

Review of UCTE's missions:

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UCTE IS KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

2001, the year in which UCTE celebrated its 50th anniversary, was an important year for the association. The process of fundamental changes which the power business is experiencing throughout Europe, and more specifically the unbundling of transmission, has also entailed significant changes for the UCTE.

During the 50 years of UCTE's existence, the association has experienced continuing growth from 8 to 21 member countries, all belonging to the UCTE synchronous area.

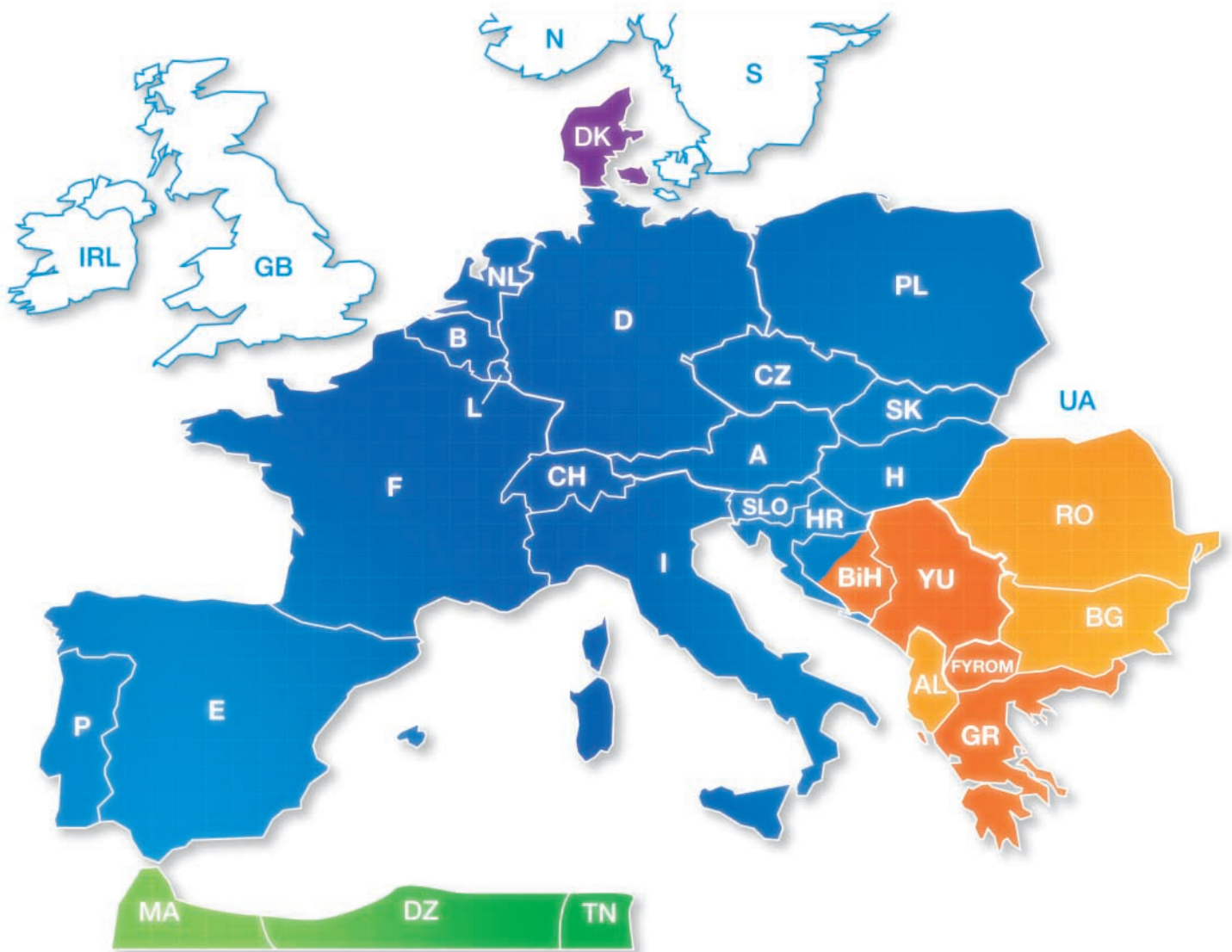
Keyfigures

35	Transmission System Operators (TSO)
21	European Countries
400 million	Customers served by the represented power systems
512 GW	Installed capacity
2160 TWh	Electricity consumption in 2001
230 TWh	Sum of electricity exchange between member TSO's under rules of UCTE
200.000 km	Length of high-voltage transmission lines managed by the TSO's

