Feedback in response to the public consultation on the System Imbalance forecast and evaluation of its publication

In this reaction, Belgian Offshore Platform responds to the public consultation on the System Imbalance forecast and evaluation of its publication as launched by Elia on 31st of August 2021.

BOP welcomes the proposal for publication of a System Imbalance forecast as it might provide additional transparency for market players and might attract additional flexibility at the right instances.

It is our understanding that the SI forecast model will only provide a forecast for the next 2 quarter-hours, and that the variables used in the model are only real-time or historic values. If our understanding is correct, this implies that forward-looking data (e.g. a storm alert, forecasted wind production, nominations for the next quarter-hours, etc.) does not influence the SI forecast. What was the reason for leaving out forward-looking data?

The quality of the SI forecast seems crucial to achieve its goal, especially under extreme conditions or exceptional events like storm events. We therefore support the choice to add quality indicators (confidence intervals & ranges) and only publish forecasts when the predictions are sufficiently reliable.

Elia intends to publish the forecast on Qh+0 for Qh+0, Qh+1 and Qh+2. With what frequency will the forecasts be updated? As 1-minute data is used in the model, the model would yield an update every minute; will this be provided to the market, or will the forecast only be updated at the start of every quarter-hour? And at what frequency will the model calibration/training be updated in order to grasp the evolutions in the energy system and changes in responses to the system imbalance and the published forecasts?

As the number of indicators forecasted by Elia is growing, we would like to suggest to develop a schematic to better understand how all the forecasted indicators are interacting and influencing each other. For instance the Elia (offshore) wind forecast is used to trigger the storm alerts and related storm procedure. The mitigating actions as performed by the BRPs in the frame of the storm procedure are to have an effect on the system imbalance. In order to avoid conflicting forecasts, we suggest to introduce a sanity check to ensure consistency of the forecasts, especially under exceptional circumstances.

BOP remains at disposal for further questions and clarifications when deemed necessary.