

REPORT OF THE GERMAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS  
ON AVAILABLE CROSS-ZONAL CAPACITY FOR THE YEAR 2020  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 15(4) INTERNAL MARKET FOR ELECTRICITY  
REGULATION (EU) 2019/943

CREATED BY

THE GERMAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS WITH CONTROL  
AREA RESPONSIBILITIES



IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR  
WITHOUT CONTROL AREA RESPONSIBILITY



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## SUMMARY

The EU Electricity Market Regulation (EU) 2019/943, which entered into force on 4/7/2019, prescribes a minimum value for the capacity to be available for cross-zonal electricity trading of 70% as of 1/1/2020. With its “Action Plan Bidding Zone”<sup>1</sup>, Germany is applying an exemption cause provided in Art. 15 of the EU Electricity Market Regulation and is increasing the capacity for cross-zonal electricity trading from the level of 2020 by a linear trajectory to a minimum of 70% by 31/12/2025. The implementation of an action plan is associated with an obligation to carry out annual evaluations of compliance with the minimum values for cross-zonal electricity trading by the involved transmission system operators. The present report has been produced to meet this obligation by the control area-managing transmission system operators 50Hertz Transmission GmbH (50Hertz), Amprion GmbH (Amprion), TransnetBW GmbH (TransnetBW) and TenneT TSO GmbH (TenneT) as well as the transmission system operator without control area responsibility Baltic Cable AB. In accordance with the requirements of the EU Electricity Market Regulation, the methodology and data basis of the present report had been submitted to the national regulatory authority Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA) for approval.

The minimum values for cross-zonal electricity trading at the borders Germany – Denmark 1, Germany – Denmark 2, Germany – Norway 2 and Germany – Poland/Czech Republic were fulfilled at all times during 2020 by the responsible transmission system operators 50Hertz and TenneT. At the border Germany – Sweden 4, TenneT was not able to reach the minimum value in the south direction during 1 hour and in the north direction during a total of 2,301 hours within a period from 1/1/2020 to 27/8/2020. A restriction on cross-border trading existed during 39 hours. None of these deficiencies can be attributed to restrictions from Baltic Cable AB. The deficiencies were justified for reasons of system stability in the absence of alternative measures pursuant to Art. 16(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, and it was managed to subsequently prevent them as of 28/8/2020 by establishing the necessary processes.

On the network elements of the CWE region, the minimum value had been reached at all times by the responsible transmission system operators Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW.

In summary, 50Hertz, Amprion, TransnetBW, TenneT and Baltic Cable AB complied with the statutory requirements for cross-zonal electricity trading pursuant to Art. 15 and 16 of the EU Electricity Market Regulation at all times during the year 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/A/aktionsplan-gebotszone.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=10](https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/A/aktionsplan-gebotszone.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=10)

## 1. LEGAL BACKGROUND

The EU Electricity Market Regulation (EU) 2019/943, which entered into force on 4/7/2019, stipulates that transmission system operators (TSOs) may not restrict the cross-zonal transmission capacity to eliminate congestion within a bidding zone. This requirement is considered met if a minimum value of 70% is achieved for the cross-zonal electricity trading. Specifically, this means that as of 1/1/2020, at least 70% of the border transmission capacity of borders with NTC<sup>2</sup> capacity calculation and at least 70% of the transmission capacity of the critical network elements of borders with flow-based capacity calculation (in consideration of system stability) must be offered for cross-zonal electricity trading (Art. 16(8)).

For Member States that have identified structural grid congestion, the EU Electricity Market Regulation opens up the possibility of submitting an action plan to reduce this congestion (Art. 15(1)). In this case, the minimum value for cross-zonal trade capacity is to be raised annually in steps from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2025 until reaching 70%, starting from the average level of the past three years or the maximum of these years (Art. 15(2)).

Against this backdrop and after consultation with stakeholders and Member States, the Federal Republic of Germany submitted the Action Plan Bidding Zone 28/12/2019 to the European Commission (EC) and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). The Action Plan Bidding Zone contains concrete measures by which Germany will counteract the structural congestion described above and raise the minimum capacity for cross-zonal electricity trading in stages up to 70% by 31/12/2025.

Implementation of an action plan is associated with an obligation to carry out annual evaluations of compliance with the minimum values for cross-zonal trade capacity by the involved transmission system operators. The data basis for this evaluation must be approved by the corresponding national regulatory authority (NRA), in this case the Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railways (Bundesnetzagentur für Elektrizität, Gas, Telekommunikation, Post und Eisenbahnen; BNetzA - BNetzA). On this basis, the evaluation must be submitted to the relevant national regulatory authorities and to ACER (Art. 15(4)). The present report has been produced to meet this obligation by the control area-managing transmission system operators 50Hertz Transmission GmbH (50Hertz), Amprion GmbH (Amprion), TransnetBW GmbH (TransnetBW) and TenneT TSO GmbH (TenneT) as well as the transmission system operator without control area responsibility Baltic Cable AB (BCAB).

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<sup>2</sup> NTC (net transfer capacity) refers both to a capacity calculation method for determining border-specific transmission capacity and to its result.

## 2. LINEAR TRAJECTORY OF THE GERMAN ACTION PLAN

In accordance with the Action Plan Bidding Zone, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) has instructed the German TSOs to calculate the initial values for the linear trajectory pursuant to Art. 15(2) of the EU Electricity Market Regulation.

Based on the principles for calculating and reporting the initial values provided by the BNetzA<sup>3</sup>, the German TSOs 50Hertz, Amprion, TransnetBW and TenneT<sup>4</sup> have calculated and published<sup>5</sup> the initial values for the German bidding zone borders<sup>6</sup> and critical network elements. The principles for calculating the initial values stipulate, amongst other rules, that a common average be calculated and defined as the initial value for all bidding zone borders and critical network elements that will in future be part of the flow-based market coupling in the capacity calculation region (CCR) Core (Core FB MC). Starting from this initial value, a staged linear trajectory of minimum values is to be determined for the intervening years until reaching the target level of 70% on 31/12/2025. Until implementation of the Core FB MC, the minimum values determined in this way will be applied within the flow-based market coupling in the Central Western European region (CWE) and at the NTC borders that will be part of the Core FB MC in the future. An initial value must be determined and applied for each of the borders in the capacity calculation region Hansa Germany – Denmark 1 (DE-DK1) and Germany – Denmark 2 (DE-DK2) and for the borders of Germany – Sweden 4 (DE-SE4) and Germany – Norway 2 (DE-NO2), which were previously not assigned to any region. The minimum capacities and the linear trajectory will be applied at the border DE-NO2 based on the general principle of equal treatment and on European competition law. As part of the European Economic Area (EEA), Norway is treated in this cases as an EU Member State although it is not directly subject to the Regulation (EU) 2019/943 unless it chooses to adopt this regulation. These calculations result in the following initial values and the corresponding linear trajectories.

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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Sachgebiete/ElektrizitaetundGas/Unternehmen\\_Institutionen/HandelundVertrieb/EuropMarktkopplung/MarketCoupling\\_node.html](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Sachgebiete/ElektrizitaetundGas/Unternehmen_Institutionen/HandelundVertrieb/EuropMarktkopplung/MarketCoupling_node.html)

<sup>4</sup> The initial value for the border DE-SE4 was determined by TenneT.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.netztransparenz.de/EU-Network-Codes/CEP-Startwerte>

<sup>6</sup> This refers to the Germany-Luxembourg bidding zone. To improve readability, the term “German bidding zone” is used below.

**CCR Core**

Border	% of capacity per critical network element (CNE)						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	As of 31/12/2025
Core region	11.5	21.3	31.0	40.8	50.5	60.3	70.0

The minimum remaining available margin introduced for the CWE region in April 2018 (CWE-minRAM) of 20% will continue to apply as before if this is possible without sacrificing system stability.

**CCR Hansa**

The calculated initial value for the border DE-DK1 yields a minimum capacity of 428 MW according to the principles of the BNetzA for calculating and reporting the initial values. Obligations from “Commission Decision of 7/12/2018 [...] Case AT.40461 – DE/DK Interconnector” (TenneT’s commitment) regarding a minimum capacity at the border DE-DK1 remain hereby unaffected.

For the border DE-NO2, the initial value for the linear trajectory applicable for the year 2020 is zero (0) percent.

The initial value for the border DE-SE4 via the Baltic Cable is 248 MW or 41.4%. The minimum capacity at the border DE-SE4 will be initially set directly equal to the maximum transmission capacity of the Baltic Cable of 600 megawatts.

The initial value calculation for the bidding zone border DE-DK 2 has shown that even in the past, when the border consisted only of the DC interconnector cable Kontek, over 70% of the capacity at this border was made available for cross-zonal trading. It is therefore unnecessary to calculate an initial value or a linear trajectory for this border. In this case, the 70% minimum requirement from the EU Electricity Market Regulation must be complied with immediately as of 1/1/2020. For the new hybrid interconnector Kriegers Flak Combined Grid Solution (KF CGS) put into operation on 15/12/2020, the European Commission granted an exception on 11/11/2020 exempting the KF CGS from the 70% capacity requirement. This allows reservation of a capacity in the amount of the day-ahead feed-in forecast for transporting wind power to the respective national transmission system. At least 70% of the remaining transmission capacity must be made available to the market. The BNetzA requirements for calculating the initial value for interconnectors put into operation after 1/1/2020 also stipulate an initial value of 0% in the first year of operation. This value is then to be increased in steps each year up to 70% by 31/12/2025. The minimum value for the border DE-DK2 in 2020 therefore consists of the following components:

- 0% (increasing in 2021 to 11.7%) of the available transmission capacity of the KF CGS (after deducting the forecast offshore wind power feed-in) plus
- 70% of the available transmission capacity of the Kontek cable.

