General Applicable Standards – Development of Plans by the Contracting Parties for implementation (Article 22 of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community)

I. Background

Generally Applicable Standards of the European Community refer to any technical standard that is applied within the European Community, and is necessary for operating network systems safely and efficiently, including aspects of transmission, cross-border connections, modulation and general technical system security standards.

As a part of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community (Title II – The Extension of the acquis communautaire, Chapter VI – Compliance with generally applicable standards of the European Community), Articles 21-23 specify the following obligations:

- within one year of the date of entry into force of the Treaty, the Secretariat shall draw up a list of the Generally Applicable Standards of the European Community, to be submitted to the Ministerial Council for adoption; and
- the Contracting Parties shall, within one year of the adoption of the list, adopt development plans to bring their Network Energy sectors into line with these Generally Applicable Standards of the European Community.

The Ministerial Council of the Energy Community adopted the list of Generally Applicable Standards for gas and electricity (see item 6 of Annex 1 to the Ministerial Council Conclusions – Montenegro, 29 June 2007).

Purpose of the paper

The purpose of this paper is to present to the Contracting Parties initial views on the possible approach for development of individual plans to bring their Network Energy sectors into line with the Generally Applicable Standards of the European Community.

The aim of the proposed approach is to streamline the procedure and coordinate the time line within which the implementation of Article 22 of the Treaty shall be achieved in all Contracting Parties.
The proposed steps below take note of the fact that the national TSOs shall have the leading role in performing the envisaged tasks related to the electricity (UCTE) and gas (EASEEGAS) networks. Nevertheless, the national standardisation body shall be responsible for the adoption and monitoring of the implementation of the respective standards.

II. Possible Approach

When developing the national plans for the implementation of the standards as required by Article 22 of the Treaty, the following steps are recommended:

1. **Identification of the Generally Applicable Standards which are not adopted yet in each Contracting Party**

Certainly, substantial parts of the standards, which have been adopted by the Ministerial Council, are already being applied; therefore, the Contracting Parties shall identify those standards, which are not yet adopted.

Proposed deadline: 01.04.2008  
Responsible: relevant PHLG member/TSOs

2. **Identification of standards which need priority adoption**

Due to the extensive number of standards, it is recommended that the Contracting Parties consider the need for step-by-step approach as to specify those of the standards, which require priority adoption, mainly those that impact security of supply and cross-border trade.

Proposed deadline: 15.04.2008  
Responsible: relevant TSOs/National Standardisation Body

3. **Submission of the list of standards, identified under item 2, to the relevant National Standardisation Body for priority adoption in accordance with the applicable procedures**

Preparation of a time schedule to reflect the expected adoption of the priority standards and submission to the Secretariat

Proposed deadline: 30.05.2008  
Responsible: relevant PHLG member/TSOs
4. Identification of time line for preparation and adoption of the rest of the standards by the National Standardisation Body

Proposed deadline: 15.05.2008
Responsible: National Standardisation Body

5. Follow-up actions in accordance with the implementation time as envisaged by the Contracting Parties in accordance with item 4

Responsible: relevant PHLG member

III. ECS – Contracting Parties – Proposal for Further Common Steps

- The Secretariat shall present summary information to the PHLG at its next meeting on the undertaken steps by the Contracting Parties;
- The Secretariat shall present summary information on the undertaken activities and the relevant results at the Ministerial Council meeting in December 2008.