



31st Energy Community Electricity Forum

3 – 4 June, Athens

Conclusions

Panel I: Accelerating market integration – ensuring affordability in times of crisis?

- The Forum reconfirmed the accelerated market integration of the Energy Community Contracting Parties in the EU single energy market as a shared priority. Market coupling will be a flagship achievement in this regard. The Forum acknowledged that the single electricity market rests on a level-playing field whereby all Energy Community Contracting Parties and their electricity sector stakeholders follow the same rules as in EU as well as institutional competences. The Forum reiterated the need for a high level of transposition of the Electricity Integration Package as adopted in 2022 in the Energy Community. The EnC Contracting Parties are encouraged to ensure compliant transposition of the Electricity Integration Package to receive a positive opinion under the verification process set up by the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat. This will open the 18-month road to Contracting Parties' adherence into single day-ahead and single intraday coupling (SDAC/SIDC).
- The Forum reiterated that the direct applicability of EU-wide ACER decisions and ACER and ECRB decisions addressed to stakeholders in the Contracting Parties should be established in the national legislation of each Contracting Party as well as ACER and ECRB competences. The adequate mechanisms for their enforcement by NRAs should be put in place. This also applies to the decisions concerning the TCMs. The Forum further acknowledged that the direct applicability of all ACER/ECRB decisions is crucial in order to ensure reciprocal and timely implementation of the legal framework governing electricity market integration in the Contracting Parties.
- The Forum acknowledged that there will be mutual benefits for both Contracting Parties and EU Member States alike as the markets of the Energy Community further integrate into the EU electricity market system.
- The Forum took note of the European Commission Recommendation on accelerated action to ensure affordable and secure energy and recognised a need to plan and regionally cooperate on identifying measures that will accelerate reduction of dependence on fossil fuel and protect citizens and business in the Energy Community from external price shocks. The Forum recognised a need to combine accelerated deployment of homegrown renewable energy with the electrification, in particular across fossil-fuel intensive sectors such as heating and transport.



Panel II: CBAM application – implications for electricity market integration and investments

- The Forum reiterated the findings of the Secretariat's quarterly CBAM monitoring and confirmed that tangible and persistent changes have been present in the regional electricity markets since the beginning of the definitive period of CBAM with alarming trends in cross-border trade and electricity markets in both Contracting Parties and neighbouring EU Member States. The Forum highlighted the important role of TSOs and ENTSO-E in the continuous monitoring of the impacts of CBAM on system operation and stability in both Contracting Parties and neighbouring EU Member States. The Forum called upon the European Commission to ensure consistent implementing guidance, drawing, as appropriate, on technical input from ENTSO-E and market participants.
- The Forum noted with concern the reported risks to ongoing and new renewable energy projects in Contracting Parties arising from weaker domestic prices and constrained export opportunities to the EU, including due to restrictive conditions for using actual emissions. The Forum reiterated the crucial role of renewable energy in the clean transition of Contracting Parties' economies via meeting their 2030 targets and recalled that CBAM should not undermine investment in the sector.
- The Forum welcomed the European Commission proposal of 17 December 2025 (COM (2025) 989) to amend the CBAM Regulation with the aim to tackle some of the outstanding issues by introducing a more realistic calculation of the default emission factor for electricity and by adjusting the conditions for using actual emission values for electricity exports to the EU. The Forum noted that the instrument of a Memorandum of Understanding proposed by the European Commission in Article 2(7a), represents a step in the right direction in creating an opportunity for recognising Contracting Parties' progress in market coupling and outlining a pathway to complying with the other conditions for a CBAM exemption while aligning timelines with the EU's strategic priority on enlargement, if the adopted amendments underpin these expectations. The Forum underlined the importance of reaching a political agreement on the dossier without delay, together with timely Commission guidance for the 2026 compliance cycle.
- The Forum recognised that to receive an exemption from CBAM in the field of electricity, the Contracting Parties – pursuant to the current provisions of the CBAM Regulation – must fulfil the requirements of Article 2(7), including inter alia the transposition of market coupling acquis and outlining the planned steps in a roadmap for the introduction of a carbon pricing system culminating in an ETS at least for electricity by 2030 at a price level equivalent to the EU ETS.

Panel III: from market design to investment reality - Is the electricity market fit for flexibility?

- The Forum reiterated the important role of active participation of consumers in the energy transition, and the potential benefits they may bring to the electricity market. The Forum welcomed the ECRB analysis of the main obstacles to consumers' active participation in the electricity market and invited regulatory authorities to further improve, in close cooperation with system operators and market participants, the regulatory frameworks that incentivize the active participation of consumers in the electricity market.