The following trajectories result from the respective initial values:

Border	% of capacity per border						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	As of 31/12/2025
DE-SE4	41.4	46.2	50.9	55.7	60.5	65.2	70.0
DE-DK1	23.9	31.6	39.4	47.0	54.6	62.3	70.0
DE-NO2	0	11.7	23.3	35.0	46.7	58.3	70.0
DE-DK2	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
Kontek → KF CGS <sup>7</sup> →	0.0	11.7	23.3	35.0	46.7	58.3	70.0

### 3. MONITORING METHODOLOGY

The methodology for monitoring compliance with the minimum values for cross-zonal electricity trading pursuant to the EU Electricity Market Regulation and the stipulations of the BNetzA is described below. The minimum value must be respected by the offered capacity within every market time unit (MTU), in other words every hour, and in both directions. The minimum value defines the minimum capacity to be offered. The offered capacity is also referred to below as the “trade margin”.

The trade margin consists of two components. The first is the coordinated trade margin, which represents the offered capacity at the border or borders in question that participate in the capacity coordination. The second is the uncoordinated trade margin. This represents the consequences of the trade capacities offered to other borders not participating in the capacity coordination.

The first step of evaluating compliance with the minimum values is based on the capacities offered in the day-ahead capacity calculation. Due to the availability of data and the low electrical influence of far-off borders on German critical network elements in connection with the respective critical contingency combination (CNECs), not all neighbouring borders in Europe are included in the calculation of the uncoordinated trade margin. However, third countries that are not EU members are treated just the same as EU Member States. This ensures a consistent method for calculating the initial values for the German TSOs.

<sup>7</sup> The minimum value in percent is applied to the available transmission capacity after deducting the forecast feed-in from the offshore wind farms

If the minimum values are not met according to the standard method described above, further special analysis is required. Additional components of relevance to compliance are then taken into account, such as offered capacity in the long-term and intraday time-frame as well as capacities reserved for cross-border balancing power, just like the consideration of other European borders in calculating the uncoordinated trade margin. Such conclusive compliance evaluations are described in the results section below.

In case the minimum values are not met, an analysis of whether this caused a restriction to cross-border electricity trading is triggered. Such restrictions are considered situations in which the capacity was fully utilised and a market price difference remained such that an additional exchange would have been cost-efficient.

### 3.1 Core region

As described above in section 2, a common initial value and linear trajectory was calculated for all German borders that will be part of the Core FB MC in the future. Since a common flow-based approach to capacity calculation will apply in the future to the CCR Core, the minimum value arising from the initial value and the linear trajectory must be complied with at every critical network element in connection with the respective critical contingency combination (CNEC). An NTC method is currently used to calculate the capacity for the borders of Germany – the Czech Republic and Germany – Poland, while a flow-based method is used for all borders in the CWE region. Therefore, different technical implementations of the monitoring are applied and separate descriptions are provided below.

#### 3.1.1 NTC border Germany – Poland and the Czech Republic

The transmission capacity of the bidding zone borders Germany – the Czech Republic and Germany – Poland is determined by the TSOs 50Hertz, TenneT and CEPS as a combined value DE – PL/CZ based on the NTC capacity calculation method. The TSOs carry out independent NTC capacity calculations, exclusively taking into account their CNECs. The lowest result per market time unit (harmonisation) represents the NTC DE – PL/CZ. Half of this is allocated to the NTC DE-CZ, while the other half remains as the technical profile DE – PL/CZ. The technical profile capacity is allocated among the two bidding zone borders DE-CZ and DE-PL based on demand and in accordance with the goal of optimising welfare. 50Hertz treats PL and CZ as a single bidding zone in the capacity calculation for determining the technical profile. The monitoring method applied by 50Hertz and TenneT is described below.



Calculating the offered trade margin

As described previously in this section, the offered trade margin consists of two components. When applying an NTC method, only the limiting CNEC<sup>8</sup> is relevant for determining compliance because this determines the coordinated trade margin in connection with the capacity calculation. The same applies for the uncoordinated trade margin as well, which is also based solely on the limiting CNEC.

Determining the coordinated trade margin

The coordinated trade margin at the limiting CNEC corresponds to the share of the determined cross-zonal transmission capacity that induces a load on the limiting CNEC (share calculated via PTDF<sup>9</sup>). For the borders DE – PL and CZ, the TSO on the German side provides the limiting CNEC, which contributed the lower capacity to the harmonisation with CEPS. This capacity is used for calculating the coordinated trade margin.

Calculating the uncoordinated trade margin

The uncoordinated trade margin at the limiting CNEC<sup>10</sup> corresponds to the load-inducing impact of the capacities offered at adjacent borders that must be offered for these borders at the limiting CNEC in each direction (the share is calculated via PTDF). This is accomplished by estimating the capacities offered at adjacent borders based on the information available at the time of the day-ahead (DA) capacity calculation. The result is a value for the uncoordinated trade margin per CNEC for each MTU and direction.

TenneT data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Relative trade margin	$F_{max}$	D2CF CGM
Coordinated trade margin	NTC	Internal alternating current (AC) load flow calculation based on D2CF-CGM <sup>11</sup>
Coordinated trade margin	PTDF	Internal calculation from D2CF CGM
Uncoordinated trade margin		
Uncoordinated trade margin	NTC	Forecasted day-ahead capacity (Art. 11.1 EU Regulation 543/2013) from ENTSO-E Transparency Platform

<sup>8</sup> Multiple CNECs may also simultaneously act as limits for a given market time unit.

<sup>9</sup> PTDF (power transfer distribution factors) translate a cross-border exchange into the corresponding load flows at the CNEC.

<sup>10</sup> Multiple CNECs may also simultaneously act as limits for a given market time unit.

<sup>11</sup> D-2 congestion forecast common grid model (CGM) as per SO GL Regulation Art. 67 and Art. 70.

50Hertz data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Coordinated trade margin	$F_{ref}$ , $F_{max}$ , PTDF and phase shift distribution factor (PSDF)	Internal DC load flow calculation and optimisation based on D2CF-CGM <sup>11</sup>
Uncoordinated trade margin	PTDF	DC load flow calculation
Uncoordinated trade margin	NTC	Forecasted long-term capacity (Art. 11.1 EU regulation 543/2013) from ENTSO-E Transparency Platform

## 3.1.2 CWE region

The monitoring method used by the TSOs Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW in the CWE region is described below.

Calculating the offered trade margin

The offered trade margin is determined according to the EU Electricity Market Regulation for each critical network element together with the respective critical contingency combination (CNEC). As described above, the offered trade margin is the sum of the coordinated and uncoordinated trade margins.

The resulting offered trade margin is given as a percentage. This is calculated as the trade capacity offered at the CNEC (sum of the coordinated and uncoordinated shares) divided by its physical capacity ( $F_{max}$ ). For all MTUs, the value for  $F_{max}$  used in the calculations for compliance monitoring is equivalent to the physical limit applied in the capacity calculation. In the special case of determining the trade margin at the bidding zone or control area border, the lower offered capacity of the two participating TSOs applies. When applying default flow-based parameters (DFPs)<sup>12</sup> due to technical problems in the flow-based capacity calculation, it is not possible to determine the relative offered trade margin. MTUs where DFPs were applied are therefore excepted from the compliance evaluation.

Determining the coordinated trade margin

The coordinated trade margin corresponds to at least the remaining available margin (RAM) offered for the cross-zonal trading within the day-ahead CWE capacity calculation, which is daily published on JAO.eu as the “virgin flow-based domain”. The actual RAM offered for cross-zonal trading as per the “final flow-based domain” (also published on JAO.eu) in some cases exceeds the coordinated trade margin described below since the inclusion of the long-term allocations (LTA inclusion) is not yet taken into account in the virgin flow-based domain. However, the final flow-based domain cannot be used directly for monitoring. The inclusion of the long-term allocations takes place in the CWE by substituting virtual CNECs for real CNECs. The trade margins provided at the virtual CNECs cannot be unambiguously converted to apply to real items of equipment.

<sup>12</sup> The application of DFPs is an available fall-back option if a technical problem arises with the day-ahead capacity calculation. The capacity calculation is then suspended and cross-zonal capacities equal to the already allocated long-term capacities are made available for trading.

As the virgin flow-based domain considers the CWE minRAM of 20%, which for the year 2020 is above the minimum requirement of the action plan, the long-term allocations are not included by default.

Calculating the uncoordinated trade margin

The influence of the cross-zonal trade capacity offered outside of the CWE region on the respective CNEC included in the CWE region is determined for calculating the uncoordinated trade margin. Specifically, the corresponding load-producing PTDFs are multiplied by the respective NTCs to determine the influence of the NTCs on the respective CNEC.

The individual uncoordinated trade margins of the various NTC border directions are added to determine the total uncoordinated trade margin of the CNEC.

$$Uncoordinated\ trade\ margin = \sum_{j,k:j \neq k} Uncoordinated\ trade\ margin_{j \rightarrow k}$$

This only takes into account borders where the PTDF values are available within the day-ahead CWE capacity calculation.

