

**Interconnections studies should include a component on regional institutional framework**

Subsequent to the development of renewable energies in the world over, interconnections between national electrical system are welcome for managing intermittency and are helping for stability. In parallel, competition among all types of generations with national grids in natural monopoles becomes essential everywhere. Moreover, market opening help renewables energies to develop at any level of size from rooftops to large power plants.

Consequently, renewable energy development, Market opening and interconnection are related.

Regional Power Trade studies are now requesting both system and market studies.

- Market studies for determining the potential of energy exchanges between the countries according to the predictable evolution of the national power mixes
- System studies for assessing new capacities of interconnection and check the overall stability.

However, this is not enough: now, regional interconnections studies should include an additional component dedicated to institutional framework for determining the necessary progress in legislations and market rules. This phase is also crucial to make cost recovery mechanisms a reality regarding Grid and Generation investments.

This additional component on regional institutional framework is also mandatory for helping to structure decision processes:

1. Implementation of Regional interconnection requires Political decision by Chiefs of States
2. A strong coordination among the Regulators of the Countries is necessary
3. Electricity Regulatory Forum can help for moving forward and for achieving a regional consensus with participation of national regulatory authorities, Member State governments, TSOs, utilities, electricity traders, clean energy and customer representatives
4. Creation of a Platform Body is essential in charge of
  - Implementing the regional Regulations for Power Trade
  - Developing new interconnectors
  - Supervising Operation, maintenance and accounts