

Minutes of Meeting of WG Balancing on 7th of February

Meeting	
Date	07/02/2024
Organiser	Jan Voet

Participants		Attended	Excused
Aug.e	Decuyper Jan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Axpo	Limpens Tanguy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BASF	Verrydt Eric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bnewable	Walkiers Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOP Belgian Offshore Platform	Canière Hugo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BStor	Bayart Pierre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BSTOR	Fieuchs Arthur	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BSTOR	Van de Keer Lieven	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centrica	Adigbli Patrick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centrica	Lefebvre Yves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centrica	Meynckens Geert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cogen Vlaanderen	Reyniers Stefaan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREG	Maenhoudt Marijn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DXT commodities	Barengi Silvia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DXT commodities	Boffino Luigi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DXT commodities	Simon Nils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eneco	Boddu Sumalik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eneco	Van den Berg Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eneco	Williame Jean-Francois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENGIE	Donnay de Casteau Loic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENGIE	Laleman Ruben	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Commodities	Baudson Axel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEBEG	Waignier Jean-François	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEBELIEC	Van Bossuyt Michaël	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexcity	De Brouwer Paul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexcity	Rodriguez Cuesta Diego	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrabel	De Taeye Bert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luminus	Chafaqi Laila	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luminus	Van Engeland Sam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luminus	Harlem Steven	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ORES	Buisseret Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otary	Van Nuffel Margot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Powernaut	Morel Serge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIA Partners	Lippens Pierre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



SPF Economie - FOD Economie	Brasseur François	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thermovault	Gérard Thibaut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thy-Marcinelle	Marin Alexandre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TotalEnergies	Hofman Hannah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TotalEnergies	Mullenders Cédric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TotalEnergies	Van Buylaere Lionel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virya-Energy	Schryvers Vincent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yuso	Debaere Elias	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yuso	Pycke Bart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yuso	Vermandere Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Participants		Attended	Excused
Elia	Bosschaerts Caroline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Duquesne Alexandre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Illegems Viviane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Koelman Nicolas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Leroux Amandine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Pellegrin Cécile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Pierreux Nicolas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Poncelet Kris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Tsiokanos Anna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Van der Vorst Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Verelst Martine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elia	Voet Jan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report

Author	Thomas Van der Vorst		
Function	WG Balancing secretary		
Date report	20/03/2024		
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final version	

1. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. EU & BE Balancing program update
3. aFRR evolutions and connection to PICASSO
4. Evaluation plan for the calculation rules of the imbalance price
5. Improvement in the provision of data by Elia
6. Faster BRP settlement
7. AOB

2. Report

1. Introduction

- New Secretary of the WG Balancing, Thomas Van der Vorst, is introduced.
- MoM of last meeting are approved.

2. EU & BE Balancing Program Update

- CBS asks if a timeslot is foreseen for the workshop on 19/2. Elia indicates that it will start at 15:00.
- Febeliec asks if the market will be informed of the successfulness of market parties' tests in March. Elia indicated that a first feedback should be given by Elia in the next WG BAL.
- Febeliec asks with whom the principles applicable to define cost-based formulas will be discussed. Elia intends to discuss this with directly concerned parties first. Febeliec requests that the principles are discussed in WG BAL as well. Elia confirms that principles will be presented to all and indicates that CREG will also look at the annexes for the cost-based formulas.
- Elia insists that the first step is to ensure that everyone is operationally ready for the go-live and that price formulas will be discussed at a second stage.
- ENGIE asks about the exact date for mFRR/iCAROS go-live. Elia indicates that the expected date is the 22/5, still to be confirmed (based on readiness, contractual onboarding, etc.). Elia requests that market parties foresee the needed availability of the needed people during this period and reminds that the gate opening time is from two weeks upfront to one week upfront (depending on the processes) and should be used to already send first versions of bids, schedules, etc. in advance. Elia insists on the importance for market parties to take all steps to be ready for the go-live mid-May.
- ENGIE asks whether OptiFlex production environment would be available. Elia indicates that production environment will only be available for market parties to send information 2 weeks in advance and asks ENGIE to clarify why having an earlier access to the production environment would be needed on their side. ENGIE and Elia agree to discuss this in the info session.

T&C BRP

- Febeliec requests a communication to the market as soon as CREG's decision is made and to not wait for formal publication by CREG. Febeliec hopes for a positive decision. Febeliec agrees that if the law is not adequate it should be changed, but that this typically takes 2 to 3 years at EU level.
- ENGIE asks to confirm that "making legislation evolve" means "to make EBGL evolve". Elia confirms for EBGL and adds that the Imbalance Settlement Harmonisation methodology may have to be amended as well. Elia indicates however that if a compliant formula can be found that preserves system security and that is relevant from a techno-economic perspective, this formula should be adopted. Elia will keep working with CREG on this topic.
- Febeliec notes that changing the EU legislation is a long process and invites Elia to make sure the necessary points are also directly tackled via ENTSO-E.
- Febeg appreciates the fact that CREG and Elia's positions seem to converge and asks if there will be a public consultation (organized by CREG) about the latest proposal for amendment. Elia indicates that a consultation is not foreseen in this amendment process (according to article 6.1 of EBGL).

- Febeg asks more information on the evaluation plan. Elia indicates that the guiding principles will be described in the T&C and the rest in the evaluation plan itself which is a detailed document with all assessment methodologies.