Data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Uncoordinated trade margin	NTCs	At the time of the respective capacity calculation of the <a href="#">day-ahead</a> <sup>13</sup> or, alternatively, <a href="#">month-ahead</a> <sup>14</sup> forecasted transfer capacity accessed from the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform. If one of the two values was unavailable, default values based on annual capacities were used.
Uncoordinated trade margin	PTDFs of the CWE CNECs	CWE flow-based common system (partially publicly available at <a href="#">JAO.eu</a> <sup>15</sup> )
Coordinated trade margin	RAM	CWE flow-based common system (publicly available at <a href="#">JAO.eu</a> <sup>16</sup> )

<sup>13</sup> <https://transparency.entsoe.eu/transmission-domain/ntcDay/show>

<sup>14</sup> <https://transparency.entsoe.eu/transmission-domain/r2/forecastedTransferCapacitiesMonthAhead/show>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.jao.eu/marketdata/implicitallocation> >> Utility Tool >> Virgin Flow-Based Domain

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.jao.eu/marketdata/implicitallocation> >> Utility Tool >> Virgin Flow-Based Domain

## 3.2 Hansa region

As described in section 2, individual initial values and linear trajectories were calculated per bidding zone border in the CCR Hansa. Because an NTC capacity calculation takes place at all four borders, the values apply per border.

### 3.2.1 NTC borders Germany – Denmark 1 and Germany – Norway 2

Until the NordLink interconnector entered into operation, the transmission capacity of the bidding zone border DE-DK1 was determined based on an NTC methodology. The minimum capacity was directly applied to the NTC. The uncoordinated trade margin was not taken into account. When NordLink interconnector entered into operation on 9/12/2020, TenneT's capacity calculation for the bidding zone borders DE-DK1 and DE-NO2 was switched to a coordinated NTC method (cNTC). This allows the individual minimum capacities of the borders to be applied to the respective critical network elements as minimum trade margins (share of the maximum permissible power flow / of the physical capacity). This calculation is based on a common grid model (CGM) as per the System Operation Guideline (SOGL) Art. 67 and Art. 70 for each import and export direction and for all MTUs. The individual minimum values were applied to the trade margins for the first time as of 17/12/2020, however, using the minimum values applicable for the year 2021. Since different minimum values apply for the borders DE-DK1 and DE-NO2 according to the Action Plan Bidding Zone, the transmission capacities are initially determined based on the lower trade margin (DE-NO2) in order to determine the transmission capacity of the associated border. The transmission capacity of the border with the higher minimum margin (DE-DK1) is then determined, taking into account the previously determined transmission capacity (DE-NO2). The transmission capacities of the two borders can therefore be determined by different CNECs. The monitoring method applied by TenneT is described below.

#### Calculating the offered trade margin

As described above, the offered trade margin consists of two components, the coordinated and uncoordinated trade margin. When applying an NTC methodology, only the offered trade margins of the respective limiting CNECs are relevant for determining compliance since only these determine the respective transmission capacity. Accordingly, the uncoordinated trade margin is also only considered for the limiting CNECs. Because different minimum values apply for the borders DE-DK1 and DE-NO2 and different CNECs act as limits, the calculation and monitoring for the borders DE-DK1 and DE-NO2 take place separately.

#### Determining the coordinated trade margin

The coordinated trade margin at the limiting CNEC corresponds to the share of the determined transmission capacities that induces a load on the respective limiting CNEC (calculated based on NTC and PTDF values). For a cNTC methodology, no coordinated trade margin for a specific border is exclusively available. This is shared among the participating borders instead. The coordinated trade margin of the

respective border is therefore the sum of the two multiplications of the respective NTC (DE-NO2 and DE-DK1) and the associated PTDF of the limiting CNEC of the border in question. This calculation is carried out once for the border DE-NO2 and once for the border DE-DK1 with the respective limiting CNEC and associated PTDF values. The coordinated trade margin of the respective CNEC therefore results from the contributions of both transmission capacities (DE-DK1 and DE-NO2).

Calculating the uncoordinated trade margin

The uncoordinated trade margin at the limiting CNEC corresponds to the load-inducing impact of the capacities offered at adjacent borders that must be offered at the limiting CNEC in each direction (the share is calculated via PTDF). This is accomplished by estimating the capacities offered at adjacent borders based on the information available at the time of the day-ahead (DA) capacity calculation. The result is a value for the uncoordinated trade margin per CNEC for each MTU and direction.

Data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Relative trade margin	$F_{max}$	Calculation based on nominal voltage and $I_{max}$ from the D2CF CGM
Coordinated trade margin	NTC	Internal AC load flow calculation based on D2CF-CGM <sup>17</sup>
Coordinated trade margin	PTDF	Internal calculation from D2CF CGM
Uncoordinated trade margin	NTC	Forecasted day-ahead capacity (Art. 11.1 EU Regulation 543/2013) from ENTSO-E Transparency Platform

3.2.2 NTC border Germany – Denmark 2

The methodology applied by 50Hertz at the border DE-DK2 is described below.

Calculating the offered trade margin

Because only interconnectors with direct current (DC) properties exist at the border DE-DK2 (Kontek cable and, since 15/12/2020, KF CGS), meaning that no unscheduled load flows occur, only the coordinated trade margin is to be determined.

Determining the coordinated trade margin

The coordinated trade margin corresponds to the transmission capacity offered at the border according to the DA capacity calculation. The transmission capacity increased overall when the hybrid interconnector KF CGS entered into operation on 15/12/2020. The KF CGS connects the grid connections of the German offshore wind farms Baltic 1 and Baltic 2 to those of the Danish offshore wind farms Kriegers Flak DK,

<sup>17</sup> D-2 congestion forecast common grid model (CGM) as per SO GL Regulation Art. 67 and Art. 70.

thereby establishing an interconnector between Germany and eastern Denmark. This transmission capacity arises from the total transmission capacity minus the forecasted offshore wind power infeed.

Data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Coordinated trade margin	NTC for the Kontek cable and for KF CGS	System management and grid control systems

### 3.2.3 NTC border Germany – Sweden 4

The transmission capacity of the bidding zone border DE-SE4 is determined by the transmission system operators Baltic Cable AB, Svenska kraftnät and TenneT. The TSOs carry out independent capacity calculations. TenneT determines the transmission capacity based on the wind power infeed in the grid of Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG and the unavailability of network elements of TenneT and Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG based on a common limit value concept. Baltic Cable AB determines the availability and restrictions of the Baltic Cable.

The minimum capacity at the border DE-SE4 refers directly to the transmission capacity of the Baltic Cable. An uncoordinated trade margin is not taken into account. For monitoring of the border DE-SE4, the offered capacity (receiving side) is compared with the minimum capacity relative to the maximum capacity of the Baltic Cable (600 MW on the receiving side). Only the operating hours of the cable are considered here (otherwise, the maximum allowable flow  $F_{max}$  is equal to zero).

Consideration of the receiving side arises from the fact that the interconnector Baltic Cable is managed with implicit procurement of power to compensate for transmission losses. The transmission capacities on the providing side are therefore not exclusively available for cross-border trading since they are also utilised by the implicitly procured power to cover losses.

TenneT data sources

Parameter	Input data	Source
Relative trade margin	$F_{max}$	Operational Handbook of Baltic Cable
Coordinated trade margin	NTC	Calculation according to the limit value concept plus load and infeed forecasts
Coordinated trade margin	Cable unavailability <sup>18</sup>	Baltic Cable AB/ Operational Handbook of Baltic Cable

<sup>18</sup> The unavailability of individual items of equipment of the Baltic Cable generally leads to a transmittable capacity of 0 MW, meaning that these times are not considered operating hours. If the static VAR compensator fails, however, the Baltic Cable can still transmit 500 MW, meaning that these times are definitely considered operating hours.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Core region

#### 4.1.1 NTC border Germany – Poland and the Czech Republic

For the borders DE-PL&CZ, the minimum of 11.5% was complied with for every MTU in 2020. The figure below shows the relative trade margin as the ratio of offered trade margin to physical transmission capacity per CNEC and for all MTUs at the borders DE-PL&CZ in the year 2020 for both trade directions.

