



European Energy Regulators'

Work Programme 2009

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1. Introduction

Every year, the European energy regulators, represented by the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the European Regulators' Group for Electricity and Gas (EREGEG), set out their priorities and main areas of work in a joint work programme. For 2009, the focus of the regulators is threefold: paving the way for a speedy implementation of the proposed 3rd Energy Liberalisation Package (3rd Package); advancing the development of regional energy markets through our flagship Regional Initiatives project; and monitoring the implementation by Member States of existing legislative requirements, so as to determine whether markets are delivering for consumers. In addition to the advice already anticipated for 2009 in the work programme, EREGEG, as advisory group to the European Commission on internal energy market issues, will provide advice to the European Commission on an *ad hoc* basis, where appropriate.

Type of Documents

Much of the regulators' output can be grouped into three categories: (1) Guidelines of Good Practice (GGPs)¹, (2) input to Framework Guidelines² and (3) Status Reviews³. In addition, the European energy regulators prepare (4) Position Papers, (5) Compliance Monitoring Reports, (6) Recommendations and (7) EREGEG Advice to the European Commission. For 2009, the European Commission has asked EREGEG to monitor Member States' compliance with the key aspects of both the Electricity Regulation (1228/2003/EC) and the Gas Regulation (1775/2005/EC). In addition, the regulators will develop new EREGEG GGP for capacity allocation and management of gas storage facilities. The regulators will also monitor compliance with a number of existing (voluntary) EREGEG GGPs including on LNG, open seasons, and DSO unbundling.

Within the context of the EU network codes envisaged in the 3rd Package, input for the Framework Guidelines is now being prepared by EREGEG. The Framework Guidelines are necessary in order to provide the basis for the European bodies of TSOs (ENTSOs) to draft the respective network codes. In 2009, EREGEG has prioritised input to Framework Guidelines for eight areas in electricity and five areas in gas. These priorities are subject to the outcome of the autumn 2008 public consultation on implementing the key elements of the 3rd Package.

In addition, the regulators will provide "Status Reviews" in a number of areas including sustainable development; wind generation; definitions of vulnerable customers; definition of supplier of last resort; regulated end-user prices; and smart metering.

¹ EREGEG Guidelines of Good Practice (GGPs) are voluntary guidelines which are developed in consultation with stakeholders and their implementation is monitored by EREGEG. Although not legally enforceable, they are designed to assist in the proper implementation of the principles set out in the current EU energy legislation.

² New EU-wide network codes are envisaged in the 3rd Package proposals. These codes will be based on higher level "Framework Guidelines", prepared by the future Agency for the Cooperation of European Energy Regulators (Agency), which will define the objectives and scope of the network codes and would guide the EU Network bodies (ENTSOs) in their subsequent drafting of the codes. It will be the responsibility of the European Commission, following the advice of the Agency, to establish the priorities for developing network codes. Ahead of the European Commission's decision on the priorities, during 2009 regulators shall, on a pragmatic basis, base our work on our own current priorities for providing input to Framework Guidelines.

³ In Status Review reports, the regulators present the state of play of a particular issue among Member States.

2. Follow-up to the 3rd Package & market liberalisation: ENP WG

Following publication of the European Commission's proposals on the 3rd Energy Liberalisation Package (3rd Package), the European energy regulators established a dedicated working group to follow the developments in this field.

The Energy Package (ENP) WG will remain the main vehicle of the European energy regulators for providing input to and advice on 3rd Package developments. Where appropriate, further input should be provided to all relevant decision-makers in the course of the 2nd reading of the EU's legislative process, which is expected to take place and be finalised in early 2009.

After the 3rd Package has been approved, the ENP WG will closely analyse the final arrangements and their impact on the energy regulators' work.

