

ACER and ENTSO-E investigate the 8th January electricity system separation

26/02/2021

- **ACER and national regulators join ENTSO-E's Expert Panel investigating the electricity system separation of the Continental Europe synchronous area on 8 January 2021**
- **The Expert Panel will identify the causes and make recommendations in a Final Report**

Europe's electricity system split into two separate regions on 8th January 2021 resulting in transmission system outages.

Expert Panel begins its investigation

Based on preliminary data of Transmission System Operators (TSOs), the system separation of the Continental Europe synchronous area, which lasted just over an hour, is classified as a scale 2 (or "extensive") incident as per ENTSO-E's Incident Classification Scale (ICS)¹.

According to the ICS Methodology, for scale 2 incidents, a final report shall be prepared by an Expert Panel, where relevant National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) may be involved upon their request. ENTSO-E has created the Expert Panel, inviting ACER and NRAs to join it. The Expert Panel will first meet on 4th March.

ENTSO-E's Interim Report published

An intensive process started immediately after the event has been resolved, in order to collect and prepare factual data. The [Interim Report](#) published today by ENTSO-E contains the data gathered, initial findings on the sequences of events and timeframes. The Interim Report is the basis for the formal investigation by an Expert Panel.

Expert Panel's Final Report will have recommendations

The Final Report shall describe the sequence of events and violations of operational security limits. It will explain the causes and have recommendations to prevent such incidents in the future.

ACER and ENTSO-E are committed to fulfilling their legal obligations specified in the System Operations Guideline² and ICS Methodology³. ACER and ENTSO-E will continue together to provide timely information about the incident, published on their websites⁴.

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Notes

1. Incidents Classification Scale: [https://eepublicdownloads.entsoe.eu/clean-documents/SOC%20documents/Incident_Classification_Scale/IN USE FROM JANUARY 2020 191204 Incident Classification Scale.pdf](https://eepublicdownloads.entsoe.eu/clean-documents/SOC%20documents/Incident_Classification_Scale/IN_USE_FROM_JANUARY_2020_191204_Incident_Classification_Scale.pdf). The ICS Methodology has been developed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019. It has been updated 2019, to fulfil the objectives of Article 15 of SO GL quoted above.
2. [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation \(System Operation Guideline, SO GL\)](#)
3. ENTSO-E publications:
 - 8 January 2021: <https://www.entsoe.eu/news/2021/01/08/system-split-registered-in-the-synchronous-area-of-continental-europe-incident-now-resolved/>
 - 15 January 2021, 1st update: <https://www.entsoe.eu/news/2021/01/15/system-separation-in-the-continental-europe-synchronous-area-on-8-january-2021-update/>
 - 26 January 2021, 2nd update: <https://www.entsoe.eu/news/2021/01/26/system-separation-in-the-continental-europe-synchronous-area-on-8-january-2021-2nd-update/>
 - 26 February 2021: [Continental Europe Synchronous Area Separation on 8 January 2021 Interim Report](#)
4. ACER news:
 - 01 February 2021: [Continental Europe electricity system separation incident of 8 January 2020: Next steps](#)

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