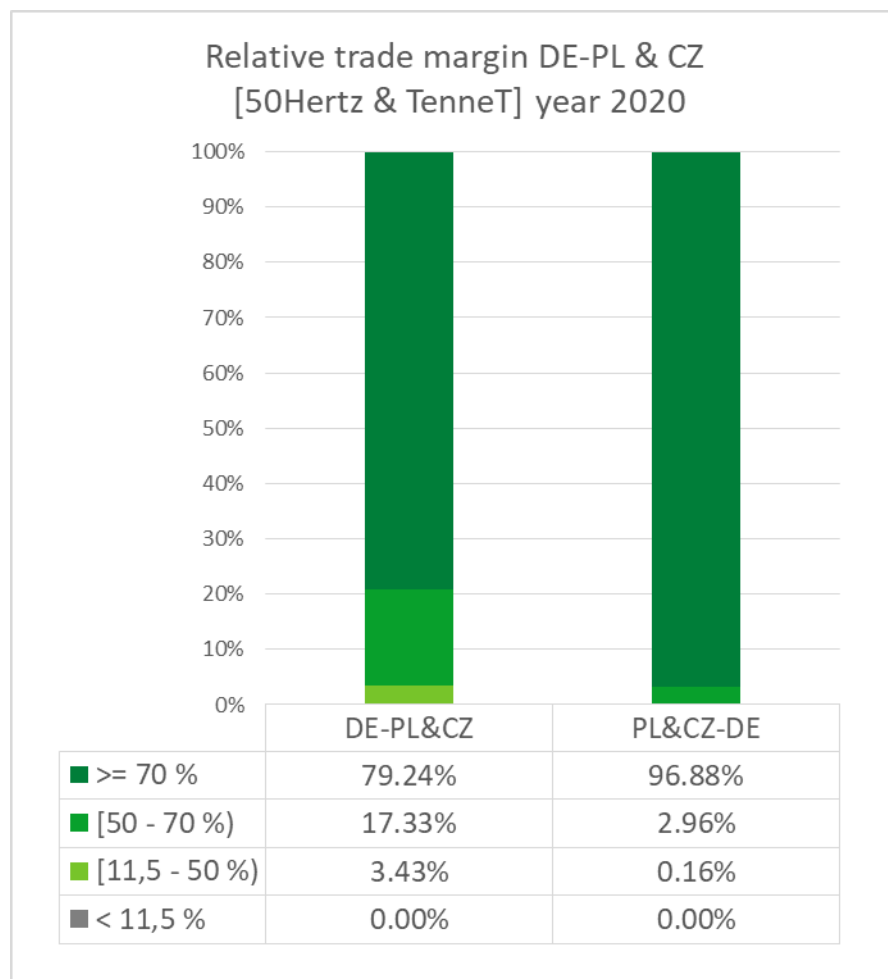


Figure 1: Relative trade margin DE-PL&CZ [50Hertz and TenneT] year 2020 (minimum value 11.5%)

Figure 1 shows that a trade margin of at least 11.5% with respect to the physical transmission capacity ( $F_{max}$ ) per limiting CNEC was offered in all MTUs taken into consideration. Because the underlying NTC values are determined independently of each other for each direction, the directions are differentiated in the figure. All 8,784 hours of the year 2020 were taken into account for both directions. Because more than one CNEC per MTU limited the trade margin in the export direction (DE-PL&CZ) in some cases, the depiction of the export direction is based on 14,364 data points, while the import direction (PL&CZ-DE) is based on

8,784 data points (one CNEC per MTU). In addition to compliance with the minimum value of 11.5% per limiting CNEC applicable in 2020, Figure 1 also shows that at least a relative trade margin of 70% (trade margin relative to the physical transmission capacity) was made available at 79.2% of the limiting CNECs in the export direction and 96.9% in the import direction. In other words, the minimum value that will apply as of 31/12/2025 was already complied with in these cases.

#### 4.1.2 CWE region

The results of the offered cross-zonal trade margin on the network elements of the CWE region are depicted below. As described in Art. 16(8)(b) of the EU Electricity Market Regulation for borders with flow-based capacity allocation<sup>19</sup>, the offered trade margin per critical network element (CNE) is determined in consideration of the critical contingencies. This method is depicted in Figure 2 and described in more detail below.

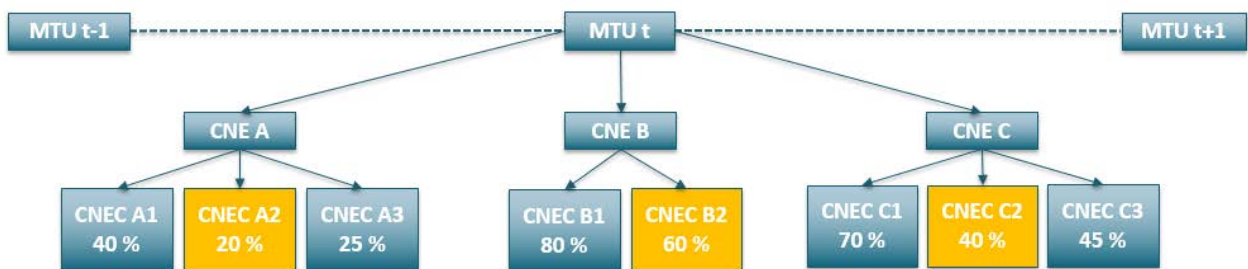


Figure 2: Example of determining the offered trade capacity per critical network element

Figure 2 shows an example of determining the offered trade capacity per critical network element in consideration of the critical contingency combinations as per Art. 16 (8) of the EU Electricity Market Regulation. The percentile values correspond to the offered cross-zonal trade margin relative to the available physical capacity ( $F_{max}$ ) per CNEC. The CNEC shown in orange defines the minimum offered trade margin of the respective CNE.

A CNE represents a real physical network element. In the operative capacity calculation process, various critical contingencies of other network elements are considered in each MTU per CNE. The combination of CNE and contingency forms a CNEC. The minimum trade margin that can be offered at one CNE is therefore determined by the CNEC that permits the lowest trade margin. Only the minimum offered trade

<sup>19</sup> See Art. 16(8) of the EU Electricity Market Regulation: “[...] for borders using a flow-based approach, the minimum capacity shall be a margin set in the capacity calculation process as available for flows induced by cross-zonal exchange. The margin shall be 70% [Note: For Germany, the target values of the action plan apply here until 31/12/2025] of the capacity respecting operational security limits of internal and cross-zonal critical network elements, taking into account contingencies, as determined in accordance with the capacity allocation and congestion management guideline adopted on the basis of Article 18(5) of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009. [...]”



margin per CNE is depicted below. One value per CNE therefore enters into the evaluation for each MTU<sup>20</sup>. This means that the subsequent figures depict only a (critical) subset of the data rather than all data determined for all CNECs. In a consideration of all CNECs, the relative share would increase even further with relatively high offered trade margins. The depiction focuses on the relative trade margin, which is defined as the ratio of offered trade margin to the available physical capacity ( $F_{\max}$ ).

Exclusively considering the CNE with the lowest trade margin over the respective region per MTU is inappropriate because only one value per MTU (of the network element or CNE with the lowest trade margin) would enter into the depiction. This can theoretically result in the entire evaluation being determined by a single network element which exhibits continuously low offered trade margins over the time period in question. CNEs where relatively high trade margins were offered would not be represented in such an analysis. As described above, this form of representation would also be insufficient for depicting the requirements of the EU Electricity Market Regulation since the minimum margins for cross-zonal trade capacity must be complied with at *all* critical network elements. In addition, such an analysis would also fail to achieve the monitoring goal of obtaining an overview of all physical network elements and the associated offered trade margins to allow for any necessary measures to satisfy future minimum requirements at all network elements.

DFPs were applied on 4/6/2020 (for all 24 hours) due to technical problems<sup>21</sup> in the flow-based capacity calculation. Due to the lack of data, the MTUs in question were excepted from the compliance evaluation with respect to the CWE region.

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<sup>20</sup> There is no differentiation here of the flow direction through the respective CNE. In other words, the minimum value is determined based on both flow directions per CNE.

<sup>21</sup> These technical problems were outside the TSO's sphere of influence.

**Amprion control area**

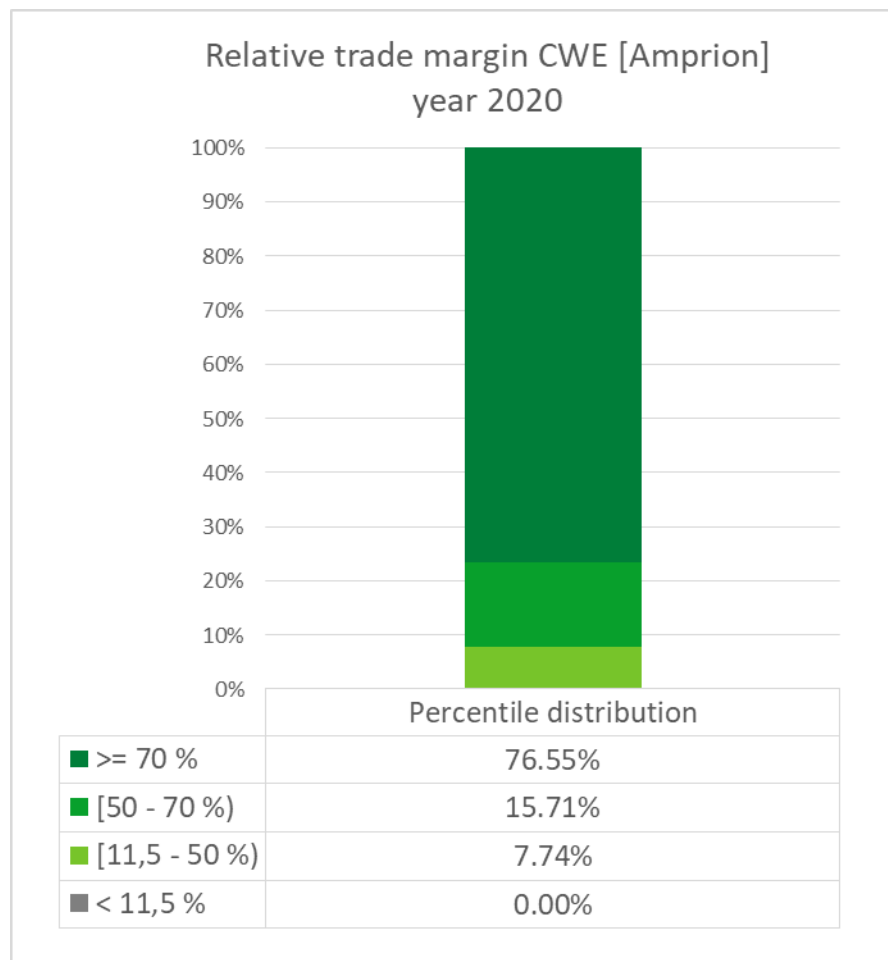


Figure 3: Relative trade margin CWE [Amprion] year 2020 (minimum value 11.5%)

Figure 3 shows the distribution of the offered trade margin on the CNEs of the Amprion control area in 2020. On average, 58 CNEs of the Amprion control area per MTU were included in the CWE capacity calculation process in the year 2020. This means that about 0.5 million input data points were used to create the bar chart of Figure 3. The analysis shows that the minimum value according to the linear trajectory of the Action Plan Bidding Zone for 2020 (11.5%) was complied with at all times on all critical network elements within the Amprion control area.