In particular, during 2009 the ENP WG will largely develop the advice of the European energy regulators on setting up the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (Agency). This will include input on:

- Draft public consultation rules;
- Development of proposals in terms of organisational arrangements for the Agency;
- proposals for the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Regulators of the Agency;
- Guidelines for the cooperation between NRAs, and between NRAs and the Agency (as foreseen by the 3rd Package).

In addition, the ENP WG will have a coordinating role in relation to the electricity and gas input for Framework Guidelines.

Some items in the work programme might need to be adjusted, and items requiring further work might arise following the finalisation of the 3rd Package.

In parallel, the current status of energy market liberalisation in the EU will be scrutinised. This includes a status review on progress towards the EU energy market as well as a report focusing on the status of DSO unbundling, based on ERGEG GGP on functional and informational unbundling. In addition, regulators exchange information on incentive regulation and efficiency benchmarking, to ensure that best practices and experiences are shared between regulators.

ENP Deliverable	Cooperation with stakeholders during and after the interim period: - ERGEG Advice on a Consultation Procedure for the Interim Period and the proposed new Agency	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2009
The objective of this task is to strengthen the cooperation with the ENTSOs and all other stakeholders during the interim period in anticipation of the establishment of the Agency. To this end, an update of the current ERGEG public consultation rules, based on the input received during the autumn 2008 public consultation ⁴ will be presented.		

⁴ European energy regulators published a paper and accompanying appendices on "Implementing the 3rd Package," (Ref. C08-GA-45-08) with a public consultation between 21 October and 31 December 2008.

ENP Deliverable	Market Review: - ERGEG Status Review on the Liberalisation and Implementation of the Regulatory Framework	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
<p>The aim of the report is to give information on the status of liberalisation in electricity and gas markets in Europe, existing challenges to an EU energy market and possible conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>The review report builds upon information in the national reports of the 27 Member States and other sources.</p>		

ENP Deliverable	Unbundling: - CEER Status Review on DSO Unbundling with Reference to ERGEG Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP)	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q3 2009
<p>In 2008, the final GGPs on informational and functional unbundling for DSOs were published, following a public consultation. A first report shall monitor the use and implementation of the GGPs by national regulators.</p>		

3. Financial Services: FIS WG

The European energy regulators' Financial Services Working Group (FIS WG) deals with the interdependencies between financial and energy markets. In 2008, the main focus of the FIS WG was placed on the provision of advice to the European Commission on market abuse, transparency and record-keeping in the electricity and gas markets.

- In their joint advice to the Commission on market abuse, ERGEG and CESR advocated the development of a tailor-made EU market abuse framework for the electricity and gas sectors. To better prevent market abuse in energy trading, the regulators also called for legally-binding disclosure obligations in a tailor-made energy sector regulation, including sanction mechanisms.
- Furthermore, ERGEG and CESR were requested to provide advice to the European Commission by the end of 2008 on
 - whether trading transparency should be improved;
 - what methods and arrangements should be used for record keeping; and
 - how information exchange between the regulatory authorities should be done.

The further elaboration of these recommendations will be a substantial part of the FIS WG's work in 2009.

In addition, the FIS WG will also deal with principles for the regulatory supervision of energy exchanges and hubs, and will explore possibilities for further aligning the currently very different trading license requirements in the EU.

FIS Deliverable	Joint ERGEG/CESR work: - Detailing the aspects of the 2008 ERGEG/CESR advice	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: - Yes	Finalisation: ongoing
The objective of this task is to further elaborate in detail on certain aspects of the 2008 ERGEG/CESR advice already delivered to the European Commission under the mandate issued to the energy and securities regulators. This includes the prohibition of market abuse (esp. transparency requirements and definition of insider trading), pre- and post-trade transparency requirements, aggregate market data transparency requirements, record-keeping provisions and exchange of information between the competent authorities.		