FCR design evolutions

- No comment

Balancing Incentives

- ENGIE asks to target incentives where a lot of value is identified and to not multiply them, to manage everyone's workload and then lead to an actual implementation. Febeliec reacts that then the amount paid for incentives should be revised. Elia states that we should indeed focus on the incentives that would have an impact and reminds that all market parties are invited to communicate their ideas and priorities to Elia.
- Febeliec reminds its request in previous WG BAL to identify entry barriers, and suggests as possible incentives for 2025:
 - That Elia goes cautiously through all its operational processes and identify which elements could be entry barriers and could be adapted (e.g. no need for SCADA communication for FCR).
 - How to better integrate low and mid-voltage assets (e.g. how to transpose the different requirements).
- In complement Febeliec invites all market parties to give their input of what could be included as priority in order to remove entry barriers. Following examples are mentioned:
 - Multiple-FSP on a same DP
 - Additional facilitation services, helping BSPs to offer in a correct way (inviting BSPs to provide ideas if any)
- Elia is working on entry barriers and will present an approach in next WG BAL.
- Febeliec asks the status on the present "BSP Facilitations". Elia indicates that merged bids, Neutralisation time, MAT and MEL are all foreseen for the go-live. Obligation switch is still planned with high priority for this year, after go-lives. Febeliec indicates that these functionalities are awaited by its members and asks to communicate their inclusion in the facilities for the go-live and to also include federations in this communication.

Coming stakeholder management interactions

- Febeliec requests to clarify the timing of the aFRR workshop on 29/2. Elia indicates that it will take place in the afternoon.

3. aFRR evolutions and connection to PICASSO

- Yuso asks for more transparency on aFRR activations. Elia refers to the info session on 20/3 on transparency where all publications that are existing or are foreseen will be presented. Elia indicates that new request of publications, if any, in addition to what is foreseen would not be for the go-live.
- Febeliec asks whether concrete text will be presented in workshop on 29/2 on the use of elastic aFRR demand. Elia indicates that it will be described in the balancing rules, but that in the workshop the principles and specific information on the proposal of the price and volume thresholds for the aFRR elastic demand will be discussed. These will then be translated in regulated documents.

Febeliec insists to have a thorough discussion on all impacts of the elastic demand on 29/2. Elia confirms that an assessment of the impact is foreseen to be part of the workshop. Elia furthermore highlights that changes not related to elastic demand will not be included in the balancing rules and will be out of the scope of the public consultation.

- ENECO asks whether new prequalification tests will be needed with the shortening of the 5' aFRR full activation time (FAT). Elia indicates that no new prequalification will be required but clarifies that market participants should consider the shorter FAT in the bids they offer.

4. Evaluation plan for the calculation rules of the imbalance price

- Febeliec agrees with Elia that one cannot commit now to remove the cap/floor and dead band at the end of the observation period, and insists that removing dead band and cap/floor should indeed be done strictly if the conditions are met.
- Febeg clarifies its position, stating that the target model is without dead band, cap and floor unless proven that they are needed for a safe operation of the system.
- Febeg asks a clarification on the use of all optimisation cycles in the imbalance price calculation. Elia indicates that it will test formulas with and without all optimisation cycles.
- Elia insists that the formula should not be a barrier to entry for renewables.
- European Commodities strongly agrees with Elia's position and adds that there should be a consideration of the asset classes: onshore wind, offshore wind, solar and residential nodes; monitoring should be done by asset class with a focus on RES but not only. Elia insists that confidentiality must always be guaranteed.
- Luminus declares that imbalance prices are defined to reach a certain objective and the approach must be technology neutral, which is very important from their perspective. Elia takes notice of Luminus' comment and replies that it would like to, at least, observe the impact of the different formulas on RES during the observation period. Whether this impact should be considered or not (and if so, the way it should be taken into account) when making the imbalance price formula evolve can still be debated when elaborating the recommendation of the evaluation plan.
- Febeg asks for a metric assessing the link between Belgian system imbalance and RES deviation. Elia came to the conclusion that RES deviation is difficult to calculate since the BRP position is calculated for its entire portfolio, not per technology. Elia would agree to e.g. analyse the impact of the dead band on a BRP known to have a lot of RES in its portfolio.
- ENGIE wants to clarify that the request was sent because the dead band should be assessed against its objective to facilitate the integration of RES. Elia commits to add a metric allowing to assess the impact of the dead band on RES in the evaluation plan that will be sent to CREG.
- WG Balancing approves the evaluation plan provided that Elia adds a metric to assess the impact of the dead band on RES.

5. Improvement in the provision of data by Elia

- Elia highlights that depending on the number of ideas provided, the incentive foresees that implementation will be prioritized, with only some improvements implemented in 2024. Other improvements would be part of an implementation roadmap.



6. Faster BRP settlement

- Yuso welcomes the initiative of Elia to shorten the settlement of BRPs and like the idea to use provisional data. However, it considers it as a half solution and thinks the solution could be to distinguish between BRPs, based on the measures they have, or splitting balancing portfolios in two sub-portfolios: one being settled fast and another one being settled later, when all data are available. Elia welcomes the comments and will discuss it in the coming weeks.
- European Commodities welcomes the initiative and considers it could be even weekly, like in The Netherlands. European Commodities asks to foresee in the implementation a transition period to avoid having too many months invoiced at the same time.

7. AOB

- Febeliec notes that the Hackathon overlaps with the WG BAL and WG CCMD on 27/3. Elia will look at it and revert to the WG participants.

3. Date for next meeting

- WG BAL 27/03/2024 09:00 – 13:00
- WG BAL 21/05/2024 09:00 – 13:00
- WG BAL 28/06/2024 13:30 – 17:30
- WG BAL 30/09/2024 14:00 – 18:00
- WG BAL 22/11/2024 13:30 – 17:30
- WG BAL 19/12/2024 14:00 – 18:00