The lowest trade margin offered on an Amprion CNE during 2020 was 20.8%, meaning that the minimum capacity of the action plan of 11.5% was significantly exceeded during every hour. This can be attributed in particular to the fact that German TSOs continued in 2020 to guarantee the CWE-minRAM of 20% that had been applied in the CWE region before the start of the Action Plan Bidding Zone.

Further analysis shows that cases in which a relatively low trade margin was offered are locally concentrated among a relatively small number of network elements. These are primarily transmission lines in the north-western region of the Amprion control area, which have to bear a high loading during times of

high wind power infeed which needs to be transmitted to the southern European load centres. Providing additional capacity on these network elements for cross-zonal electricity trading then poses a great challenge. The currently reduced trade requirements of the linear trajectory defined by the Action Plan Bidding Zone are required for these particularly impacted network elements.

In November 2020, Amprion and the Belgian transmission system operator Elia put into operation the first direct electricity interconnection between Germany and Belgium, called “ALEGrO”. As a DC connection, ALEGrO is embedded in the CWE capacity calculation and allocation via the “evolved flow-based method”. In contrast to AC transmission lines, ALEGrO is therefore not modelled as a critical network element (CNE)<sup>22</sup> and is shown separately as a DC border in this context.

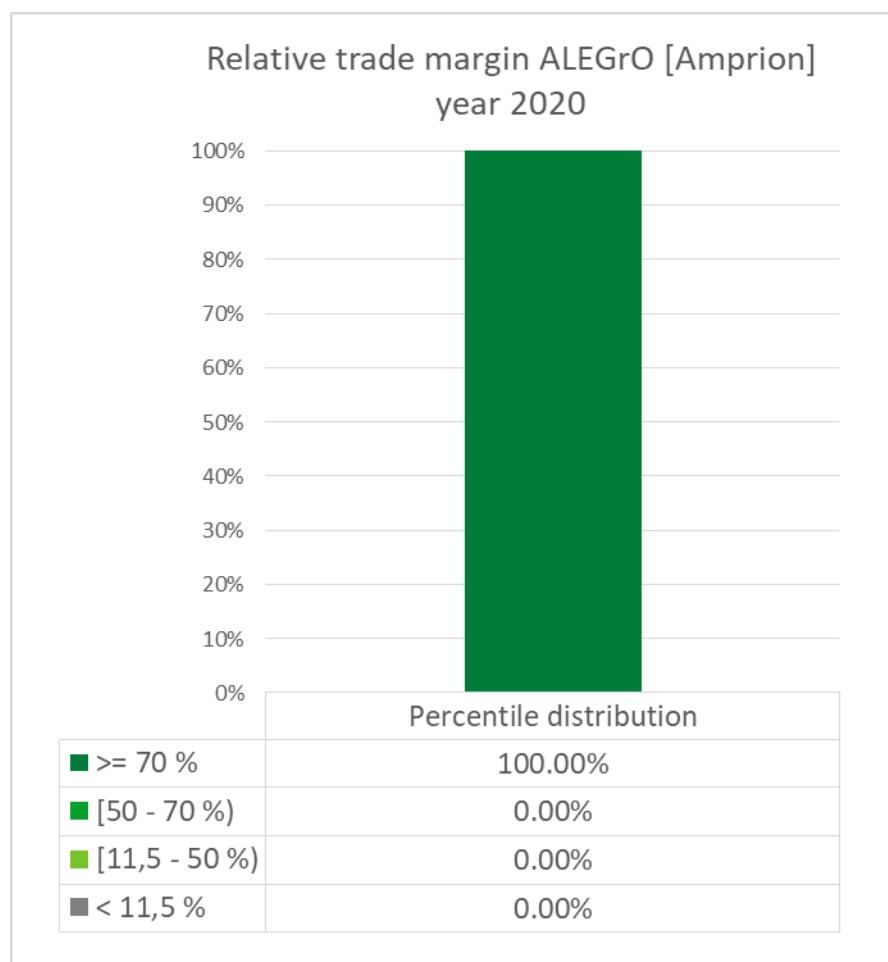


Figure 4: Relative trade margin ALEGrO [Amprion] 18/11 – 31/12/2020 (minimum value 11.5%)

As of 18/11/2020, ALEGrO was made available for CWE day-ahead trading via a ramp-up approach as part of the planned trial operation. As shown in Figure 4, Amprion offered 100% of the technically possible

<sup>22</sup> However, ALEGrO is taken into account as a critical contingency for other relevant critical network elements.

transmission capacity for cross-zonal trading during every hour (MTU) over the course of the ramp-up process<sup>23</sup>. The graph was generated based on one value per hour (MTU). The minimum capacity of the Action Plan Bidding Zone of 11.5% was therefore significantly exceeded at ALEGrO at all times.

In summary, Amprion complied with the statutory requirements for cross-zonal electricity trading pursuant to Art. 15 and 16 of the EU Electricity Market Regulation at all times during 2020.

**TenneT control area**

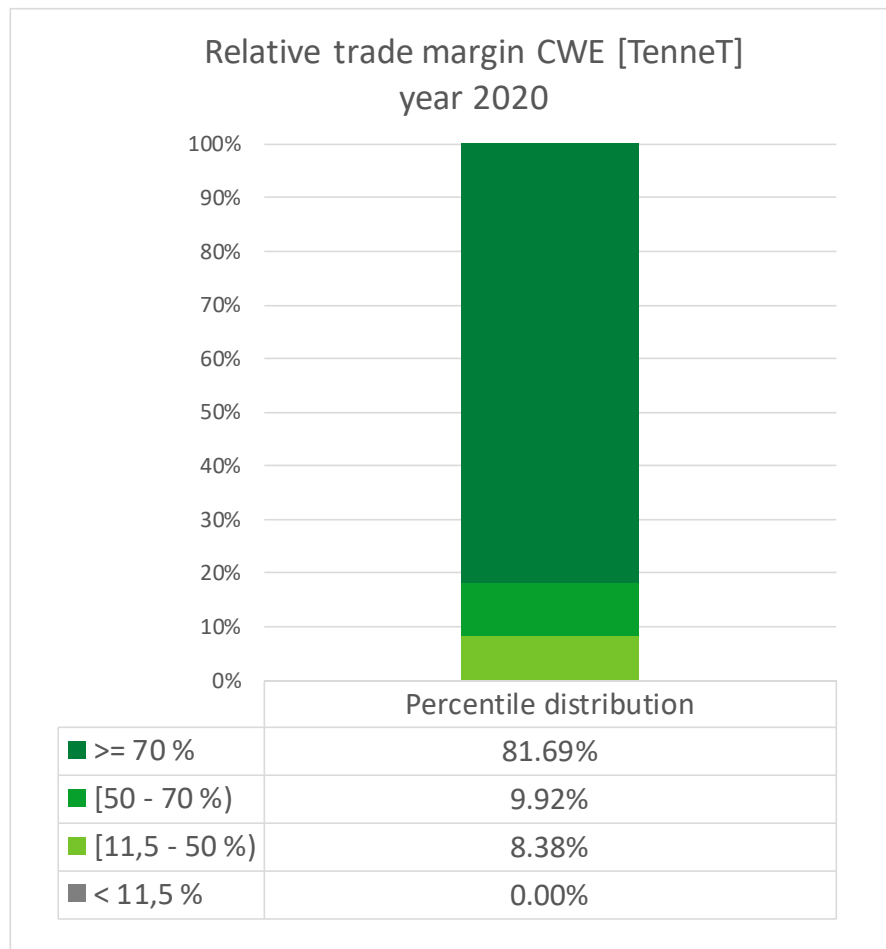


Figure 5: Relative trade margin CWE [TenneT] year 2020 (minimum value 11.5%)

Figure 5 shows the distribution of the offered relative trade margin at the CNEs of the TenneT control area in 2020 based on 271,919 values (one value per CNE and MTU). This means that, on average, about 31 CNEs of the TenneT control area were taken into account per MTU in the CWE capacity calculation

<sup>23</sup> From 5/12/2020 to 13/12/2020 and from 24/12/2020 to 31/12/2020, it was already possible to offer the full 1000 MW nominal output to the electricity market.

process in the year 2020. The minimum value for 2020 (11.5%) according to the linear trajectory of the Action Plan Bidding Zone was complied with at all critical network elements within the TenneT control area.

The CWE minRAM was suspended in the time period 1/1/2020 to 8/1/2020 due to an application error. As a result, the analysis of the data according to the standard method (3.1.2 CWE region) shows 187 violations of the minimum during 79 hours (MTU) at a total of 5 critical network elements. However, the actually offered trade margin always complied with the minimum, as explained below.

