



Gestionnaire
du Réseau de Transport d'Electricité



Paris, Brussels, 19th December 2008

RTE and Elia create a new company, Coreso, a crucial step to strengthen the power security in Central Western Europe.

RTE and Elia, the French and Belgian electricity transmission system operators (TSOs), founded on December 18 a new company named Coreso (Coordination of Electricity System Operators). The purpose of the joint venture is to house the first regional technical coordination centre to be shared by several TSOs in the Central Western European (CWE) region. Coreso will start operating on 16 February 2009. Vattenfall Europe Transmission and National Grid, German and British TSOs, have already made known their interest in the initiative.

RTE and Elia are implementing today their project to set up this regional coordination centre, originally announced in September 2008, by incorporating the new company, Coreso (Coordination of Electricity System Operators).

As early as September 2008, the German TSO Vattenfall Europe Transmission indicated it was interested in the initiative. The British TSO National Grid will join Coreso in the New Year.

The centre will develop forecast management of electricity transits across the Central Western European region, and will help to monitor flows in real time, in preparation for market coupling in the future. From 16 February 2009, Coreso will supply integrated forecasts related to grid security to the national control centres (afternoon for the next day), seven days a week. From July 2009, the centre will be operational around the clock, and will provide network security analyses and monitoring continuously.

RTE and Elia have undertaken to cooperate closely with the CWE region's other TSOs, to expand the initiative to cover the entire region (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg).

The creation of Coreso is in line with the need for increased operational cooperation between TSOs, as clearly expressed by the European Commission in its draft Directive and by electricity market players. Its main aim is to enable better regional integration of renewable generation and to guarantee safe management of cross-border flows, which are increasing sharply with the development of intraday markets.

This initiative forms part of the Memorandum of Understanding aimed at developing a major regional electricity market, which was signed in June 2007 by the transmission system operators (TSOs) of the Centre West Europe region, and the energy ministers, regulators, power exchanges and market players from Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

(1) RTE is the French electricity transmission system operator. It is a public service company responsible for operating, maintaining and developing the high and extra high voltage network. It guarantees the reliability and proper operation of the power network.

(2) Elia operates the high and extra high voltage power transmission networks in Belgium, and is responsible for transporting electricity from generators to the distribution system operators and major industrial consumers.

Press contacts

RTE, Alexia RIERE: +33 (0)141 021 569 +33 (0)660 542 217 alexia.riere@rte-france.com

Elia, Eva SULS: +32 (0)25 467 378 +32 (0)477 488 009 eva.suls@elia.be

Valérie VANHEMELEN: +32 (0)25 467 511 +32 (0)47 852 4204 valerie.vanhemelen@elia.be