FIS Deliverable	Supervision of energy exchanges and gas hubs: - ERGEG Advice on the Requirements for the Regulatory Oversight of Energy Exchanges and Gas Hubs	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
Regulatory oversight of energy exchanges and gas hubs currently differs due to different national legislation requirements in the EU Member States. Competencies and responsibilities are sometimes divided between different authorities, e.g. the financial market supervisory authority, competition authorities, the energy market authority or others, and may overlap in some cases. The elaboration of best practices of supervision of energy exchanges and hubs is an effort to align these arrangements in the interest of greater EU market integration.		

FIS Deliverable	Licensing: - ERGEG Advice on the Harmonisation and Mutual Recognition of Trading Licenses in the EU Electricity and Gas Markets	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2010
To allow free trading of electricity and gas between all the EU Member States, licensing requirements must be met in most Member States. In an effort to align those requirements, the European energy regulators will prepare an overview of the current situation in the different Member States and assess the possibilities and obstacles to the creation of a single trading passport.		

4. Regional Initiatives: RIG

The Regional Initiatives are a key tool for the promotion of market integration as a step towards the Internal Energy Market. The new Regional Initiatives Group (RIG) will undertake work in the electricity and gas Regional Initiatives. Its task will be to gather information, to identify synergies and to promote best practices throughout the seven electricity and three gas regions. The RIG will ensure that regional approaches are compatible with the European framework and to this end it will closely cooperate with the Electricity and Gas Working Groups. In parallel, the RIG will review and balance the justified differences of regional approaches and coherence at European level.

In an effort to further increase transparency on developments in the Regional Initiatives, the European energy regulators are also constantly looking for ways and means to improve their website at www.energy-regulators.eu.

RIG Deliverables	Regional development, coherence and convergence: - ERGEG Status Review on Coherence and Convergence in the ERI - ERGEG Status Review on Coherence and Convergence in the GRI	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
The European energy regulators need to ensure that developments in the different electricity and gas regions are sufficiently coherent and that they converge towards the development of the internal energy market. These reports help to compare developments and assess areas where closer cooperation is needed. They allow regulators to highlight the main obstacles towards market integration, to assess the progress made by each electricity and gas region, to monitor the coherence and convergence of all regions towards the final target, and to provide recommendations to foster regional and European market integration.		

5. Electricity: EWG

The Electricity Working Group (EWG) of the European energy regulators deals with issues related to the European electricity grids and the EU electricity market. Within the framework of the 3rd Package, the EWG will prepare the European energy regulators' input for the Framework Guidelines⁵ in support of the detailed network codes to be subsequently developed by ENTSO-E.

The WG will also tackle the issue of security and reliability of electricity supply, a topic that has been high on the agenda of the Florence Forum⁶. It will also deal with the regulatory aspects of European electricity generation from renewables.

Within their work on quality of supply, the European energy regulators will follow up the ERGEG consultation and conclusions papers 'Towards Voltage Quality Regulation in Europe'⁷, and host a joint workshop with EURELECTRIC on voltage quality. Furthermore, the regulatory aspects of an evolution towards "intelligent" electricity networks will be included as a new topic.

Furthermore, the EWG will continue to actively support and respond to the specific needs and requests from the European Commission in relation to the EU electricity market and to compliance with the existing Regulation (EC) 1228/2003.

EWG Deliverables	Developing input for draft Framework Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input to Framework Guidelines on Grid Connection and Access - Input to Framework Guidelines on Electricity Market Design Harmonisation - Input to Framework Guidelines on Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management - Input to Framework Guidelines on Balancing, Intraday Markets and Automatically Activated Reserve - Input to Framework Guidelines on Joint Grid Planning, Infrastructure and Generation Adequacy - Input to Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency - Input to Framework Guidelines on Harmonised Tariff Structures Including Locational Signals 	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2010
The objective of this task is to develop input to the draft Framework Guidelines for the codes and for the 10-year investment plan prescribed by the 3rd Package revision of Regulation (EC) 1228/2003. In 2009, the work involves producing GGPs as well as discussion and position papers, which are intended then to provide input to draft Framework Guidelines through an appropriate process.		

