



Maximum Transport Capacity for Maximum Security of Energy Supply in Europe

Like the corona virus also the transport of energy does not adhere to national borders. Thus trans-national coordination and intensive cooperation of all national transmission system operators (TSOs) are the preconditions to ensure that lights never go out over Europe. Uniform rules and standards for grid operation are indispensable. Tahir Kapetanovic, chairperson of the System Operation Committee, the highest decision-making operation body of ENTSO-E (the umbrella organization of all European TSOs) and head of the APG control center explains: "Exchange of data on a European level is to a large extent automated and based on state-of-the-art EDP-systems. The processed data represent the basis for the planning of the energy transport. Thus we can forecast the energy flows a few hours in advance and, if necessary and in due time, introduce emergency measures, like starting-up power stations, which are coordinated on a trans-national level." Besides a strong grid infrastructure this is the precondition for a secure energy supply in Europe.

"We have closed ranks"

Regardless of the reduction in energy consumption – currently the consumption all over Europe has dropped by 10-15 percent – the cross-border exchange and energy trade are still running smoothly. The reduced degree of capacity utilization of the transmission lines due to the lower consumption offers additional possibilities of transnational support. For instance, surplus energy from Western Europe is currently increasingly deviated to and transported through the APG grid on to Slovenia and further to the Northeast of Italy. In view of the corona crisis everybody closed ranks. In addition to the best possible mutual support all TSOs have decided to reduce shutdown of transmission lines for revision and renovation purposes to the absolute necessary minimum. "Thus we can maximize transport capacities and therefore increase the security of supply in Europe", says Kapetanovic. The current situation shows how important a strong and well developed transmission network is for the security of supply.

Larger share of green energy

Due to the low energy demand also the European mix of primary energy sources has changed. While renewables are still being used to maximum capacity, thermal power plants are being shut down due to price conditions. This alters the energy flows in the transmission network. The energy transport management in Austria is supervised by a team at the APG control center at the location Johannesberg in Vienna. The energy flows of the upcoming 24 hours are continuously forecasted and all TSOs are deciding on coordinated action and necessary emergency measures in a daily video conference at 9pm to jointly ensure stable grid operation and thus secure energy supply for all people in Europe. The secret of success to ensure that the situation remains stable throughout the crisis: protection of the core staff with strict hygiene and organizational safety measures like team splitting, pan-European measures, which are being discussed among all TSOs on a regular basis.

About Austrian Power Grid AG

Austrian Power Grid (APG) is Austria's independent transmission system operator in charge of monitoring and managing the nationwide transmission network. Its infrastructure is the lifeline of the country, its population and its businesses. The APG network totals a length of about 3,400 km and is operated, maintained and continuously adapted



to the increasing challenges of economy and society by a team of more than 600 specialists. APG guarantees security of supply to ensure that everybody has enough electricity when needed. As one-stop-shop APG is an important service provider of the energy sector. APG's staff develop suitable market products, have an excellent knowledge of physics and ensure security and efficiency of supply for Austria.

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