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1

**Commission presents White Paper on the future of Europe:
Avenues for unity for the EU at 27**

As announced in President Juncker's 2016 State of the Union speech, the European Commission has presented a White Paper on the Future of Europe, which forms the Commission's contribution to the Rome Summit of 25 March 2017. The White Paper offers a glimpse into the potential state of the Union in 8 years from now by looking at how Europe will change from the vehement impact of new technologies on society and jobs, the rapid pace of globalisation, security concerns and the rise of populism.

To get an idea of the five scenarios that offer an optimistic point of view to the future of Europe, please click [here](#).

2

**Commission opens in-depth investigation into German
plans for electricity capacity reserve**

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess whether German plans to set up an electricity capacity reserve comply with EU state aid rules. The Commission has raised concerns not only about the non-fulfillment of the state aid rules' requirements, but also about the potential of the plan to distort competition and favour power plant operators over demand response operators.

For further information, please click [here](#).

3

Commission confirms no aid in concession deals for Greek regional airports

The European Commission has concluded that concessions for 14 regional airports in Greece were awarded on market terms and, therefore, they did not involve any state aid on the grounds that the terms of the concession agreements are in line with market conditions, in particular because they result from a competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory tender.

For further information, please click [here](#).

4

EU Gas market design: the quiet before the storm?

In 2009, the Third Energy Package initiated a profound re-shaping of the EU internal gas market structure – from unbundling to the invention of ACER and the ENTSOs. Lately, the gas Network Codes have more or less smoothly entered the implementation phase – giving the impression that, although not perfectly, the current gas market design is good enough to satisfy most of the market actors' needs and, more importantly, it seems to work. Will the “Winter Package” contribute to the effectiveness of the operation of the internal energy markets?

For further information, please click [here](#).

5

Can a new energy Governance fill the gaps of the EU gas market?

With the Clean Energy Package released last November, the EU Commission proposed a new Regulation on the Governance for the

Energy Union, specifically concerning the achievement of the “ambitious climate policy” targets.

The aim is to consolidate ‘the existing patchwork’ of national planning/reporting and EU legislation across energy, climate and replace the various existing sectorial plans with one comprehensive integrated plan and report: “These objectives can only be achieved through a set of coherent and coordinated actions – legislative and non-legislative – at EU and national level [...which] requires the Energy Union to establish robust Governance.”

For further information, please click [here](#).

6

Is Europe heading towards a seamless transmission system for electricity?

The EU claims to have an internal market for electricity already in place. Nowadays, most of the national power markets in Europe are coupled for the day-ahead transactions. Nonetheless, are we sure that the European set of grids and power plants is operated as a single seamless system?

For further information, please click [here](#).

7

Commission introduces new anonymous whistleblower tool

Complementary to the “leniency mechanism” used to allow businesses to report their own involvement in a cartel in exchange for a reduction of the fine imposed on them, a new tool has been introduced by the Commission which provides individuals with the

right to alert the Commission about secret cartels and other antitrust violations while maintaining their anonymity.

To see how this new tool works, please click [here](#).

The Hellenic Regulation Institute is a scientific multidisciplinary forum founded by Metaxas & Associates Law Firm (www.metaxaslaw.gr) in an effort to host a well-founded dialogue between energy experts and people interested in the energy field.

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