

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No 206/2020
of 11 December 2020
amending Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement [2023/2008]

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”), and in particular Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation ⁽¹⁾ is to be incorporated in the EEA Agreement.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 does not apply to transmission systems on islands which are not connected to other transmission systems via interconnections.
- (3) As the transmission system of Iceland is not connected with other transmission systems, Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 should not apply to Iceland.
- (4) Due to its small size and the limited number of electricity customers, Liechtenstein does not have its own transmission electricity network. Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 should therefore not apply to Liechtenstein.
- (5) References to Transmission System Operators (“TSOs”), Distribution System Operators (“DSOs”), Significant Grid Users (“SGUs”), regulatory authorities, stakeholders and designated entities should be understood to include the TSO, DSOs, SGUs, regulatory authority, stakeholders and designated entities representing Norway.
- (6) When jointly developing terms, conditions and methodologies pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485, it is essential that all necessary information be submitted without delay. Close cooperation between TSOs and regulatory authorities should ensure that sensitive information, such as detailed information about electrical substations, exact location of underground transmission, information about control systems and detailed vulnerability analyses that can be used for sabotage, is effectively protected in the process of developing terms, conditions or methodologies. To ensure the effective implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485, the same level of cooperation regarding information exchange and protection of sensitive information should be established for the purposes of the cooperation with Norway.
- (7) Input from all main stakeholders in the development of regional or EEA-wide terms, conditions and methodologies, that could become binding through regulatory approval, is crucial for an effective regulatory cross-border framework. The TSOs and other stakeholders should therefore participate in the processes for the development of proposals for terms, conditions and methodologies as set out in the various provisions in Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485. The Norwegian TSO should, in particular, participate in the stakeholder decision-making in a similar manner as TSOs representing an EU Member State.
- (8) For regional or Union-wide proposals, where the approval of proposals from TSOs requires a decision by more than one regulatory authority, regulatory authorities should consult and closely cooperate in order to reach agreement before the regulatory authorities adopt a decision. The Norwegian regulatory authority should be involved in such cooperation.
- (9) As Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 has been adopted on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003 ⁽²⁾, the adaptation texts elaborated and adopted under Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 93/2017 of 5 May 2017 amending Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement ⁽³⁾ for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009, in particular the provisions in

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 220, 25.8.2017, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 15.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 36, 7.2.2019, p. 44.

points (1) and (5) of Article 1 thereof, which provide for adaptations concerning the role of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators in the EEA context, are relevant for the application of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 in the EEA, in particular for the application of Article 6 (8) and Article 7 (3) thereof.

(10) Annex IV to the the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The following is inserted after point 50 (Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1719) of Annex IV to the EEA Agreement:

‘51. **32017 R 1485**: Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (OJ L 220, 25.8.2017, p. 1).

The provisions of the Regulation shall, for the purposes of this Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

- (a) The Regulation shall not apply to Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- (b) In Article 5:
 - (i) The references to “the population of the Union” in Article 5(3)(b), to “the population of the concerned region” in Article 5(5)(b) and to “the population of the participating Member States” in Article 5(6) shall be understood as including the population of Norway when considering whether the relevant population threshold for attaining qualified majority is attained.
 - (ii) The references to “regions composed of more than five Member States” in Article 5(5) and to “regions composed of five Member States or less” in Article 5(7) shall be read as “regions composed of more than four Union Member States and Norway” and as “regions composed of four Union Member States and Norway or less”, respectively.
- (c) The following shall be added to Article 12:

“Agreements between TSOs and / or regulatory authorities may ensure that confidential or sensitive information is effectively protected and help guaranteeing that all information which is necessary to develop the common terms, conditions and methods is submitted without delay”.

Article 2

The text of Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 in the Norwegian language, to be published in the EEA Supplement to the *Official Journal of the European Union*, shall be authentic.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on 12 December 2020, or on the day following the last notification to the EEA Joint Committee under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement *, whichever is the later.

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

* Constitutional requirements indicated.

Done at Brussels, 11 December 2020.

For the EEA Joint Committee
The President
Sabine MONAUNI
