



SYNCHRONOUS OPERATION OF THE EAST WEST INTERCONNECTION

**CIGRE CONFERENCE
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Dear Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

First of all I want to thank the CIGRE Russian National Committee for having invited me to this important event. Today I represent ETSO, the Association of European Transmission System Operators, I have been re-elected as President last July , but I am also particularly happy to be here because you know my attachment to CIGRE, I have been for the last six years the Chairman of the Technical Committee and I am presently the President of the French National Committee.

The subject of the conference is the synchronous operation of the East-West interconnection, and I think that this issue covers many aspects, political, technical, organizational and legal.

Regarding the political aspect the European Union has a strategy for the progressive creation of an integrated market, spreading the benefits to the present and future neighboring countries and partners of the European Union.

The main objectives of this strategy are to:

- enhance the security of energy supplies of the European continent**
- strengthen the internal market of the enlarged European Union**
- support the modernization of the energy systems in partner countries**
- facilitate the realization of major new transmission infrastructures projects**

Russia is the largest single energy partner with European Union and both sides agreed in 2000 to institute an energy dialogue on a regular basis. So there is a political will and the interconnection of the two systems fits in the strategy of both parties.

Regarding the technical aspect, the sizes of the two systems are so that the problems to solve are significantly different than the ones that TSOs have generally to solve. It will be a world premiere and studies must be done in order to find solutions that do not degrade the technical performance of the two present systems. Furthermore, the technical

solutions will have to take in account that operating rules and standards are different on both sides. This conference will address these issues and our colleagues from UCTE together with other parties are in the process of putting in place a project organization to deal with these matters.

Regarding the organizational and legal aspects, the recent events – the major blackout in Eastern USA, but also the more minor events in Western Europe, underline the fact that sound technical solutions must be found, and give me the opportunity to stress some key characteristics of the European model that may help protect the system against such events:

- In the European Union, most Transmission System Operators are at the same time system operators and transmission assets owners. This makes it easier to develop the necessary electric transmission infrastructures, provided that regulations put a stable framework in place that leads to the financing of such long-term projects, and as far as excessive environmental oppositions do not lead to a blocking up of major developments.**
- The independence of TSOs from generation, supply and trading activities has been established by the 96/92/CE Directive and will be reinforced by the new European legislation. Such an independence allows TSOs to exchange daily detailed data to improve the co-ordination of operation, and by this way to decrease the risk of a power system collapse.**
- The present regional generation/load balance in Europe is so that long distance transmission of electricity is limited. This also decreases the risk of large disturbances.**

I also want to emphasize some key concerns raised by ETSO and more generally by all TSOs:

- It is more and more difficult to build new 330kV facilities. Authorization procedures tend to be longer and longer, leading to a risk in terms of transmission adequacy and security issues. In this respect, easier procedures for top priority electric transmission infrastructures would be most welcome. International interconnections are necessary to trade inside the internal market but they are also vital for mutual help between TSOs when security is at stake.**
- Beyond the necessary independence of TSOs, the regulatory framework must give them the necessary authority to keep high level standards concerning the operational design and performances of power plants and distribution load shedding schemes. More generally it is also very important that all interconnected systems follow a minimum set of binding rules, and**

I want here to underline the work done by UCTE in this matter with the project of Operational Handbook. There is no doubt that this issue will also be a major issue in the project of East West Interconnection.

- **Finally, the regulatory framework should rely on a sound design for economic signals to avoid catastrophic technical backfires. As an example, locational signals are necessary for a well functioning cross-border trade, and for preventing the development of massive long distance electricity exchange without the corresponding infrastructure.**

As a conclusion, I would like to recall the challenges that the European Transmission System Operators have to face:

- **The first one is to guarantee the security of the electric system, in real time as well as on the long term.**
- **The second one is to contribute to create the internal market of electricity with an electric system operated more and more at the limits.**
- **The last one is to find solutions to the requests for the extension of the synchronous system.**

On this last point, and that will be my final words, I want to underline that:

- **the TSO associations are open to any extension of the system**
- **these extensions must not degrade the reliability nor degrade the technical performances of the present systems**
- **there is a necessity to put in place clear operational rules and clear definitions of responsibilities between players**
- **there is also a necessity to put in place a legal and regulatory framework that will commit each player to fulfill its liabilities.**