

# **TYNDP 2026 SCENARIOS EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

DRAFT VERSION

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Draft proposed by ENTSO-E and ENTSG

# TYNDP 2026 SCENARIOS ETAG – TERMS OF REFERENCE

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Since 2018 ENTSOG and ENTSO-E have been developing joint scenarios for their respective Ten Year Network Development Plans (TYNDP). Due to the significance of the TYNDP scenarios for EU infrastructure planning, it is important to ensure that the scenarios benefit from thorough and inclusive stakeholder engagement. Successive TYNDP processes since 2018 have seen the development and continuous improvement of stakeholder engagement processes, tools and transparency.

Article 12(3) of Regulation 2022/869 (TEN-E Regulation) of 30 May 2022<sup>1</sup> specifies that ENTSO-E and ENTSOG *'shall invite the organisations representing all relevant stakeholders, including the EU DSO entity, associations involved in electricity, gas and hydrogen markets, heating and cooling, carbon capture and storage and carbon capture and utilisation stakeholders, independent aggregators, demand-response operators, organisations involved in energy efficiency solutions, energy consumer associations, civil society representatives, to participate in the scenarios development process, in particular on key elements such as assumptions and how they are reflected in the scenarios data.'*

ACER's Framework Guidelines on the joint TYNDP scenarios to be developed by ENTSO for Electricity and ENTSO for Gas<sup>2</sup> (hereafter, 'ACER Framework Guidelines') states that ENTSO-E and ENTSOG should create a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) within three months after the adoption of the Framework Guidelines. It adds that a call for interest should target stakeholders listed in Article 12(3) of the TEN-E Regulation and other relevant organisations and independent experts. Furthermore, *'The composition of the SRG shall be balanced with regards to specific interest groups, avoiding, to the extent possible, individual entities to be represented more than once. The Agency recommends that each SRG member stakeholder shall be represented by one representative. After its creation, the ENTSOs shall then act as observers and facilitators of this group. In addition, ACER, the European Commission, Member State Representatives, and the European Union's Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (hereafter 'Scientific Advisory Board') can become observers to the SRG.'*

To implement the above-mentioned requirements in Article 12(3) and in the Framework Guidelines, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG initiate the creation of the independent TYNDP 2026 scenarios External Technical Advisory Group (Scenarios ETAG). These Terms of Reference aim at setting the objectives and establishing the ways of working of the Scenarios ETAG.

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<sup>1</sup><https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R0869&qid=1654587354725&from=en>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Framework\\_Guidelines/Framework%20Guidelines/FG\\_For\\_Joint\\_TYNDP\\_Scenarios.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Framework_Guidelines/Framework%20Guidelines/FG_For_Joint_TYNDP_Scenarios.pdf)

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The Scenarios ETAG aims at providing timely, expert input to the development of scenarios by ENTSO-E and ENTSG in accordance with the scenario development timeline. It is not meant to replace other stakeholder engagement methods (including public consultations, stakeholder events and bilateral discussions) but to complement them.

The Scenarios ETAG will play its role in the following way:

- At the start of the scenario-building cycle: by identifying and giving feedback to ENTSO-E and ENTSG on which parts of the scenario building process would benefit from further discussion within the Scenarios ETAG;
- During the scenario-building cycle: By providing advice at key stages of the scenario building process on the inputs, assumptions and methodologies; and
- At the end of the scenario-building cycle: by providing feedback on the scenario building process, with an evaluation of the scenarios development process and recommendations for improvements for the next cycle.

ENTSO-E and ENTSG remain at all times responsible for the inputs and assumptions that they used within their scenarios and are not bound by the advice of the Scenarios ETAG; however, the advice will be published transparently as detailed in Section 4.

## 3. ORGANISATION OF THE GROUP

### 3.1 Creation of the Scenarios ETAG

The Scenarios ETAG will contribute to selected topics starting from its creation at the end of the 2024 cycle and will work towards the objectives listed in Section 2 of the present ToRs from the beginning of the 2026 process.

At the end of each scenario cycle, as part of the Scenarios ETAG discussions on feedback on the scenario building process, Scenarios ETAG members with ENTSG and ENTSO-E will evaluate the overall usefulness of the contribution of the Scenarios ETAG to the scenario building process, and exchange views on the need to re-establish a Scenarios ETAG for the next cycle.

With consideration of views expressed by Scenarios ETAG members and Observer members, and ENTSO-E and ENTSG's experience of how the first Scenarios ETAG

contributes to the scenario building process, ENTSO-E and ENTSG will take the initiative in making a proposal to re-launch a call for interest for the next scenario cycle.

## **3.2 Convenorship and membership**

### **3.1.1 Scenarios ETAG Members**

Main requirements for Scenarios ETAG membership:

- Scenarios ETAG membership must at all times remain balanced with regards to specific interest groups as outlined in Article 12(3) of the TEN-E Regulation.
- Individual entities must not be represented more than once, to the extent possible.
- It is the responsibility of Scenarios ETAG members to discontinue their membership in case of conflict of interest.
- Each organisation member of the Scenarios ETAG is represented by only one representative. It is possible to nominate a substitute representative.
- Members are expected to contribute actively to the work of the Scenarios ETAG.
- Members must have relevant expertise or a good technical understanding of scenario building and/or modelling.

Scenarios ETAG members are selected based on a call for interest issued jointly by ENTSO-E and ENTSG. For each of the group listed hereafter, based on Article 12(3) of the TEN-E Regulation and on ACER's Framework Guidelines, the maximum number of representatives is set to 3.