For evaluating compliance during the period 1/1/2020 to 8/1/2020, it must be considered that the uncoordinated margin of the CWE borders typically does not take into account the offered capacity of the borders DE-DK1, DE-DK2, DE-SE4 and DE-PL, amongst other factors. Because the PTDFs of these borders are not included in the CWE data set, these are not typically taken into account. The inclusion of the long-term allocations is also left out of the coordinated trade margin. As a result of these two aspects, the trade margin actually offered to the market was in some cases considerably above the standard trade margin as determined for this report.

For this reason, TenneT carried out a supplemental analysis for the time period in question that expanded both the coordinated and uncoordinated trade margin for this time period with the missing components in deviation from the general methodology (as per section 3.1.2 CWE region).

The lowest trade margin offered during this time period at a TenneT CNE was 13.47%. Outside of this period (as of 9/1/2020), the lowest trade margin offered at a TenneT CNE was 20.87%. This can be attributed in particular to the fact that German TSOs continued in 2020 to guarantee the CWE-minRAM of 20% that applied before the start of the Action Plan Bidding Zone in the CWE region.

**TransnetBW control area**

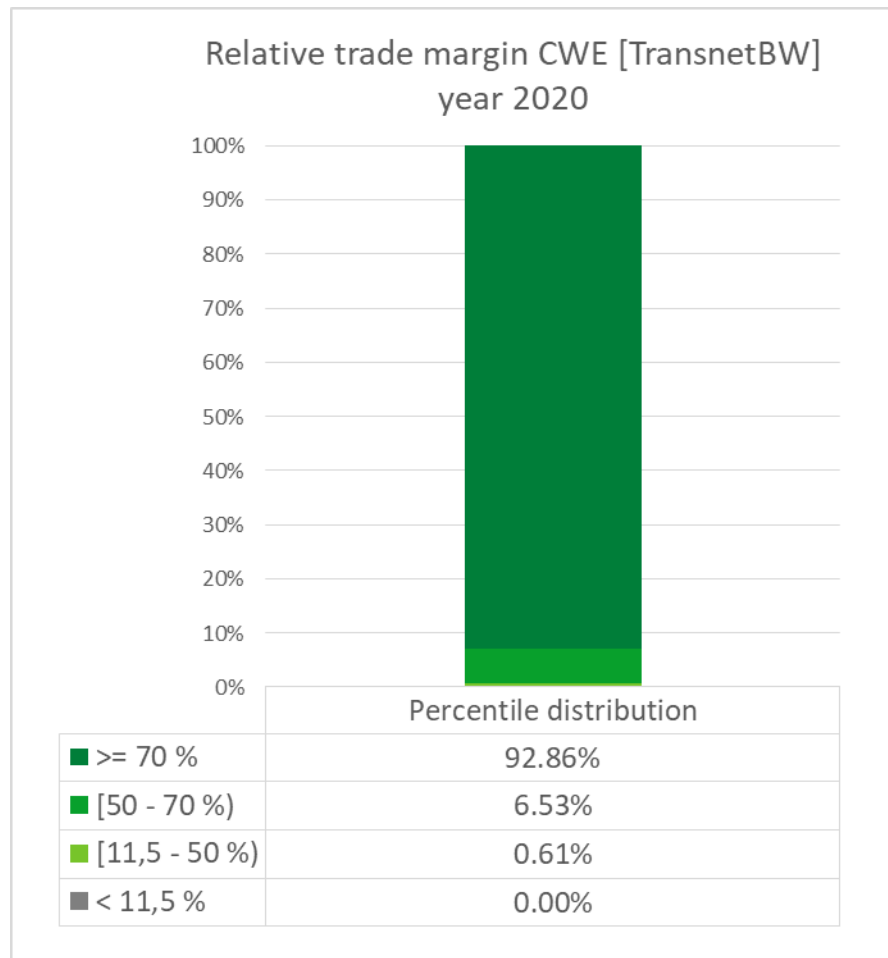


Figure 6: Relative trade margin CWE [TransnetBW] year 2020 (minimum value 11.5%)

Figure 6 shows the distribution of offered relative trade margin in 2020 at the CNEs of the TransnetBW control area. In the year 2020, the CWE capacity calculation process included 33 CNEs of the TransnetBW control area. This means that approximately 290,000 values entered into the bar chart of Figure 6<sup>24</sup>. The analysis shows that the minimum value according to the linear trajectory of the action plan for 2020 (11.5%) was complied with at all times at all critical network elements within the TransnetBW control area.

The lowest trade margin offered at a TransnetBW CNE during 2020 was 38.8%, meaning that minimum capacity of the Action Plan Bidding Zone of 11.5% was significantly exceeded during every hour. This can be attributed in particular to the fact that German TSOs continued in 2020 to guarantee the CWE-minRAM of 20% that applied before the start of the Action Plan Bidding Zone in the CWE region.

<sup>24</sup> This corresponds to the 33 included CNEs times the 8,784 hours of the year 2020.

Many CNECs exhibit a high trade margin. In a given hour, a single CNEC with a lower trade margin can be sufficient to limit the market result. Providing additional capacity at these network elements for cross-zonal electricity trading then poses a great challenge. The currently reduced trade requirements of the linear trajectory defined by the Action Plan Bidding Zone are necessary for these particularly impacted network elements.

## 4.2 Hansa borders

### 4.2.1 NTC border Germany – Denmark 1

The applicable minimum capacity for the border DE-DK1 in 2020 of 428 MW (net transfer capacity) according to the linear trajectory was complied with in the scope of the day-ahead capacity allocation during every MTU. Thanks to TenneT’s commitment to a minimum capacity of 1300 MW during the entire year 2020, the minimum capacity was considerably exceeded.

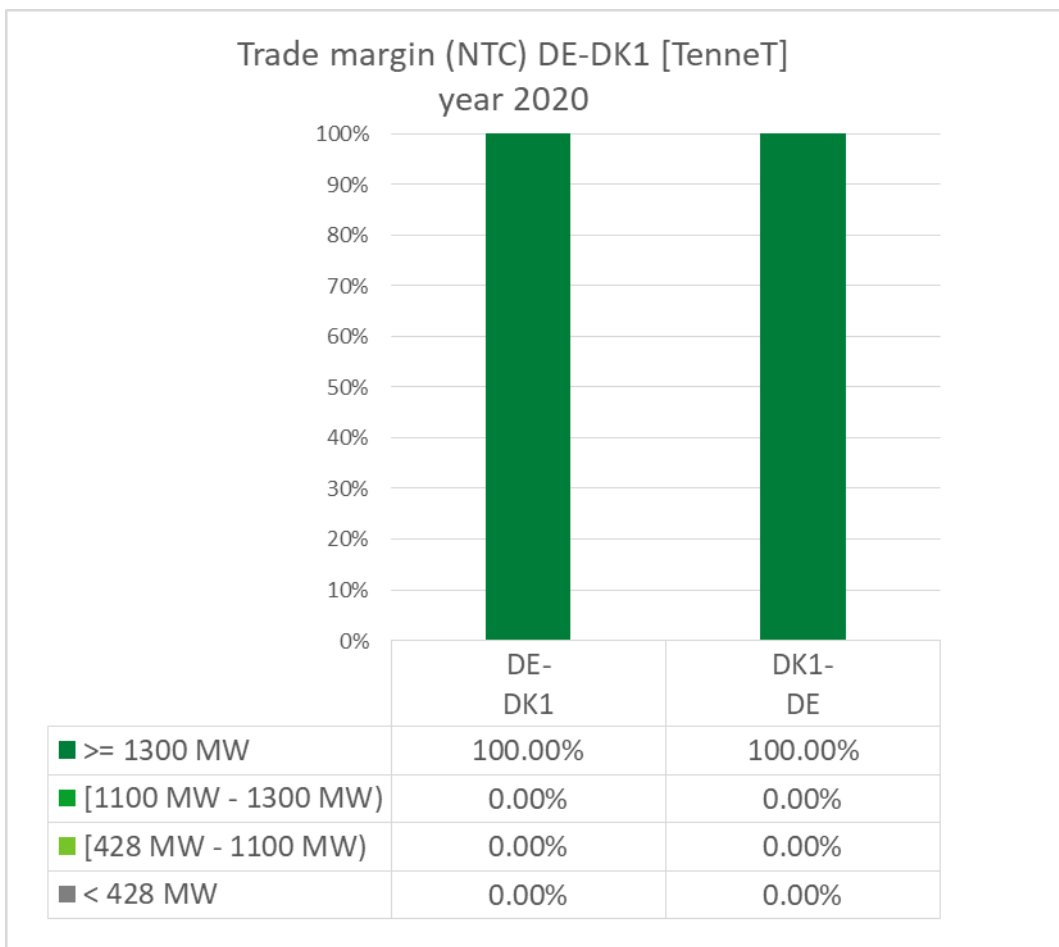


Figure 7: Trade margin (NTC) DE-DK1 [TenneT] year 2020 (minimum value 428 MW)

#### 4.2.2 NTC border German – Denmark 2

For the border DE-DK2, the respectively applicable minimum value was complied with during every MTU of 2020. The minimum value per border and hour was 70% of the  $F_{max}$  of the Kontek cable until the KF CGS entered into operation. After this time, it was determined per hour based on 70% of the  $F_{max}$  of the Kontek cable plus 0% of the  $F_{max}$  of the KF CGS (after deducting the forecasted DA offshore wind power infeed)<sup>25</sup>. After the KF CGS entered into operation, this results in a minimum value of below 70% in total for the border DE-DK2, which has to be determined on hourly basis. The following figure shows the actually offered trade margin relative to the transmission capacity at the border DE-DK2 in the year 2020<sup>26</sup>.

