ENTSO-E Transparency User Group (ETUG) Kick-off meeting

Date: 21 April 2015
Time: 09h00 – 16h30
Place: ENTSO-E premises, Brussels

MINUTES

Participants

1.	Rafael Muruais-Garcia	ACER
2.	Martin Viscor	CZE
3.	Stephen Wilson	Eclipse Energy
4.	Marcus Mittendorf	EEX
5.	Tzvetelina Tzankova	Elcom
6.	Zaahir Ghanty	Elexon
7.	Philip Hewitt	EnAppSys
8.	Athanasios Troupakis	ENTSO-E
9.	Dalius Sulga	ENTSO-E
10.	Ioannis Daoutidis	ENTSO-E
11.	Jane Banham	ENTSO-E
12.	Zoltan Gyulay	ENTSO-E
13.	Marco Pincho	European Commission
14.	Luc Heymans	European Commission
15.	Mireille Tshibwabwa	GDF-Suez
16.	Iztok Lapanja	Gen-i
17.	Chris Panton (for Pierre Buisson)	Genscape
18.	Bryan Kjær McKenzie	Norsk Hydro Energy
19.	Lothar Rausch	Öko-Institut
20.	Stefan Schnydrig	OMPEX
21.	Thomas Negrel	RTE
22.	Ralf Uttich	RWE
23.	Faidon Dermesonoglou	TEI Energy
24.	Jan Kadeřávek	Unicorn

25.	Georgi Stanchev	Vattenfall (Trading)
26.	Christian Fröck	Vattenfall (Generation)

Webconference

1.	Michiel Klever	Priogen Holding
2.	Vasileios Tselios	Priogen Holding
3.	Philippe Alison (David Martinez)	Bloomberg
4.	Paul-Frederik Bach	Paul-Frederik Bach
5.	Rosa Maria Rodriguez	Axpo
6.	Kevin Yates	TESLA Europe
7.	Alvaro Arguello	EDF

1.   Attendance, agenda, housekeeping

The proposed agenda was presented by Jane and approved by all. Through a "tour de table," participants of the meeting introduced themselves and briefly explained their expectations from the ETUG. Throughout the day, up to 13 remote members were online and participated with comments at various stages of the day.

2.   Welcome

Zoltan opened the meeting by thanking participants for their attendance, both physically and remotely via Webconf.

In his welcoming remarks, Zoltan went through some typical questions posed by users of the TP: What is the current status of the TP? How is it going with data population? Why are there data gaps and inconsistencies? What issues does ENTSO-E identify? How much ENTSO-E can push data providers in that respect? What the expectations from ETUG can be?

He reminded the participants that the Transparency Platform and Regulation 543 are in some respects ahead of actual pan-European data harmonisation reality. And that the go-live on 5 January 2015 did not deliver complete harmonisation, but around 50% of the expected data, with the current provision at around 75%.

He said that ENTSO-E recognised that the focus now needed to widen from a compliance to more of a data user focus, and that further developments must be informed by the requirements of market participants. Input from the ETUG will help ENTSO-E to allocate their limited resources for those recommendations of most value to the data users.

3.   Usability testing

Ioannis introduced the session, which aimed at providing an insight to user interface issues through a live demonstration of some standard tasks.

Stephen volunteered to participate in the testing and was asked to perform some tasks on the Transparency Platform with his actions visible to the rest of the group through monitor sharing and video recording. The most obvious outcomes were that the interface did not lead the users logically to what they wanted to do and that the download logic was not intuitive or well sign-posted.

During the test, questions were raised about the optimal browser for the TP and the average response times. Jan responded that the platform works best with IE version 8 and Google Chrome. There was also visible evidence and thus general consensus on the slow response times, which needs further investigation to understand the reasons.

While Stephen understood the need to do usability testing, and that the Platform interface is important, he stressed that for most of the ETUG participants, it is the data behind the interface that are the most critical.

4.   User interface issues

Jane presented the related issues, as identified by the user survey: both the main concerns and issues reported but not deemed as crucial. She also presented figures which confirmed the issues with slow response times and excessive bounces in the outages and generation categories which also require further analysis.

All the participants agreed with the general results of the user survey. Iztok suggested identifying and agreeing some basic user profiles as a first step.

Lothar particularly highlighted the long time periods required for extensive downloads and asked for the M2M subscriptions. Marco remarked that individual users should not be obliged to install the same security channels as TSOs.

Rafael also mentioned that for 'standard' users it is very important to be able to manually download data for all borders/bidding/control areas in one file, rather than obliging them to download one file per area/border. This is not possible today as with other existing data platforms (e.g. PXs). It was also mentioned that the format of data downloaded is not optimal.

5.   Data quality issues

Dalius gave a presentation on data issues. He gave a brief summary of the enormous work on configuration to welcome the daily 90,000 files of 3-4 million data values and also the ongoing work to support data providers as provision is reconfigured and fine-tuned and new data items are brought online.

