

Subject: FEBEG's remarks on Task force scenarios: ToR
Date: 14 April 2021

Contact: Jean-François Waignier
Telephone: +32 485 77 92 02
Mail: jean-francois.waignier@febeg.be

Overall remarks

FEBEG would like to express its support for the initiative of Elia to set up a more transparent and cooperative approach on the topic of future scenarios for the power system.

Overall, it is indeed beneficial for all stakeholders that the development and design of scenarios will be debated in a constructive fashion in dialogue with the most important market parties and experts in the field.

FEBEG and FEBEG members are committed to contribute to the scenarios and to ensure that these are in line with market expectations and are ambitious, but realistic from a technical and economical perspective.

Detailed remarks on the terms of reference (ToR)

Goals: FEBEG supports the goals and elements set forward by Elia: stakeholder participation, transparency, coherence, quality of data, efficient scenario development, EU regulation compliance.

Scope: overall we agree with the scope, however, we wish to add the following regarding "evidence based data": data should indeed be based on as many neutral scientific evidence as possible, however, in some cases it is important to have a reality check as science can not always match exactly with what is happening in the real world (innovation can go faster than expected, a short term problem can drastically change the assumptions on which the scientific study was based, ...). An expert debate can, and in our opinion must, add an additional element/layer to a pure data and science driven exercise.

Chairman & secretariat: no comments

Composition: we indeed support a balanced composition of the members of the task force. However, it is also crucial to have an overall balanced approach. For example, it would be detrimental to the process if one or a few participants, who would be more vocal than others, would dominate the discussions, as this would undo the efforts to have a balanced list of participants. The governance should be carefully determined to maintain the balance.

Annual Process: The re-iteration approach is very interesting indeed as the assumptions and precondition change over time. We would also like to stress the value and need of a feedback loop. An evaluation of the scenarios ex-post in order to improve the quality of future scenarios and in order to avoid repeating mistakes from the past is therefore crucial to end up with the most realistic scenarios. On the consolidation process, we think it would be interesting and important to ensure that scenarios are “contrasted”, in order to ensure that the “baseline” scenario is in the middle of a set of more extreme scenarios (a high RES and a low RES scenario for example). Internal coherence is also crucial to ensure valuable scenarios are put forward.

Meetings, agenda and governance: We fully agree that professional behaviour and mutual respect are important. We must regret that the discussions are sometimes monopolised by a limited number of participants in other working groups/task forces. We invite the chairman to be very vigilant on that topic and to invite the participants to tackle ball and not the man.