⁵ See footnote ²

⁶ Electricity Regulatory Forum – which meets in Florence once or twice per year and gathers national regulatory authorities, Member State governments, the European Commission, transmission system operators, electricity traders, consumers, network users, and power exchanges to discuss the creation of a true internal electricity market.

⁷ Ref. E07-EQS-15-03. www.energy-regulators.eu

EWG Deliverable	Monitoring Compliance: - 3rd ERGEG Regulation 1228/2003(EC) Compliance Monitoring Report	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
The compliance monitoring exercise is based on a request from the European Commission to prepare a report on ERGEG's experience with the Member States' compliance with Regulation (EC) 1228/2003. The specific areas to be subject to detailed monitoring for the 2009 report will be agreed with the European Commission.		

EWG Deliverables	Security and Reliability of Supply: - Framework for Generation Adequacy Treatment - European Energy Regulators' Position on the Pan-EU System Adequacy Forecast	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2010
The objective of the responsibility for the European energy regulators in the area of security of supply is to deliver a well-defined, stable and effective regulatory framework, so that the market participants' and customers' risk management and hedging instruments can function properly.		

EWG Deliverable	Smart grids: - ERGEG Position Paper on Intelligent Electricity Networks	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q3 2010
The objective is to prepare a position paper addressing the regulatory aspects of smart grids. This will include issues like a stable and predictable regulatory framework to achieve long-term investments in the grid, to provide incentives for innovation and to achieve a pan-European perspective. It will also address cost, unbundling and grid access issues.		

EWG Deliverable	Sustainable Development: - CEER Status Review of Sustainable Development	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2009
The primary objective is to facilitate the creation of a sustainable internal energy market in Europe. As the European Commission has put an increasing focus on sustainability issues in recent years, the European energy regulators will also look into this area.		

EWG Deliverable	Wind generation & Green Package Issues: - CEER Status Review of Wind Generation and the Implications of the Green Package	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
The objective is to highlight the unique characteristics and key issues facing wind generation and to assess the regulatory impacts of certain aspects of the renewables directive (e.g. intermittency).		

6. Gas: GWG

The European energy regulators' Gas Working Group (GWG) addresses all regulatory matters in relation to the European gas markets. The main area of work in 2009 will be the development of input to Framework Guidelines⁸ as provided for in the 3rd Package revision of Regulation (EC) 1775/2005. In order to make best use of the so-called "interim period," the European energy regulators will start preparing a sound framework according to which ENTSO-G shall start preparing the detailed codes. As the new Regulation will cover LNG system operators and storage system operators, work within the GWG will also address these areas.

In addition to the regular compliance monitoring by national regulatory authorities, comprehensive European-wide compliance monitoring of specific legally-binding provisions is to be carried out each year. The decision on which areas shall be monitored will be taken after consultation with the European Commission and input from stakeholders. For 2009, the European Commission has requested the European energy regulators monitor compliance with Articles 5 (capacity allocation and congestion management) and 8 (trading of capacity rights) of Regulation (EC) 1775/2005.

A 10-year network investment plan, which according to the 3rd Package should be developed by ENTSO-G every two years, shall identify the existing and possible future bottlenecks and indicate remedying investments. Under the new legal framework it will be the task of the Agency to review the investment plan developed by ENTSO-G. In order to provide a substantiated opinion on the investment plans, European energy regulators need to have a clear view on both national and European infrastructure needs, which shall be based on an evaluation of supply and market demand.

