



**EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE PUBLIC
CONSULTATION OF THE PROPOSAL OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE T&C BRP REGARDING THE
CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THE SDAC & SIDC
PROCESSES AND THE SERVICE MULTIPLE BRP**

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

This note serves as an explanation for the current consultation on the **proposal of amendments of the Terms and Conditions for Balance Responsible Parties** (hereafter referred to as “T&C BRP”). The purpose of this consultation is to obtain comments from the market parties. At the end of the public consultation, Elia will provide a consultation report that will be available to all market parties.

All responses to this public consultation will be made public on Elia’s website, except the comments for which market parties ask to treat their contribution as confidential. However, all responses to this public consultation will be submitted to the relevant regulatory authorities in the context of the official approval procedure¹ for the Rules organizing the T&C BRP.

Elia invites all stakeholders to submit any comments and suggestions they may have on the documents submitted for consultation. The consultation period runs from 20 September 2024 to 18 October 2024. All responses must be submitted via the online form on the Elia website. The draft proposal for the changes to the T&C BRP is available for consultation on the Elia website.

Questions regarding these documents can be sent to the following email address: simon.serrarens@elia.be with the Key Account Manager (KAM) in cc: sybille.mettens@elia.be.

¹ Article 6(3) of Regulation 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing

INTRODUCTION

The current revision of the T&C BRP serves to accommodate two changes that are time sensitive. The first change concerns updates related to the adaptations in the Single Day-Ahead Coupling (SDAC) and Single Intraday Coupling (SIDC) processes. The second change relates to updates that are required for both the T&C BRP and the Access Contract to allow for the possibility to assign multiple BRPs on Delivery Points behind a given Access Point. This is in addition to the current system already in place to assign multiple BRPs on the Access Point itself. The process to assign multiple BRPs on a Delivery Point behind an Access Point is currently used by several market parties in the form of a Letter of Intent, with name 'Service Multiple BRP', which has a fixed end date. As was requested by the market parties, an overlap is foreseen in the public consultation period of both the T&C BRP and the Access Contract, so both documents can be compared, and relevant feedback can be given on the intersection between the two contracts.

Finally, some smaller changes were made. These include changes requested by CREG in their last decisions, to be included in the next revision (i.e., the current revision).

In full, within the current revision, the following changes are presented to the market parties. Each of these changes are elaborated in one of the following sections:

1. Transition to 15-minute Market Time Units (MTU) in SDAC, with related changes to the Day-Ahead (DA) Nominations deadlines.
2. Addition of SIDC Intraday auctions (IDA).
3. Integration of the possibility to assign multiple BRPs behind an Access Point. This process allows an Access Holder (ACH) to appoint a BRP on a Delivery Point (DP) downstream from their Access Point (AP). Within this constellation, the BRP on the DP (BRP_{DP}) can be different from the one on the AP (BRP_{AP}).
4. Smaller changes due to CREG requests and changes in the market design:
 - I. Revision of the definitions, as requested by CREG in Decision (B)2688.
 - II. Adapted reference to the tariffs in Art. 30.6 of the T&C BRP on the description of the additional alfa component, as requested by CREG in Decision (B)2688.
 - III. Reference to the recently approved Market Suspension Rules.
 - IV. Removal of references to the obsolete Strategic Reserves and Band Supplies.

1. SDAC 15' MTU & changes to DA Nomination deadlines

The SDAC process allows market parties to, via their Nominated Electricity Market Operators (NEMOs), purchase and sell energy internationally in the Day-Ahead timeframe. The process has an underlying algorithm, which matches supply and demand, taking into account prices and cross-border capacity constraints. More information on the SDAC process can be found here².

² Information on the [SDAC process](#).

Today it is only possible for market parties to purchase and sell energy in SDAC with a 1-hour granularity. This is being expanded, to allow for 30' and 15' granularities as well. As the nominations take place after the market-coupling, and the market-coupling calculations will take longer due to the additional granularities, it will take longer for the BRPs to have a view on their sales and purchases of energy in SDAC. As the information on these sales and purchases is an important input for BRPs to balance their balancing perimeter, and to decide on whether to sell or purchase additional energy in the internal market (Internal Commercial Trades), it was decided to extend the nomination deadlines for Internal Commercial Trades from 14h00 to 14h30. This has the additional benefit that the nomination deadlines for Internal Commercial Trades are consequently also brought in line with the other nomination deadlines (physical nominations, external commercial trades), simplifying the process.

