

Business Continuity Plan for the electricity markets

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, RTE, in collaboration with the public authorities and Power Exchanges active on the French market, has defined an action plan to preserve the normal level of operation of the market mechanisms necessary for the proper functioning of the power system.

This action plan is in line with the responsibilities attributed to the Transmission System Operator in a sanitary crisis situation, more specifically:

- Ensure the balance of all electricity flows on the grid at all times, as well as the security, safety and efficiency of the grid, taking into account the technical constraints weighing on the latter (article L321-10 du Code de l'Energie)
- Guarantee, in the public interest, the supply of electricity on the national territory (article L321-10 du Code de l'Energie) in order to contribute to the continuity of the economic and social activity

It consists in concentrating the resources within the national dispatching of RTE on the essential functions which ensure the security of supply and those that can't be completed from a distance:

- The D-1 processes (preparation of the following day) will be prioritised and RTE calls on all market actors to organise their respective business continuity plans to respond to the demands of these processes, to ensure the integrity and functioning of the market mechanisms.
- In case of a high level of absence, RTE will put in place a degraded mode reducing the Intraday processes in order to preserve and maintain the staff needed to continue to operate de D-1 processes.

These processes, the expectations towards the market actors involved and the modalities of the degraded mode are detailed below in this document.

Possible restrictions on the energy markets fall under the scope of the market operators. However, at this point in time, neither EPEX SPOT, nor EMCO/ Nord Pool plan to operate in degraded mode on either the Day-Ahead or on the Intraday markets. These market operators put in place precautionary measures such as telework and separation of the operational teams to ensure the orderly operation of markets under all circumstances.

The Day-Ahead processes are a priority for the safety of the functioning of the power system

This concerns the processes described in the MA-RE rules and Service System Frequency (SSYf), RR/RC tender contracts and Demand-Response tenders as well as processes linked to the functioning of the market in the different market coupling regions (MRC): CWE, CSE, SWE and NWE. All deliverables associated with these processes are expected under:

- The D-1 programmatic rules for the programming responsible party in line with paragraph 3.1.2.3.1 of section 1 of the RE-MA rules;
- The D-1 balancing mechanism (gate closure in D-1 at HLAR) for balancing actors in line with paragraph 4 of section 1 of the RE-MA rules
- The RR/RC tender for reserve responsible parties
- The SSYf rules for RTE and the reserve responsible parties in line with paragraph 7.3.2.1
- Demand-response tenders for demand-response operators.

For Market Coupling / the Day-Ahead auction results, all the procedures annexed to the contracts which determine the rights and obligations of the concerned parties apply. As a reminder:

- According to European market coupling procedures (MRC D-1), all NEMOs simultaneously operate the market coupling system and can replace each other to perform the role of market coupling coordinator if the coordinator in charge for the day is unable to fulfil its tasks.
- At CWE level, and for what concerns France in particular, according to the applicable regional procedures the role of regional coordinator can be taken over by one or the other NEMOs active in the CWE region if the regional coordinator in charge for the day is unable to fulfil its tasks.
- In the extreme case that one of the NEMOs active in the CWE region is unable to not submit its order book to the market coupling system, this NEMO will be decoupled from the other NEMOs active in CWE and the flow-based capacities between the countries of the CWE region will still be used in the MRC coupling.
- In the extreme case that RTE is unable to send capacities to the MRC coupling, NEMOs will stay coupled, will send their order books for the French bidding zone to the MRC coupling and will calculate one single price.

The degraded modes implemented by RTE

The criteria for implementing a degraded mode

The criteria for activating the degraded mode is based on RTE's Business Continuity Plan and is a function of the availability rate of RTE's personnel in charge of the network operation activities within the central dispatch.

The communication planned by RTE

As soon as the decision to implement a degraded mode is taken, RTE will inform via email and within the shortest delay all the concerned stakeholders of the planned measures.

This communication will present all the restrictions put in place by RTE for a period covering at least the next 24 hours. This communication will be renewed at least on a daily basis to keep all the stakeholders informed of the evolution of the situation and of the restrictions.

Description of the degraded mode

All existing processes will be operated by RTE in a nominal manner according to the rules and procedures in place, except for the restrictions communicated by RTE (see paragraph above "planned communication")

As an example, RTE has developed the following potential restrictions scenario

Closing of the intraday and balancing Gate Closures from 11.00 until the gate closure of 22.00 included

23h	00h	01h	02h	03h	04h	05h	06h	07h	08h	09h	10h	11h	12h	13h	14h	15h	16h	17h	18h	19h	20h	21h	22h

	<i>Open intraday and balancing gate closure</i>
	<i>Closed intraday and balancing gate closure</i>

Please note:: in case of network operation with limited personnel, RTE will not be able to simultaneously ensure the D-1 processes and the intraday processes at these times. Given the priority given to the D-1 processes, the gate closures from 23.00 until 10.00 included will be maintained.

- **When the intraday gate closures are closed, the declarations of technical constraints linked to unexpected events will be carried out via phone only.**
- **Application of the degraded modes to the coordinated capacities calculation for the day-ahead process**

Please note: Only the CWE (German and Belgian borders), CSE (Italian borders) and SWE (Spanish borders) are concerned. For these regions, the predefined calculation method in degraded mode will apply (re-use of the values calculated for earlier times). Therefore, the levels of cross-border capacities available for trading could be lower than the values calculated in nominal mode.