- The Forum acknowledged activities of EU MSs TSOs and DSOs on preparing flexibility needs assessments (FNA), in line with their obligation under Article 19e(1) of recast Regulation (EU) 2019/943. Having in mind that this obligation does not yet apply in the Energy Community, the Forum recommended Contracting Parties' TSOs and DSOs to voluntarily, under the supervision of the regulatory authorities, start preparing flexibility needs assessments, in line with the common European methodology developed by ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity and approved by ACER.
- The Forum underlines the importance of aligning the entire legislative and regulatory framework with the European acquis, focusing on the timely and effective transposition and implementation of the Electricity Integration Package and the TEN-E Regulation. By reinforcing clear market rules, removing price regulation, ensuring equal access conditions, and robust governance standards, investor confidence will be enhanced, supporting integration with the European electricity market and the efficient deployment of new non-fossil flexibility resources within the Energy Community.

Panel IV: Delivering on Electricity Integration Package – towards pan-European electricity market

- The Forum acknowledged the socio-economic welfare generated by all cross-zonal trade within the EU internal electricity market, approximately 32 billion EUR in 2025, presented by ACER and that further EU market integration projects – including EnC integration – could add 6-8 billion EUR to that. The Forum recognised that the integration of the Energy Community Contracting Parties' markets will unlock further benefits, for both Contracting Parties and EU Member States. The ECRB, in close cooperation with ACER, will contribute to the ongoing work on assessing the added benefits of market integration to be published in the October Market Monitoring report. The Forum expressed concern that delays in transposition of the EIP acquis and consequent delay in market coupling of EnC Contracting Parties with single EU electricity market are already causing losses of socio-economic welfare in both Contracting Parties and EU Member States with political and economic consequences.
- The Forum reiterated that the main preconditions for enabling Energy Community TSOs and NEMOs to formally request accession to the respective SDAC/SIDC go-live window are the full transposition of the Electricity Integration Package, verified as compliant by the European Commission, designation of a NEMO under the EIP and the adoption of the Market Coupling Operator Integration Plan (MCO IP). The Forum welcomed the work carried out by EU NEMOs to complement the MCO IP with an impact assessment, as well as the information that the MCO IP is planned to be formally resubmitted to ACER in June this year. The Forum acknowledged that this is the first time that a dedicated yearly go-live windows (Q1 for SDAC and Q4 for SIDC) are introduced by the MCSC for the extension of SDAC and SIDC to a specific region. Considering the current progress of the transposition and the MCO IP approval timeline, the Forum expressed concern that the next attainable go-live window for EnC Contracting Parties' integration into SDAC will be shifted to Q1 of 2029.
- The Forum underlined that the full transposition of the Electricity Integration Package by the Energy Community Contracting Parties remains an essential precondition for the effective implementation of regional cooperation frameworks. At the same time, participants recognised that strengthening capacity of the TSOs is critical to ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the Electricity Integration Package.



- The Forum welcomed ACER's decision as of December 2025, amending CCR configuration, including CCRs determined in the Energy Community, and the progress made so far by the TSOs regarding the establishment of cooperation and relevant methodologies within CCRs, as well as the discussions initiated with RCCs. ACER clarified that the formal submission of the TCMs can happen only after the last Contracting Party in the respective region fully transposed EIP, verified as compliant by the European Commission. The Forum invited TSOs to accelerate activities on developing relevant TCMs before formal conditions are met for their approval by NRAs. The Forum welcomed the progress made in EE CCR on agreeing on interim capacity calculation solution and encouraged TSOs in other EnC-related CCRs to apply interim solution before conditions are met for the formal adoption of the capacity calculation methodology. The Forum encouraged TSOs and NRAs to establish regional cooperation and NRAs to monitor the progress, while encouraging those that have already initiated such efforts to continue their work, in order to enable the prompt launch of the approval process once the fully fledged legal framework is in place for TCMs to be formally adopted.
- The Forum invited TSOs of the EnC Contracting Parties to engage in joint discussions on the proposal for Regional Allocation Platform and work towards aligning their positions.
- The Forum acknowledged the benefits that the integration of the EnC Contracting Parties into EU Balancing platform can bring. The Forum considered that the membership in the balancing platforms, as well as the granting of observer status, requires the Contracting Party of the TSO to transpose and implement the relevant legislation, namely, the Electricity Integration Package. EnC Contracting Parties called for greater clarity on integration into the EU balancing platforms. The EU balancing platforms expressed willingness to support Contracting Parties' TSOs in technically preparing to become full members once they fulfil relevant requirements.
- The Forum called upon EU DSO Entity and ECDSO-E to explore and identify further cooperation opportunities.