

Conclusions of the V4 NRAs meeting

Representatives of V4 energy regulators met at the premises of URSO (Regulatory Office for Network Industries) on 25 May 2016 in Bratislava. Based on their meeting and discussions, they reached the following conclusions:

Participants:

ÚRSO (SK): Jozef Holjenčík (Chairman), Miroslav Čelinský, Richard Ružička, Jaroslav Ranto, Magdaléna Čačaná, Radoslav Igaz, Nataša Hudcovičová, Vlastimil Jurkuliak, Marián Parkányi

HEA (HU): Attila Nyikos (Vice-President for International Affairs), Gergely Éliás, László Szabó

ERÚ (CZ): Petra Grigelová (Director of Gas Department), Ondřej Touš, Martin Šik, Peter Ikrényi

URE (PL): Aldona Kaźmierska (Deputy Director of the Department of Markets Development and Consumer Issues)

Current state of the planned gas infrastructure projects Nord Stream 2 (NS 2) and BACI

The discussion about the NS 2 project showed that representatives of ÚRSO, HEA and URE were concerned about this planned infrastructure, e.g. due to possible impact on gas price increase for end consumers. The three regulators agreed that energy regulators should support only those projects which will ensure optimal utilisation of the existing gas infrastructure and bring positive changes to all involved parties in an indiscriminate manner. ERÚ chose not to comment on this point.

Update on the gas market integration project between the Czech Republic and Austria - Trading Region Upgrade (TRU) – current state and utilisation

Update on the project of CZ and AT trading zones integration was provided by the representatives of ERÚ. After the comments of the public consultation are processed, a workshop for market participants will be held. ERÚ representatives stressed that whether and how the project will ultimately be implemented depends on a CBA and the analysis of necessary legislation changes. ERÚ would appreciate if representatives of V4 regulators would also join in participating in the planned workshop on the project.

Update on the current state of utilisation of Vel'ké Zlievce (SK) - Vecsés (HU) gas interconnector

Regulators of V4 countries discussed the status of utilization of the gas interconnector between Slovakia and Hungary. The two parties agreed to continue the timely exchange of information in the event of changes.

Current status of the expert group's work aimed at developing a joint analysis and methodology specific to V4 countries for end consumer prices comparison

Participants reiterated their former observation that the current Eurostat methodology does not take into account the variety of end consumer price components. They welcome the initiative which relies on a bottom-up approach and therefore can better take into account the richness of national tariff regimes. All regulatory authorities have been asked to provide relevant information on prices, experts will also submit non-price aspects (such as quality of supply). Representatives of V4 regulatory authorities agreed on the necessity and expediency of further joint cooperation.

In Bratislava on 25 May 2016