Marcus suggested installing notifications to data providers for delayed submissions and also escalate possible issues to Bodies higher in the hierarchy. It was also mentioned that the completeness of data could be published by means of a dashboard. Dalius responded that specific notifications and various ACK files are already implemented and available for data providers. Figures on data population are reported to the ENTSO-E Board, General Assembly and other concerned entities. Zaahir remarked that one should distinguish between data completeness and data correctness/quality.

The question of ENTSO-E's mandates came up on a number of occasions and it was reiterated that ENTSO-E had no mandate to enforce either data provision or quality compliance – that this was part of the NRAs' remit. It was however mentioned that ENTSO-E has the mandate to correctly publish the data if they are compliant with the referenced documents (Regulation and MoP). While the ETUG members understood this, there was general consensus and insistence that data users need visibility/understanding of much more information to be able correctly interpret data and make necessary adjustments to be able to use it within their own systems. This could be on the source of data, details of new releases, missing and available data, information on different markets and associated caveats and reasons for not publishing certain data in a given country, border etc.

Ralf mentioned that the Platform represented an ideal opportunity to explain the current energy market, putting the data into the wider context of European development, RES integration etc. In short, to tell the positive stories of energy developments in Europe.

The representatives of ACER and the EC and a number of other users asked to have detailed reports on the data population status. The data providers present mentioned that they had no problem with this information

concerning their respective data being made public. When asked, Zaahir confirmed that Elexon has already in place data status information and notifications to the public when missing data are made complete, or should new data issues or gaps arise.

The user group recommended monthly reports to tackle:

- completeness: by checking with Data Provider the existence of the data as well as the timings

- data correctness/quality: to be defined in the framework of the sub-groups

6.   Sub-groups formation and break-out

As the core group is quite large, and to allow parallel work on the main subjects, it was decided to constitute three sub-groups: user interface, data downloads, data quality. The agenda was adapted to allow each group to do some initial work in the afternoon session, breaking into specialised sub-groups to share views, identify the main focus (scope of work) and provide some initial recommendations.

- The user experience sub-group will focus on measurable improvements to the user interface to meet user expectations. Three different categories of users were proposed (ad-hoc, standard and power user) for benchmarking the expectations and requirements. An initial recommendation was made that registration should not be applicable to ad-hoc users to download simple data sets; with registration kicking in for customisation (standard user), and obviously for M2M data exports (power user).

- The data download subgroup will make recommendations for the implementation of easy-to-use data download functions for the different user profiles, and an export logic and related tools. For the 'standard' user it was suggested to provide a 'multiple selection' functionality, i.e. several or all borders/areas when downloading data, in one single file covering, ideally, one year. For M2M exports, a user FTP was initially recommended, with delivery of fit for purpose data files. The sub-group representative mentioned that the current download section is geared more towards data providers and not users, with excessive security parameters and complicated connection setups.

- The data quality sub-group will focus on recommendations for actions that could be taken to ensure 1) data completeness, 2) data quality and 3) timeliness in data submission. As a preliminary step, it was suggested that the Detailed Data Description document will be reviewed in order to identify potential inconsistencies which should be addressed first. A first inconsistency regarding cross-border schedules was identified; day ahead and intraday cross-border commercial schedules should be published separately, instead of intraday values overwriting day ahead data. As a first step, the sub-group identified the need to provide more meaningful information and visibility on data gaps and quality for all market participants; and to bring focused attention to geographies or data items prioritised as critical for the market. More concretely, the group renewed the request for a full report on the current data provision status (both completeness and correctness).

7.   Way forward and next steps

In the last part of the ETUG meeting the Secretary-General of ENTSO-E joined while the discussions were ongoing on the group structure, next steps and how the group will interact with ENTSO-E.

He emphasised that ENTSO-E is keen to receive clear and prioritised recommendations with strong cost-benefit ratios, to allow ENTSO-E to quickly assess, approve and push through those changes that deliver the most benefit to data users. He encouraged the group to consider quick wins wherever beneficial, to rapidly deliver high-impact improvements, in addition to the recommendations that would require more detailed assessment and scoping to be delivered in the medium-term.

The S-G mentioned that while the resources available were not limitless, ENTSO-E should be able to quite rapidly approve a number of improvements through the existing Change Request channel.

When asked how he saw the question of increasing transparency on the data available (which would identify the gaps) to all market participants, the S-G agreed in principal that this was a reasonable expectation, but did stress that this was not a Secretariat decision but the recommendation/request would be submitted to the relevant ENTSO-E Governance Bodies.

It was also mentioned that the User Survey and a summary of this first kick-off meeting would be presented to the relevant ENTSO-E bodies, which was met with general agreement.

On the organisational issues, it was decided to have ENTSO-E members as coordinators of each the 3 subgroups and that the ETUG will be chaired by the ENTSO-E Market Manager, who will ensure that the ETUG outcomes are fed back into the business in a systematic way

- ENTSO-E will set up a dedicated SharePoint extranet work site on to facilitate collaboration and document sharing and management.

- A first draft of each subgroup's scope and deliverables drafted by 01 May, Recommendations are to be refined by each group, then submitted to the full group, before providing first recommendations to ENTSO-E on 22 May.

- The next meeting of the ETUG will take place on the week of 15 June with possible web-conferences of the sub-groups in the meantime, as they advance in the initial deliverables.