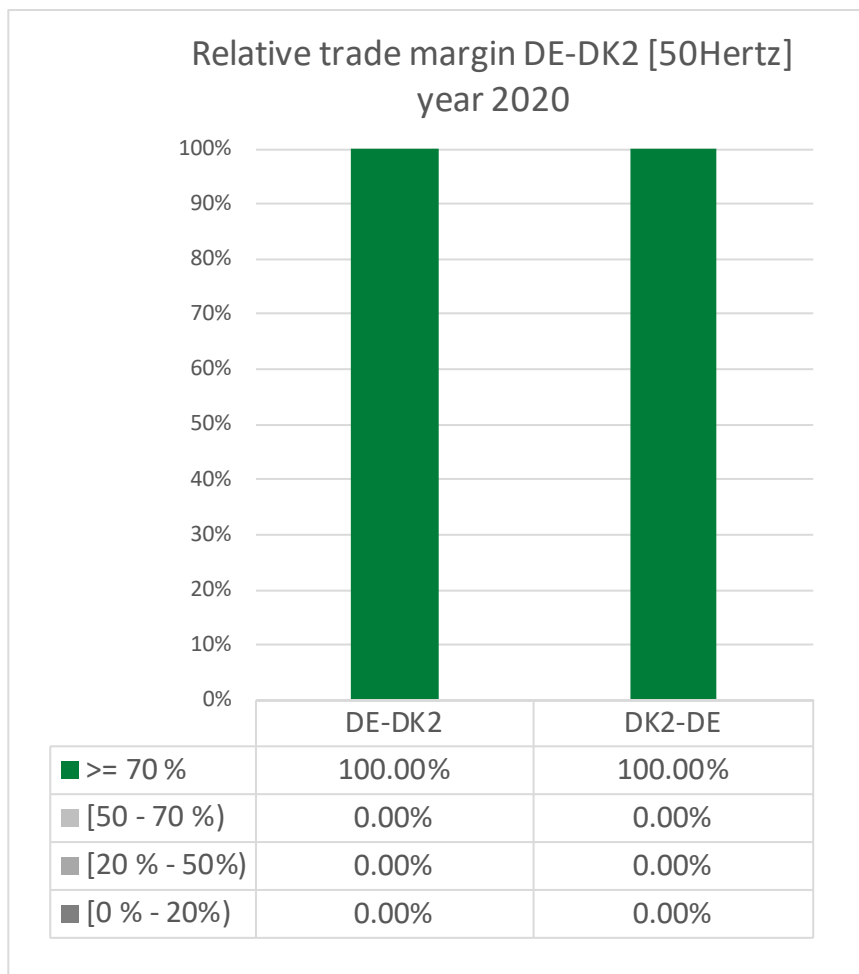


Figure 8: Relative trade margin DE-DK2 [50Hertz] year 2020 (minimum value 70%)

Figure 8 shows that the trade margin amounted to at least 70% of the transmission capacity during all hours taken into account. Included are 6,244 hours in the export direction and 6,199 in the import direction.

<sup>25</sup> See also section 3.2.2 NTC border DE-DK2 in the monitoring methodology section.

<sup>26</sup> For the sake of simplicity, Figure 8 shows a comparison with 70% and not with the sometimes lower minimum value.



In the remaining hours, no cross-border transmission capacity was available. The hours in 2020 without cross-border transmission capacity are justified as follows:

- The planned maintenance of the Kontek cable during the period 31/08 – 18/09 (the interconnector must be taken entirely out of operation for maintenance)
- A subsequent shutdown of the Kontek cable following damage to the cable insulation (the repair took until 21/12)
- Limited availability of the KF CGS due to faults in the cable systems 154 and 151 (belonging to the OWF grid connections) as of 17/12 and 19/12, which continued into 2021

#### 4.2.3 NTC border Germany – Norway 2

No minimum capacity applied to the border DE-NO2 during 2020. Figure 9 nevertheless shows the percentile distribution of the relative trade margin (ratio of the offered trade margin to available physical capacity ( $F_{max}$ )) during the operating hours of the NordLink interconnector in 2020.

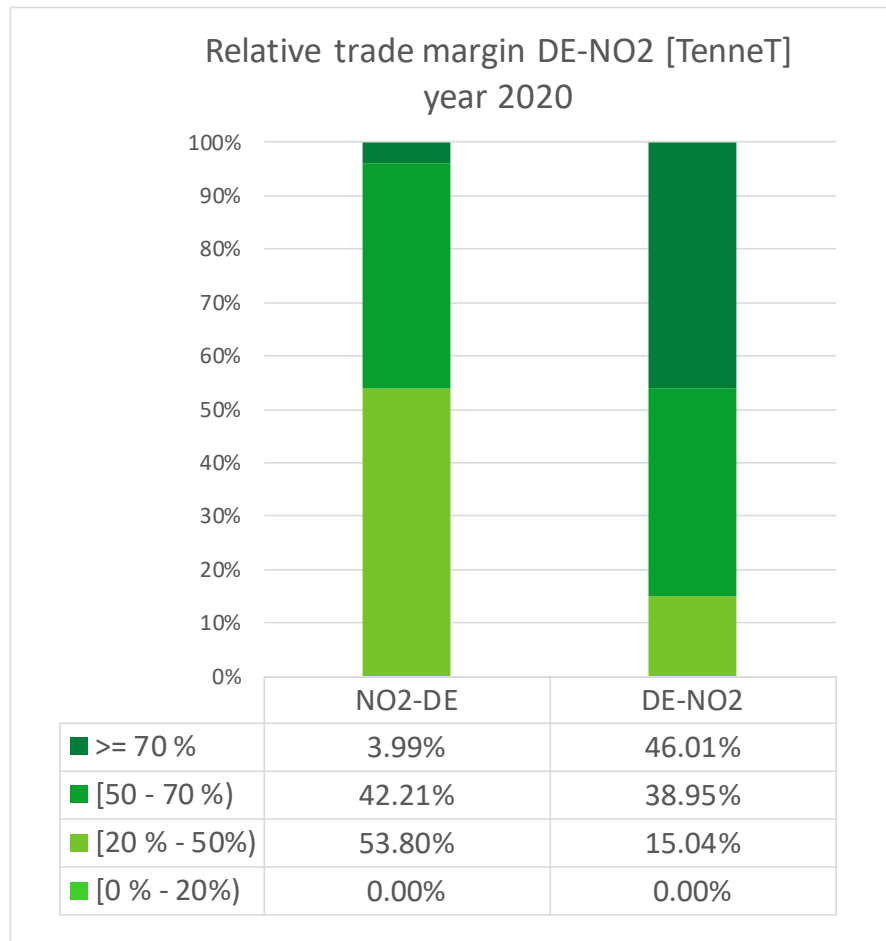


Figure 9: Relative trade margin DE-NO2 [TenneT] 09/12 – 31/12/2020 (minimum value 0%)

#### 4.2.4 NTC border Germany – Sweden 4

The Baltic Cable, which forms the border DE-SE4, was in operation during 7,748 hours in the year 2020. The available transmission capacity of the cable was always greater than 70% of the maximum transmission capacity ( $F_{max}$ ). In the remaining hours, the Baltic Cable was out of operation, meaning that no cross-border transmission capacity was available. The time periods during which the Baltic Cable was unavailable are justified by technically necessary planned maintenance work and an instance of cable damage resulting from an outside influence (29 days and 16 hours in May 2020) (see Figure 10).

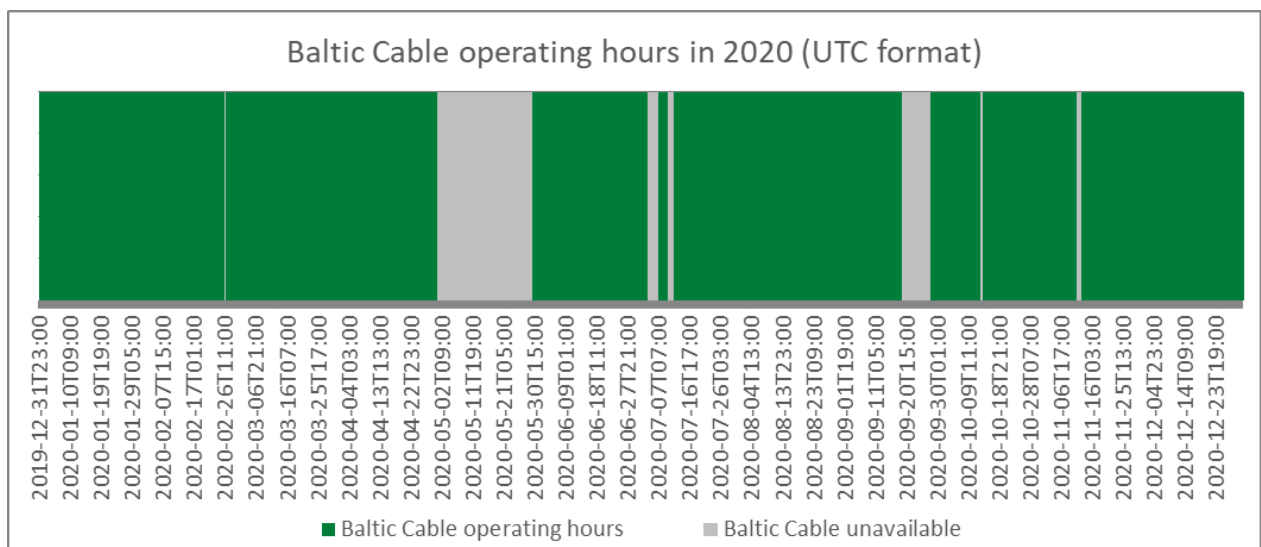


Figure 10: Operating hours of the Baltic Cable in 2020 (time axis in UTC format)

The minimum capacity of the border DE-SE4 of 41.4% was complied with in the south direction (SE4 to DE) during 7,747 hours (99.99% of the operating hours). In the north direction (DE to SE4), it was complied with during 5,447 hours (70.3% of the operating hours). With the exception of the last hour of 5/11/2020, values below the limit occurred only prior to 28/8/2020.