GWG Deliverables	Developing input for draft Framework Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input to Framework Guidelines on CAM & CMP - Input to Framework Guidelines on Transparency - Input to Framework Guidelines on Balancing Rules, Including Network-Related Rules on Nomination Procedures, Rules for Imbalance Charges and Rules for Operational Balancing Between Transmission System Operator Systems - Input to Framework Guidelines on Network Security and Reliability Rules, Grid Connection Rules, Data Exchange and Settlement Rules, Interoperability rules, Operational Procedures in an Emergency and Energy Efficiency Regarding Gas Networks - Input to Framework Guidelines on Rules for Trading Related to Technical and Operational Provision of Network Access Services and System Balancing 	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: - Yes	Finalisation: Q4 2009
The European energy regulators will use the interim period to prepare a sound framework according to which ENTSO-G shall prepare detailed codes. Article 2 (c) of the amended Regulation (EC) 1775/2005 lists areas in which detailed codes shall be developed. As guidance for ENTSO-G, the regulators will begin to develop their input to Framework Guidelines in these areas.		

⁸ See footnote ²

GWG Deliverable	10-year investment plan: - ERGEG Recommendations on the 10-Year Investment Plan	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: - Yes	Finalisation: Q1 2009
In order to have a framework ready to give harmonised guidance to ENTSO-G (and TSOs) for developing the 10-year investment plan, the European energy regulators will proactively draft guidelines for the development of the 10-year investment plan.		

GWG Deliverables	Monitoring Compliance: - ERGEG Compliance Monitoring Report on Articles 5 (capacity allocation and congestion management) and 8 (trading of capacity rights) of Regulation (EC) 1775/2005 - ERGEG Compliance Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the GGPs for Open Seasons - ERGEG Compliance Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the GGPs for LNG	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
The objective of work undertaken in this area is to monitor compliance with the requirements outlined in Regulation (EC) 1775/2005/EC, the European Commission's Explanatory Notes and ERGEG's GGPs in various areas.		

GWG Deliverable	Investment in gas infrastructure: - ERGEG Status Review on the Experience of Regulators in Imposing Obligations in Article 22 Exemption Decisions	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q3 2009
In 2008, the European energy regulators worked on Article 22 guidelines and cooperated closely with the European Commission on this issue. This work ultimately fed into the Commission's Draft Staff Working Document on new infrastructure exemptions. The objective of this year's work is to prepare a comprehensive report on the experience of regulators in imposing obligations in Article 22 exemption decisions which can then be used by national authorities.		

GWG Deliverable	Gas storage: - ERGEG GGPs on Best Practice Approaches for CAM & CMP to Storage Facilities	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q4 2009
Capacity allocation and congestion management are important issues as most European storages are fully booked. The DG Competition Sector Inquiry Report also indicates that in a number of cases, storage facilities will be congested for many years. Therefore, the European energy regulators will develop GGPs on allocation and congestion management procedures.		

7. Customers: CWG

The European energy regulators' Customer Working Group (CWG) is dedicated to putting consumers first by working on customer empowerment and retail market functioning, in order to facilitate the development of competition in the energy consumers' interests.

The tasks of the CWG in 2009 include issues raised at the first Citizens' Energy Forum in October 2008. The regulators had encouraged the European Commission to set up a new Citizens' Energy Forum on energy consumer and retail issues to strengthen the role of consumer representations in influencing best practices and policy development at EU level. The CWG will prepare several reports, following requests from the European Commission and the Forum.

The CWG will also update the 2008 report on end-user price regulation in Europe, which the European Commission considers to be among its priorities for monitoring the proper functioning of retail markets.

CWG Deliverable	Complaint Handling: - ERGEG Recommendations on Customer Complaint Handling	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: - Yes	Finalisation: Q4 2009
In connection with the European Commission's (DG SANCO) initiative of monitoring the performance of consumer markets through the Consumer Market Scoreboard, the European energy regulators will first assess the situation in different EU countries to then arrive at a set of recommendations for the classification of complaints and good practices for complaint handling.		

CWG Deliverables	Consumer rights: - ERGEG Status Review of the Definitions of Vulnerable Customers - ERGEG Status Review of the Definitions of Supplier of Last Resort and Default Supplier	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q2 2009
The issues of vulnerable customers and suppliers of last resort are handled differently in the Member States. The European energy regulators will draw up a status review on existing definitions as the basis for any further work in this area.		