The relevant changes can be found in Art. 25.4. of the T&C BRP: 'Internal Commercial Trade Schedules'. Note that as this revision of the T&C BRP is expected to enter into force by February 2025, and consequently before the date of the SDAC process change (expected March 2025), both the situations before the increase in granularity and after the increase in granularity, have been specified within the revised Art 25.4. of the T&C BRP.

As is the case today, and before the SDAC process update, the nomination deadline for Internal Commercial Trades remains 14h00 (MTUs have a granularity of 1 hour). After the SDAC process update, the nomination deadline for Internal Commercial Trades will be 14h30 (MTUs have as a finest granularity 15'). The text was adapted to accommodate for a potential delay in the SDAC process change, by defining the nomination deadline in function of the finest granularity of the market time units.

2. SIDC Intraday auctions

The SIDC process allows market parties to, via their NEMOs, purchase and sell energy internationally in the Intraday timeframe. More information on SIDC can be found [here](#)³. SIDC is composed of 2 markets: intraday continuous trading (IDCT) and Intraday Auctions (IDAs). The processes of both markets have underlying algorithms which match supply and demand, taking into account prices and cross-border capacity constraints. The IDCT market is based on a continuous process where capacity is offered at a first-come first-serve basis while the IDA market is auction-based, using the same algorithm as the SDAC auction.

IDAs were introduced first on 13/06/2024 for the delivery day 14/06/2024 in order to better match supply and demand via an auction which optimizes the social welfare and provides 3 additional price signals per day in addition to the existing Belgian Day-ahead reference price. As for the existing IDCT market, the External Commercial Trades resulting from the IDAs are nominated by the Shipping Agents and then transferred to the Central Counterparty (CCP) (if different) via Internal Commercial Trades.

³ Information on SIDC can be found [here](#).

Then, the Internal Commercial Trades from the CCP to the BRP resulting from the IDAs, are summed up with the Internal Commercial Trades resulting from the IDCT.

For the 3 auctions organized in the Intraday timeframe, the following nomination deadlines are set:

- For the first auction, for delivery Day D, the nomination deadline will be D-1 16h00;
- For the second auction, for delivery Day D, the nomination deadline will be D-1 23h00;
- For the third auction, for delivery Day D, the nomination deadline will be D 11h00.

The relevant changes were made to Art. 25.1. of the T&C BRP: 'Daily balancing program related to External Commercial Trades'.

3. Possibility to assign multiple BRP behind an AP

Today, in most cases, there is one BRP per AP appointed by the ACH in the Access Contract. The Access Contract foresees certain specific schemes that allow the ACH to appoint more than one BRP behind this AP, especially when there is energy production behind the AP.

