

Access to wholesale gas and power markets between countries in Europe

The European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET)¹ calls on European governments not to impose national regulatory restrictions on market access on companies located in another European country with a fully liberalised energy sector.

The restrictions may take the form of artificial pre-requisites for obtaining a national supply licence. Such pre-requisites are already precluded inside the European Union, if they discriminate against a foreign entity located in another EU member state, by EU law. There is no valid reason for them to be applied either in relation to (nor by) an interconnected third country, if it has already opened gas and power networks to regulated third party access and gas and power markets to competition.

In particular, we discourage governments from succumbing to the temptation to introduce an artificial national requirement to locate trading staff and set up a branch within a given jurisdiction. This is simply not a legitimate condition in a modern economy, in order for an energy market participant based outside the country to qualify for a supply licence within the relevant national territory. Our view is the same, whether the national government tempted to act in this way is a member state of the European Union or not. In either case, such artificial obligations constitute a barrier to trade, may jeopardise security of energy supply and may impede the established efficiency of pan-European wholesale power and gas markets.

¹ The European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET) promotes competition, transparency and open access in the European energy sector. We build trust in power and gas markets across Europe, so that they may underpin a sustainable and secure energy supply and enable the transition to a carbon neutral economy. We currently represent more than 100 energy trading companies, active in over 27 European countries. For more information: www.efet.org.