UCTE is determined to keep responding adequately to the upcoming technical challenges resulting from the present market liberalisation in Continental Europe. This matches the recommendations of the European Commission's and European energy regulators' »Florence Process«, especially on subjects like »Security and reliability« and "European infrastructure«. In particular, the CEER has made UCTE responsible of publishing a set of common technical standards which would be binding for all concerned parties. These standards will be collected in the form of an »Operational Handbook«.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES TO UCTE FROM 2002 ON?

As recalled above, UCTE has received and keeps receiving many requests for new electrical interconnections with a number of countries. UCTE's general policy is to endeavor the development of such interconnection to facilitate the electricity market, in the framework of standards, which preserve the reliability of its synchronous area. UCTE is ready to pro-actively support and realize such projects. Each particular case will be studied, taking into account possible interferences with other interconnection requests, and avoiding prejudices against possible solutions (for example, in particular circumstances, DCoperation of the interconnection with back-toback stations at the interface can be a viable alternative).

In order to contribute to the market's smooth functioning, UCTE also intends to reinforce its policy of statistics publication. To be economically efficient, operators need reliable and accurate technical information about the state of the transmission network and of the energy flows. Therefore, UCTE is expanding the set of data which is collected and published; for instance, statistics on unavailability of international tie lines have been made available. All stakeholders also need information on the evolution of the system's adequacy, i.e. its structural ability to supply the aggregate power and energy required by the market. Therefore, UCTE will enhance its present report »Power Balance Forecast« into an adequacy statement of the whole European synchronous interconnected system.

Facing the increasing complexity of international electricity markets and systems and the information »flooding« from numerous sources, UCTE currently investigates possibilities for the improvement of UCTE information storage and publishing systems as a response to the needs of the UCTE-website users.