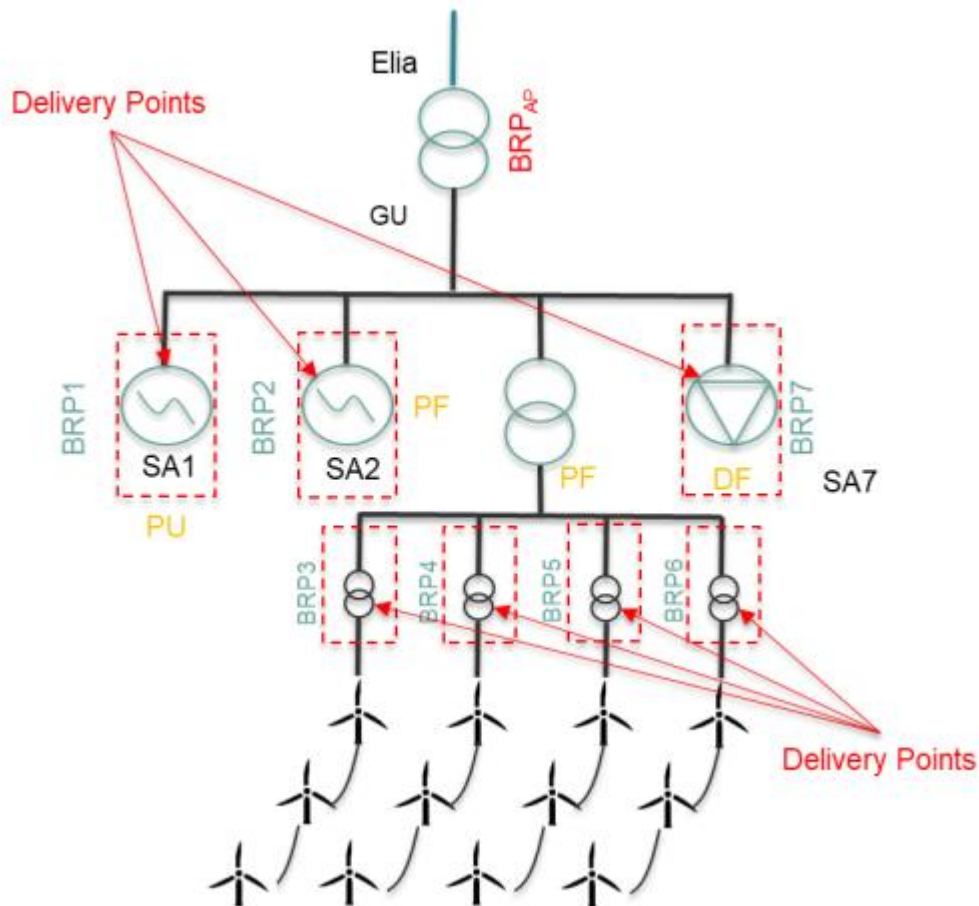
A few years ago, Elia introduced the notion of multiple BRPs behind an AP. The idea was launched a first time through an incentive study⁴ and later also within the CCMD initiative, to provide more freedom to the ACH to opt for more than one BRP by allowing them to appoint separate BRPs per DP. In this context, it is key that a DP has a submeter which allows to split the offtake/of injection at this DP from the rest of the site.

This concept was first made available via the Letter of Intent (LoI) for Multiple BRP, launched in 2024. The concept described in the LoI allows Access Holders to appoint BRPs on Delivery Points (DPs) behind their Access Point (AP), where the BRPs on the DPs (BRP_{DP}) can be different from the BRP on the AP (BRP_{AP}) (but they don't have to be different, they can also be the same). This can happen in different constellations. Some examples (non-exhaustive):

- BRP_{AP} is responsible on the AP. The Access Holder can appoint BRP_{DP} on a DP behind the AP, where $BRP_{AP} \neq BRP_{DP}$; or
- The Access Holder can appoint BRP_{DP1} on DP1 behind the AP, and BRP_{DP2} on DP2 behind the AP; or
- A combination of the above.

The below figure serves as an illustration of this concept, where several BRP_{DP} s might be designated on DPs. One or more of them could be different from the BRP_{AP} .

⁴ The information on the incentive study 'Designation of multiple Balance Responsible Parties on an Access Point' can be found on the [Elia website](#).



As such, the possibility to assign multiple BRPs behind an Access Point allows the Access Holder to valorise their flexibility via different BRPs. This is currently only possible via a Letter of Intent (LoI). The Lols signed in 2024 have an end date on 31/12/2024. Given that the LoI is currently used by several market parties, and that other market parties have expressed an interest in the possibility to assign multiple BRPs, it seems pertinent to formalize the content of the LoI in the T&C BRP. This has as an added benefit that this concept can be used without an end date.

Note that formalizing the LoI also requires updates to the Access Contract. In order to allow market parties to evaluate the changes for assigning multiple BRP in the T&C BRP and the Access Contract together, the public consultations for both documents are set to overlap. For all changes made in the Access Contract, both related to the possibility to assign multiple BRP and other, we refer the reader to the explanatory note of the public consultation of the Access Contract.