CWG Deliverable	End-user price regulation: - ERGEG Status Review on the Situation of Countries with Regulated End-User Prices	
Public consultations: -	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q2 2010
The 2008 report on end-user price regulation shall be followed-up by a status review that encompasses situations throughout Europe and an assessment of Member State progress vis-à-vis the ERGEG recommendations (2007). In the end, the report shall serve to prepare a roadmap towards a competitive market without end-user price regulation.		

CWG Deliverable	Retail market monitoring: - ERGEG Recommendations on Indicators for Retail Market Monitoring	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: -	Finalisation: Q1 2010
<p>Following full market opening on 1st July 2007, it is important to monitor the development of the EU energy retail markets (e.g. supplier switching, number of suppliers etc.). Indicators vary across countries and some indicators might not have the best theoretical basis. A report on market indicators and market monitoring will be developed by the European energy regulators which could then be used by both the individual Member States and the European Commission. These indicators should include, among others, complaints, switching rates and disconnection rates.</p>		

CWG Deliverables	Smart metering: - ERGEG Status Review on Regulatory Aspects of Smart Metering (Electricity and Gas) - ERGEG Recommendations on Regulatory Aspects of Smart Metering (Electricity and Gas)	
Public consultations: - Yes	Public hearings, workshops: - Yes	Finalisation: Q1 2010
<p>A growing number of European companies, regulators and governments are currently investigating or completing the introduction of smart metering systems for some or all customer segments. EC legislation already calls for roll-out of "individual meters that accurately reflect the final customer's actual energy consumption" (Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC). The European energy regulators will therefore first draw up a status review on smart metering with a view to preparing a recommendation on the issue in 2010.</p>		

8. International strategy: ISG

The International Strategy Group (ISG) is responsible for the coordination of the European energy regulators' activities in the fields of international cooperation and training. In 2009, the ISG will continue to work on key priority areas, taking also account, from a regulatory perspective, of areas relevant to the EU external energy policy under the European Commission's 2nd Strategic Energy Review (November 2008).

The regulators will continue to implement their action plan for international cooperation drawn up in 2008. This consists of three axes: the first axis aims at supporting EU policy with regard to security of supply; the second axis is directed at supporting the implementation of the EU energy acquis in non-EU countries; and the third axis strengthens the dialogue between the European energy regulators and other regulators or regulatory associations. Cooperation with regulators in areas of key strategic importance to the EU such as the Energy Community of South East Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean countries hold special importance.

The European energy regulators' training policy shall be promoted in two ways: firstly, cooperation with the Florence School of Regulation, which is a training and research institution created in 2004 with the support of the CEER and the European Commission, will be continued; and secondly, the wider use of the CEER experts database, a tool for the targeted use of CEER expert knowledge, will be fostered.

Furthermore, the ISG will assist in the preparation of the IVth World Forum of Energy Regulation (October 2009, Athens), which is organised by the Greek regulator (RAE) and the CEER. The ISG has also taken up discussions with US regulators (NARUC and FERC) regarding the possibility of creating a joint team in order to ensure continuity in the dialogue between American and European regulators.

In addition, pursuing a worldwide approach, the European energy regulators support the development and use of the IERN website (www.iern.net), a web platform developed by energy regulators which was successfully launched by the CEER at the World Forum on Energy Regulation III in Washington DC in October 2006.

9. Energy Community: ENC WG

The Energy Community Treaty entered into force on 1st July 2006. The representation of ERGEG and regulators of the contracting parties in the Energy Community Regulatory Board will ensure the active involvement of European energy regulators in Energy Community developments. This is the area of responsibility of the Energy Community Working Group (ENC WG). It closely follows the work of the ECRB and provides relevant input to formulate its response to the regulatory developments in the Energy Community and, consequently, its advice to the European Commission in accordance with Decision 2003/796/EC.

