policy options chosen to reach the objectives of framework guidelines and analyze their impacts (costs and benefits).

May I kindly ask you to let us have your planning for the development of the Framework Guideline, specifying when and how stakeholders will be consulted.

The Commission services are at your disposal to discuss any questions which may arise.

Kind regards

Jean-Arhold Vinois

c.c.: Walter Boltz; Stephan Kamphues; Madrid Forum Participants