The changes to formalize the possibility to assign multiple BRP within the T&C BRP are spread throughout different articles. The below provides an overview of the articles in the T&C BRP where changes are made, as well as a summary of the change itself:

- Art 1. Definitions:
 - o Certain definitions were adapted to accommodate for the possibility to assign multiple BRP. For example, the definition of Delivery Point (DP) now specifies that a DP doesn't necessarily have the same BRP as the BRP on the Access Point.

- Additionally, some new definitions were added as they are required for the possibility to assign multiple BRP. These include Headmeter, Submeter...
- Art. 20 Balancing Perimeter:
 - Art. 20 describes the different elements of the BRP balancing perimeter. Among these elements are the Injection and Offtake points, described in Art 20.1. The article was updated to contain additional information for the Access and Delivery Points:
 - Access Point: if a BRP_{AP} is responsible for the Injection/Offtake of a certain AP, and if a different BRP (BRP_{DP}) is appointed on a DP behind this AP, then the energy measured at the level of this DP will be excluded (isolated) from the volume of energy (relative to this AP) allocated to the perimeter of the BRP_{AP}.
 - Delivery Point: the volume of energy measured at the level of a delivery point can now also be added to the Balancing Perimeter of a BRP (BRP_{DP}).
 - Art. 20.4: Losses contains specific information of how the federal grid losses related to Offtake are attributed to a BRP Balancing Perimeter. An additional reference was made here to an added Appendix 7. This newly added appendix defines in detail how losses on an Access Point are calculated in case of multiple BRPs on the AP and related DPs.
- Art. 22. Data Exchange. This article specifies which data on metering is communicated by Elia, and at what point in time. 2 additional cases were introduced to allow for having multiple BRP:
 - The case where a BRP would be assigned on a DP, and said BRP is different from the BRP on the AP. The text is adapted to specify when and which data the BRP of the DP would receive.
 - The case where a BRP is assigned to an AP, but there are one or several other BRPs on DPs below the AP. The BRP of the AP does not receive the data about these DPs, as reflected in the text.
- Art. 24. Daily Balancing Schedules: the article defines the obligation for BRPs to submit daily balancing schedules. Part of this obligation for a BRP concerns limiting the Day-Ahead Imbalance of their Balancing Perimeter, which is not allowed to exceed the Maximum Allowed Day-Ahead Imbalance. This Maximum Allowed Day-Ahead Imbalance depends in turn on the portfolio size of the BRP, which is calculated as the highest daily average Offtake. Within the calculation of this Offtake, details were added to specify that the Offtake for a BRP on an AP does not include the Offtake on any DP behind the AP. Conversely, if a BRP is responsible for a DP behind an AP, then this is indeed included in calculating its Offtake.

4. Smaller changes

4.1. Revision of definitions

In Decision (B)2688, CREG requested the revision of a number of definitions. The below outlines an overview of the requested changes, and how they are treated by Elia. When applicable, the relevant change was made in Art. 1 Definitions of the T&C BRP:

- **'aFRR Marginal Price'**: CREG argues that the calculation behind this term should not be taken up in the definitions, and the definition should refer to the term as defined in the T&C BSP aFRR instead.

