

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ELECTRICITY AND THE GREENING ECONOMY

WORLD TRADE FORUM

World Trade Institute, Auditorium Silva Casa
26-27 September 2014

Cross border electricity trade is rapidly intensifying as global electricity demand grows and countries are under the challenge to ensure an economically efficient and sustainable power system to achieve the common goals of energy security, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Given the link between power generation and climate change, the uptake of renewable energy has been identified as a key enabler of GHG emissions mitigation from the electricity sector. The idea of a global grid enabling long-distance electricity trade is accordingly catching on as a vital part of governments' strategy to integrate renewable generation into the transmission and distributions systems while facilitating the transition towards a low carbon economic growth. However, the successful realization of a global grid depends upon the overall modernization of electricity infrastructure requiring high levels of investments and technological innovations to address the challenges that renewable energies pose to electricity markets.

Starting from the premise that long-distance trade in electricity requires a cross-border electricity trading regime, we assess the state of play and the main shortcomings in the current rules of international law relevant and applicable to international trade in electricity, and identify the elements required to bring about an adequate and efficient cross-border electricity trading regime. In order to fulfill this task, we will take stock of the changing landscape of electricity trade and discuss various aspects related to the technological, regulatory, geopolitical and economic challenges to international trade in green electricity. In doing so, we will ask a number of questions. Are current rules sufficient to address long-distance electricity trade? What frameworks for investment in electricity infrastructure should be promoted? How should green electricity incentive policies be tackled under international trade rules? What should be the institutional allocation of the challenges ahead? The proceedings will be published in a book series from the World Trade Forum.

Friday, 26 September 2014
Part 1: The Landscape of Electricity Trade

13:00 – 13:30 Welcome Address and Introduction by Thomas Cottier, World Trade Institute

13:30 – 15:30 Panel 1: *International Trade in Electricity: Towards a Global Grid*

Chair: Thomas Cottier, World Trade Institute

The state of play in cross-border electricity trade

Speaker: Spyros Chatzivasileiadis, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Technological challenges and new frontiers in international electricity trade

Speaker: Anders Plejdrup Houmøller, Houmoller Consulting ApS

Electricity Market Reforms

Speaker: Paul Dorfman, University College London (UCL) Energy Institute

The geopolitical role of electricity trade

Speaker: David Robinson, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Commentators: Fereidoon Sioshansi, MENLO Energy Economics; Réne Burkhard, Swissgrid

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 18:00 Panel 2: *International Trade in Electricity and the Promotion of Green Electricity: The Regional Experience*

Chair: David Robinson, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The EU regulatory framework for the promotion of green electricity

Speaker: Jérôme Le Page, European Federation of Energy Traders

The North American experience

Speaker: Fereidoon Sioshansi, MENLO Energy Economics

The Asian experience

Speaker: Sufian Jusoh, University Kebangsaan Malaysia

The Latin American experience

Speaker: Enrique Rodriguez-Flores, Inter-American Development Bank

The African experience

Speaker: Callixte Kambada, Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, African Development Bank

Commentators: Anders Plejdrup Houmøller, Houmoller Consulting ApS; Vanda Markovicova, European Commission

Saturday, 27 September 2014
Part 2: Challenges to Trade and Investment in Green Electricity

9:00 – 11:00 Panel 3: *Interconnectivity Issues*

Chair: Steivan Defilla, Energy Charter Secretariat

Promoting green electricity through transit regulation

Speaker: Karolis Gudas, World Trade Institute

Import and export quantitative restrictions on electricity

Speaker: Iliaria Espa, World Trade Institute

The regulatory challenges of smart grids

Speaker: Joelle de S epibus, World Trade Institute

Technical standards and interoperability of grids

Speaker: Christian Kunze, Swissgrid

Commentators: Ioannis Retsoulis, ENTSO-E; Bernhard Thies, CEN-CENELEC

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 13:00 Panel 4: *Incentives and Taxation Issues*

Chair: Thomas Cottier, World Trade Institute

ASCM disciplines and recent WTO case law developments: what space for “green” subsidies?

Speaker: Luca Rubini, Birmingham Law School

Dumping and CVD issues in the renewable energy sector

Speaker: Edwin Vermulst, VVGB Advocaten

Promoting green electricity through differentiated electricity tax schemes

Speakers: Kateryna Holzer, Iliaria Espa and Tetyana Payosova, World Trade Institute

Commentators: Jesse Kreier, World Trade Organization; Thomas Cottier, World Trade Institute

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Panel 5: *Competition and Investment Issues*

Chair: Luca Rubini, Birmingham Law School

Competition policy, monopolies and the role of State in promoting green electricity

Speaker: Olga Nartova, World Trade Institute

Promoting green electricity through technological transfer

Speaker: Frederick M. Abbott, Florida State University College of Law

Regulatory takings in the renewable energy sector and FET: regulatory coherence for trade and investment in renewable energy

Speakers: Sofya Matteotti and Tetyana Payosova, World Trade Institute

Evaluating the legal environment for cross-border energy investment – a firm-level perspective
Speaker: Stephen Gelb, World Trade Institute

Commentators: Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer, University of Basel; Thomas Cottier, World Trade Institute

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:15 Concluding Roundtable: *The Institutional Allocation of the Challenges Ahead*

Chair: Thomas Cottier

Speakers: Vanda Markovicova, European Commission
Steivan Defilla, Energy Charter Secretariat
Ludivine Tamiotti, World Trade Organization (TBC)