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- Associations involved in the electricity market
- Associations involved in the gas (methane and hydrogen) market
- Heating and cooling stakeholders
- Carbon capture and storage and carbon capture and utilisation stakeholders
- Independent aggregators
- Demand-side operators
- Supply-side operators
- Organisations involved in energy efficiency solutions
- Energy consumer associations
- Civil society representatives
- Other organisations
- Independent experts

In addition to the groups listed above, the EU DSO Entity should also be represented as per Article 12(3).

In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the maximum number of 3 representatives per group, ENTSOG and ENTSO-E will select members based on the following criteria:

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- Overall balance of interests represented in the Scenarios ETAG
- Avoid multiple representation of a single entity
- Relevance of the sector/industry/technology represented to the energy system and to scenario building
- If the applicant is an entity, representativeness of the entity (based on size and diversity of membership)
- Relevant expertise in the pan-European energy system, and relevant technical knowledge in scenarios building and/or in modelling, evaluated based on the applicants' experience and motivation.
- Ability of the applicant to contribute to the work of the group (FTE is estimated at 0.10 for members and 0.20 for the Convenor and is subject to variation during scenario project lifetime).
- Geographical diversity of the membership, with the objective that the overall geographical coverage of all Scenarios ETAG members together includes as many European countries as possible as are included in the scenario building perimeter (for associations, considering the geographic diversity of their membership base).

The draft membership list based on the above criteria will be shared with ACER and the European Commission DG ENER for a two-week notice period. After two weeks, if no concern raised by the EC or ACER, the membership list of the Scenarios ETAG will be considered approved, applicants will be informed, and the membership list will be made public.

### 3.1.2 Role of Scenarios ETAG members

All members of the Scenarios ETAG commit to:

- Consistently attend meetings and actively participate in the meetings;
- Liaise with their members and stakeholders to share information on scenarios development process and content and represent their view and concerns;
- Highlight proposals and issues as early as practicable.
- Respect the scenarios process timeline and stakeholder engagement plan defined by ENTSOG and ENTSO-E considering the feedback of the Scenarios ETAG. This is especially important with regards to the time periods when the Scenarios ETAG will be expected to provide input and the respective deadlines and format to provide

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input. Input provided outside of the agreed time periods, or in a format other than the agreed format, cannot be considered.

### 3.1.3 Scenarios ETAG Observer members

ENTSOE, ENTSO-E, the European Commission, ACER, EU Member States and the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change may nominate observer members to the Scenarios ETAG.

Observer members attend Scenarios ETAG meetings. They only participate in discussions when it is foreseen in the agenda of the meeting but have no voting power.

Additional experts may be invited to Scenarios ETAG meetings when foreseen on the agenda for specific topics. They may contribute to the discussion but have no voting power.

### 3.1.4 Scenarios ETAG Convenor

Scenarios ETAG members elect the Scenarios ETAG Convenor. They may elect a vice-Convenor.

The Convenor proposes the agenda of Scenarios ETAG meetings in coordination with ENTSO-E and ENTSOG. He/she chairs the meetings, always having in mind the need for balanced expression of all represented interests and non-discriminatory dialogue. He/she drafts the minutes and drafts the feedback and advice to ENTSO-E and ENTSOG.

## 3.3 Organisation of meetings

The timing of Scenarios ETAG meetings will be set respecting the scenarios process timeline and stakeholder engagement plan.

The Scenarios ETAG convenor drafts a meeting agenda that will be validated at the beginning of each meeting. Members can request to include specific topics on the draft agenda.

The Scenarios ETAG Convenor produces minutes of each meeting. Minutes will include a list of topics that may require further investigation. At each meeting answers on each item included in the list shall be asked to the responsible parties.

## 3.4 Updates to the Scenarios ETAG Terms of Reference

Scenarios ETAG members approve the Terms of Reference of the group.

Before implementing any change to the present Terms of Reference, the Scenarios ETAG should consult ACER, the European Commission, ENTSOG and ENTSO-E.



### 3.5 Quorum and decisions

Scenarios ETAG members propose changes to the Terms of Reference of the Scenarios ETAG to ENTSO-E and ENTSOG and elect the convenor. Scenarios ETAG members make proposals to ENTSO-E and ENTSOG on Scenarios ETAG membership. Scenarios ETAG members approve the agenda and minutes of Scenarios ETAG meetings. The Scenarios ETAG may approve advice to ENTSO-E and ENTSOG on scenarios input, assumptions and methodologies.

To ensure that any decision stems from a wide agreement between the various sectors, technologies and interests represented in the Scenarios ETAG, for a decision to be valid it is necessary that at least two thirds of Scenarios ETAG members are represented. Scenarios ETAG decisions must be approved by two-thirds of the Scenarios ETAG members represented. Scenarios ETAG minutes and decisions shall fairly reflect diverging views if any.

### 3.6 Facilitation of the meetings

ENTSOG and ENTSO-E act as facilitators as required. They may support the practical organisation of the meetings (logistics, communications to Scenarios ETAG members and observers). They ensure the publication of the approved documents listed under Section 4 once provided in a timely manner by the Convenor.

## 4 TRANSPARENCY

The Scenarios ETAG can request proportional information and documents to carry out its tasks; the ENTSO-E and ENTSOG shall take reasonable steps to make available the information taking into account their duty to protect confidential information in line with legal requirements.

The following information and documents are publicly available and kept up-to-date on the Scenarios website:

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- List of Scenarios ETAG members, observer members and convenor, with their names and organisations
- Scenarios ETAG Terms of Reference
- Agendas and minutes of Scenarios ETAG meetings
- Presentations delivered at Scenarios ETAG meetings
- Advice delivered by the Scenarios ETAG to ENTSOG and ENTSO-E.

## **GLOSSARY**

- REGULATION (EU) 2022/869 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013
- Framework Guidelines for the joint TYNDP scenarios to be developed by ENTSO for Electricity and ENTSO for Gas “TYNDP Scenarios Guidelines”, European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, 25 January 2023