- After discussion with CREG, Elia and CREG agreed to leave this definition unchanged in this revision of the T&C BRP. The term is not defined in the T&C BSP aFRR, and can therefore not be referred to. Additionally, a broader investigation is required to optimize how these types of references between contracts should be handled. This is being launched by Elia for future evolutions of the different T&Cs.
- **‘mFRR Marginal Price’**: CREG makes the same arguments as for aFRR Marginal Price.
 - In this case, the Marginal Price is indeed defined in the T&C BSP mFRR, so the corresponding reference could be made in the T&C BRP. However, as mentioned above, a broader investigation is to be done on how definitions that occur in multiple regulated documents, and references between terms should be handled. Therefore, Elia proposes the same approach as for the aFRR Marginal Price.
- **‘mFRR Satisfied Demand’**: CREG makes the same arguments as for aFRR Marginal Price.
 - After discussion with CREG, Elia proposes to follow the same approach as for aFRR Marginal Price and mFRR Marginal Price.
- **‘Local Merit Order List’ or ‘LMOL’**: CREG points out that ‘availability’ is defined in art. 29.1 of EBGL as the list of balancing energy bids, with filtered out bids that are unavailable due to congestion. In order to avoid confusion, CREG asks Elia to clarify in the definition of LMOL that it means all balancing energy bids, sorted by price. This includes the bids that are unavailable due to congestion.
 - Elia argues that the definition has indeed been written as such. The current definition does not exclude bids unavailable due to congestion. Therefore, according to Elia, no change in the definition is necessary.
- **‘System Imbalance’**: CREG does not agree with the definition that this is the system imbalance in the Belgian LFC Block. ACER 18/2020 defines it rather as the system imbalance in the imbalance price zone. CREG asks to adapt accordingly.
 - Elia agrees, and has adapted accordingly.
- **‘Tariffs’**: CREG argues that the elements of the imbalance price should be described in the T&C BRP alone, and that the T&C BRP cannot state that the tariffs take precedence over the T&C BRP in case of discrepancies or differences in interpretation.
 - In judgement 2022/AR/1449 of the Market Court it was decided that the Tariffs for BRPs are indeed to be defined in the T&C BRP (following EBGL). However, it was also ruled that there is no problem to repeat the way of calculating these in the Tariff decision or refer to the Tariff decisions themselves from CREG. As such, Elia proposes to clarify the definition of Tariffs, to specify that they are a part of the T&C BRP, as well as the CREG Tariff decision.

4.2. The alpha component

Art. 30.6. of the T&C BRP: ‘Additional Component’, describes the alpha component. As part of this description, was written that this alpha component is defined in the Tariffs, with an additional explanation as to how it is defined in the Tariffs.

In its decision (B)2688, CREG requests to remove this particular part of the description, which states that the alpha component of the imbalance price is defined in the tariff proposal. CREG asks instead that all components of the imbalance price are solely and uniquely described in the T&C BRP.

However, the definition of the alpha component depends on whether a first connection to a European platform for the exchange of balancing energy (MARI/PICASSO) has been made. Before such a first connection, the definition in the Tariffs remains the only correct definition. After the connection to either platform, the definition of the alpha component will be the one as defined in the T&C BRP. The T&C BRP was adjusted to reflect this (Art 30.6. of the T&C BRP: 'Additional component'). In a later revision, after connection to at least one of the two platforms, the reference to the Tariffs will be redundant and should be removed.

Finally, CREG also asked to remove the statement that the tariffs would take precedent over the T&C BRP in case of contradictions or uncertainty (art. 4 'Additional rules of interpretation' in the T&C BRP). However, as explained above, in the current case the alpha component is still defined in the Tariffs. As such, Elia believes it prudent to keep this reference for now, at least until the connection to either platform.

4.3. Market Suspension Rules

In its Decision (B)2635, taken on 09/11/2023, CREG approved the Market Suspension Rules (MSR). This document pertains to the rules for suspension and restoration of market activities, as well as specific rules for the imbalance settlement and settlement of balancing energy. The MSR have entered into force on 01/01/2024 and are already an integral part of the T&C BRP. Indeed, even before the approval of the MSR, Art 7.2. of the T&C BRP: 'Alert, Emergency, Black-out and Restoration state' already included provisions detailing Elia's right to take the measures provided by the applicable legal and regulatory provisions. The MSR are an integral part of these provisions. In order to be exhaustive and clearer for the reader, the reference to the MSR was added explicitly in the text.

4.4. Removal of Strategic Reserves and Band Supplies

Both the Strategic Reserves and Band Supplies are obsolete mechanisms, no longer in use in the Belgian market today. Within this revision of the T&C BRP all text referring to both mechanisms has been removed. This includes removal of text from the following articles of the T&C BRP:

- Art. 1. Definitions;
- Art. 21. Quarter-hourly imbalance of the BRP;
- Art. 22. Data exchange;
- Art. 24. Daily balancing schedules;
- Art. 25. Procedure for submitting the daily balancing schedules;
- Art 27. Complete or partial rejection of daily balancing schedules on Day D-1 and Complete or partial rejection of daily balancing schedules on Day D.