	F	I	SLO	HR	JIEL	L	NL	A	P	CH	CZ	H
B	2/2					2/3	-/4					
B	2/4					8/3	-/6	9/3		6/7	-/4	
B	2/2								3/2			
F	3/3									6/5		
GR	-/1				-/1							
I		1/1						1/2		8/2		
SLO			2/3					1/2				
HR				7/3								7/2
JIEL												7/3
NL												7/3
A										1/2	2/1	2/1
P												
CH												2/2
CZ												2/2
H												2/2
PL												2/3

220 kV / 380 kV

- 1st synchronous UCTE region
- 2nd synchronous UCTE region
- Associated members of UCTE
- Synchronous Operation with 1st UCTE region
- Synchronous Operation with 2nd UCTE region



Keeping the lights on



Since the latest change in the UCTE's articles of association, which date back from 1999, when the »P« in the old UCPTTE was dropped, discussions had taken place in the association in order to assess the missions of UCTE in the new business environment.

A general consensus was reached, which tended towards the following main issues:

- 1 The reliability of the European interconnected area is a precondition for the electricity market, and this is today UCTE's number one mission: keeping the lights on throughout the electric system in the UCTE Synchronous Area, serving some 400 million customers.

This objective covers two major functional aspects:

- the security assessment of the system, which is the ability of the system to withstand major or sudden disturbances, such as the loss of production units or grid elements, due to outages or natural catastrophes, but also to accidents or attacks;
- the assessment of the adequacy of the system, which is the structural ability of the system to supply in a medium term of 2 to 3 years, the aggregate power and energy demand required by the market.

- 2 The decision-making and monitoring relative to the development of the synchronous area. Since the setting up of UCPTTE in 1951, the organisation has successfully managed multiple extensions of the synchronous area, of which the most remarkable in recent years was the interconnection of the 4 CENTREL countries in 1995. Today, several issues need to be addressed: to the South, the synchronous interconnection to the Maghreb countries via the Spain-Morocco submarine link; to the South-East, the interconnections towards Turkey; to the East, the interconnection of the Western Ukrainian area of the Burshbyn island, the question of defining a position and implementing a strategy towards the systems of Russia and the other CIS states. <<<

Main missions of UCTE

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- 1 *Technical and operational co-ordination* of the interconnection in the UCTE synchronous area

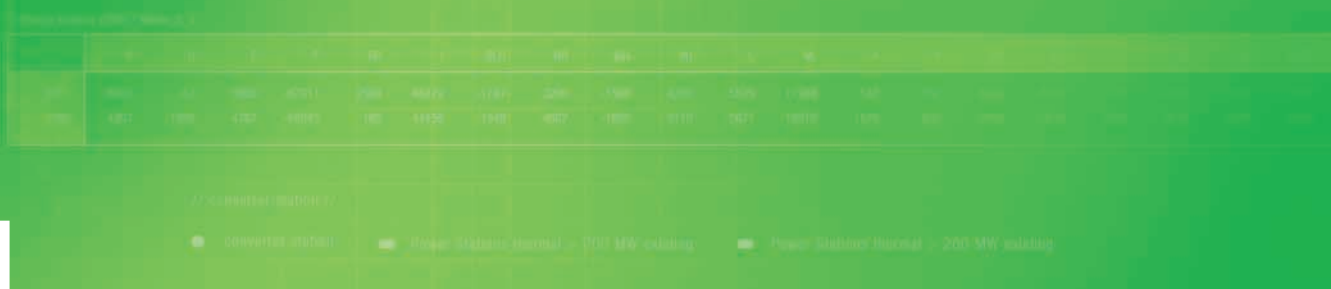
 - 2 Monitoring and control of the short-term *reliability* of the system with regard to *load, frequency control, stability, etc.*

 - 3 Medium-term *adequacy* between generation & load (3-year power balance forecast)

 - 4 Study and monitor the *development* of the synchronous area.

as precondition for a functioning market platform

Legal form and secretariat



At the General Assembly in Lisbon in May 2001, the UCTE was set up in legal form as an international association of transmission system operators. This was a major change in the 50-year history. The need for shorter decision processes, for permanent and professional secretarial support, and the need for a legal structure allowing

to contract with service providers and authorities: all these requirements inspired the members to undertake this change.

In the articles of association, the objectives of the Union were redefined, as summarized in the following box:

Development of the synchronous area on a time line

Synchronous interconnection with Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic	<i>since 1995</i>
Re-Connection of Balkan countries and Greece	<i>on track, expected for 2003</i>
Preparation of synchronous interconnection with Romania, Bulgaria and the Western Part of Ukraine	<i>in discussion</i>
Maghreb countries and Turkey	<i>requested</i>
Russia (together with Ukraine, Belarus etc.)	<i>requested</i>