10. Summary of the Working Groups

The work of the CEER and ERGEG is structured according to a number of working groups, composed of staff members of the national regulatory authorities. These working groups deal with different topics, according to their members' fields of expertise.

The Energy Package Working Group (ENP WG) provides input to and advice on the developments of the 3rd Package both in the course of the negotiation process of the 3rd Package and in preparation for the implementation of the key elements of the new framework. The work of the ENP WG in 2009 will include some preparatory work in view of the establishment of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, including a proposal for revised rules for consultation of stakeholders. The ENP WG will also monitor the implementation of the current ERGEG GGPs on informational and functional unbundling. It will monitor and report on the development of energy markets and will address issues related to incentive-based regulation of transmission and distribution system operators in both the electricity and gas sectors.

The role of the new Regional Initiatives Working Group (RIG WG) is to facilitate work in the seven electricity and three gas regions in moving forward in a coordinated way towards a single EU market in electricity and gas. It will gather information from the regions so as to establish and promote best practice across the regions. The Regional Initiatives will be a key tool in implementing the 3rd Package and this group will find practical ways to assist regions in overcoming current obstacles to progress.

The Financial Services Working Group (FIS WG) deals with the interdependencies between financial and energy markets. In 2008, the main focus of the FIS WG was to provide advice to the European Commission on market abuse, transparency and record-keeping in the electricity and gas markets. In 2009, further elaboration of these recommendations will be provided to the European Commission. In addition, the FIS WG will analyse the supervision of energy exchanges and hubs as well as licensing requirements for energy trading. Such governance issues are key in the context of the current market integration of regional markets into a single EU energy market.

The Electricity Working Group (EWG) addresses issues related to European electricity grids and the EU electricity market. In 2009, the EWG will focus on work in relation to the 3rd Package, particularly the development of input to Framework Guidelines as provided for in the proposed Regulation amending Electricity Regulation (EC) 1228/2003; security and quality of electricity supply in Europe; and electricity generation from renewables following also the European Commission's "Climate Change and Energy" proposals. The EWG will also undertake a considerable part of the European energy regulators' monitoring work.

The Gas Working Group (GWG) addresses regulatory matters in relation to the European gas markets. The main area of work in 2009 will be the development of input to Framework Guidelines as outlined in the proposed Regulation amending Regulation (EC) 1775/2005. In addition, the GWG will monitor EU Member States' compliance with Articles 5 and 8 of Regulation (EC) 1775/2005, and tackle the issue of investment in gas infrastructure.

The Customer Working Group (CWG) will continue its work on customer empowerment and retail market functioning to facilitate the development of competition in the energy consumers' interests. New work for the CWG has originated in the first Citizens' Energy Forum in October 2008. The CWG will also provide an update of the 2008 report on end-user price regulation in Europe, which the European Commission considers to be among its priorities for monitoring the proper functioning of retail markets.

The International Strategy Group (ISG) is responsible for the coordination of the European energy regulators' activities in the field of international cooperation and training. In 2009, the ISG will continue to develop communication channels with other international regulatory bodies. Key activities are the promotion of the development of the International Energy Regulation Network website (www.iern.net) and contributing to the organisation of the World Forum of Energy Regulation IV in Athens in October 2009. On the training side, the ISG will continue to provide input to the training and workshop activities of the Florence School of Regulation and CEER experts for missions to regulatory authorities of non-EU countries under the European Commission's TAIEX programme.

The Energy Community Working Group (ENC WG) will participate in and closely follow the work of the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) of South-East Europe, to enable the European energy regulators to formulate their advice to the European Commission in accordance with Decision 2003/796/EC.

The 2009 Work Programme will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary throughout 2009 to facilitate implementation of the 3rd Package requirements after its final approval by the Council and the European Parliament.