The values below the minimum capacity can be attributed to the special technical connection situation of the Baltic Cable. The capacity of the Baltic Cable can only be transported by making use of the subordinate distribution grid of the grid operator Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG. Because the distribution grid is not designed for providing cross-border transmission capacity, the grid connection of the Baltic Cable was put into operation under the contractual condition that the transmission capacity of the interconnector can be temporarily restricted by the connection system operator to prevent or correct overloads caused by the transmission capacity of the Baltic Cable. Since then, this option has been utilised both preventively within the framework of the capacity calculation as well as curatively by means of automated protection systems.

Moderated by the BNetzA, the participating parties Baltic Cable AB, Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG and TenneT have begun investigating options for ensuring compliance with the minimum capacity at the border DE-SE4. At the level of the transmission system operators, neither grid-related nor market-related

measures of congestion management are available nationally. Consequently, different variants of countertrading and cross-border redispatch had been investigated with the Swedish transmission system operator Svenska kraftnät. In the assessment of Svenska kraftnät from the end of 2019, however, SE4 lacks both sufficient liquidity and sufficient generation potential for counter-trading or cross-border redispatch.

The only option was therefore feed-in management of wind turbines in the grid of Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG pursuant to §14 of the German Renewable Energy Sources Act. The required process had to be implemented first and has been available for use only as of 28/8/2020. Failure to heed the capacity restrictions would have resulted in load flow reductions during operation due to the existing protection systems, which would have caused power imbalances in Germany and Sweden. In particular, a power deficit in Sweden would have posed a considerable system stability risk (risk of load shedding). For this reason, the offered trade capacity of the Baltic Cable had to be temporarily reduced pursuant to Article 16(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 until the process for feed-in management had been worked out and implemented.

After TenneT and Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG put such a feed-in management process into operation on 28/8/2020, the minimum capacity was consistently met in the normal connection state (availability of all relevant network elements) because wind turbines could be curtailed as a corrective measure to prevent the overloading of critical network elements in the connection area of the Baltic Cable.

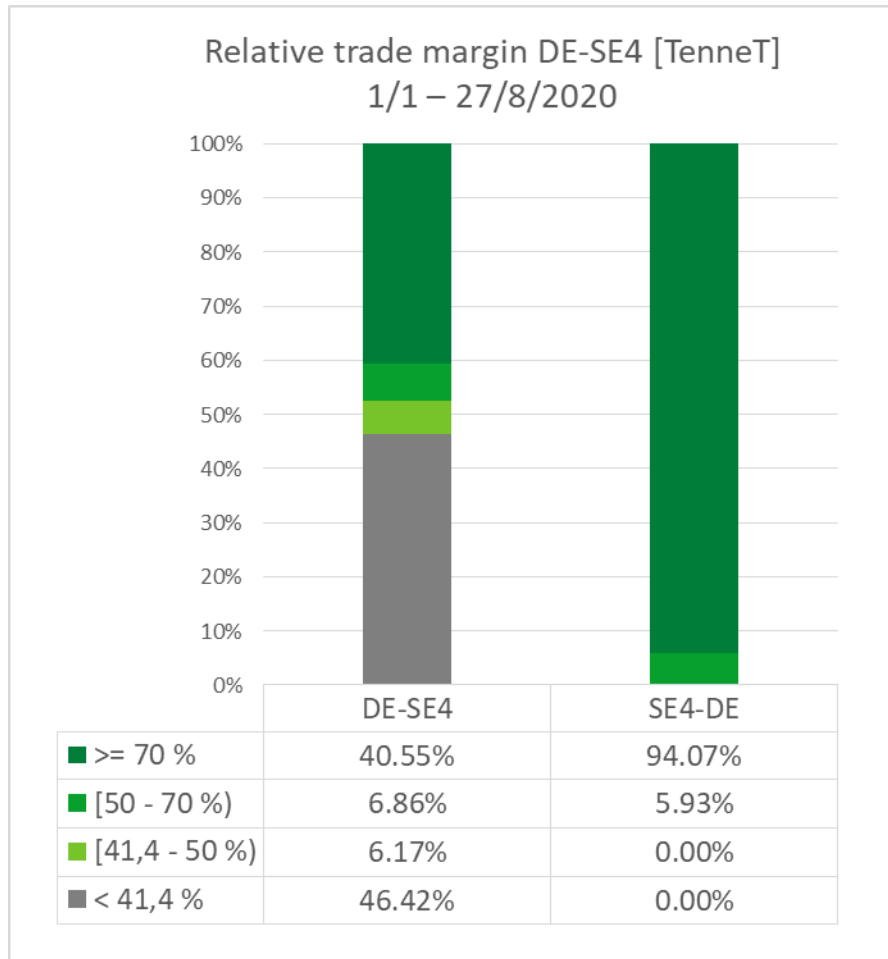


Figure 11: Relative trade margin DE-SE4 [TenneT] 1/1 – 27/8/2020 (minimum value 41.4%)

In the time period from 1/1/2020 up to and including 27/8/2020, with a total of 4,957 operating hours, TenneT failed to meet the minimum capacity exclusively in the north direction (DE to SE4) during 2,301 hours. This was due in particular to transmission congestion in the grid of Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG due to high infeeding of wind power. Of the 2,301 hours below the minimum in the north direction, only 39 hours had a limiting effect on the cross-border electricity trading. The cross-border electricity trading is considered limited when the capacity has been fully utilised and a market price difference remains that is greater than the implicit costs for procuring the loss amounts [in other words:  $\text{high price} * (1 - \text{loss factor } 2.4\%) > \text{low price}$ ], such that an additional exchange would have been economical.

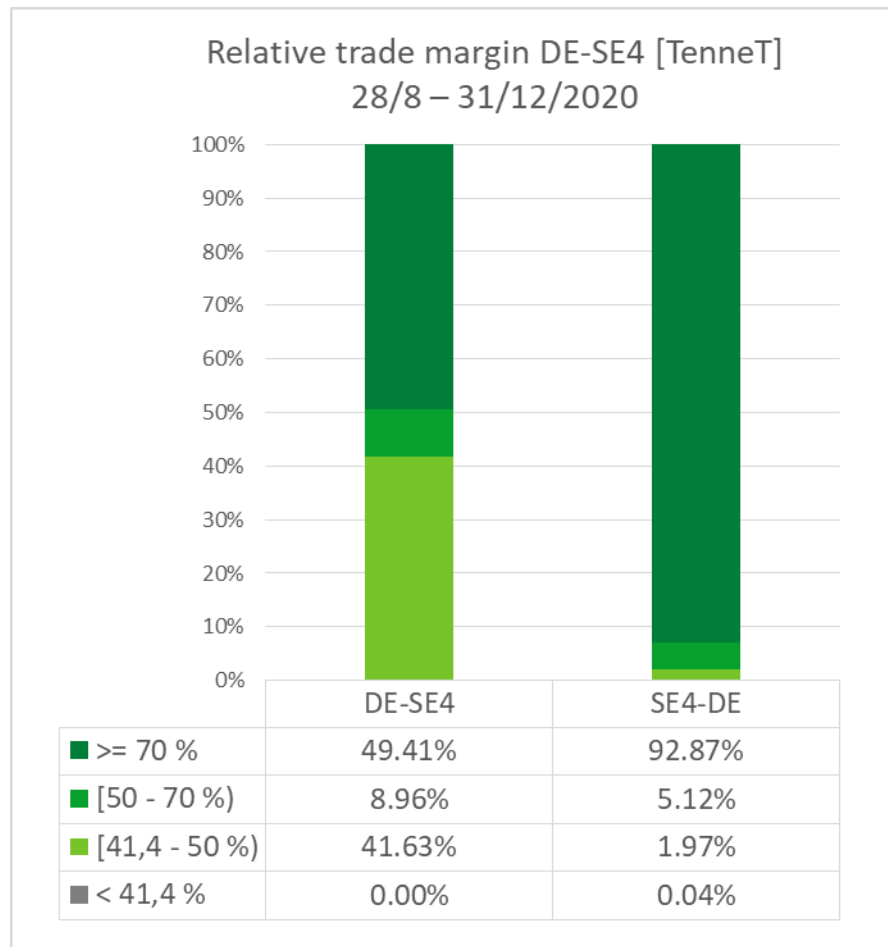


Figure 12: Relative trade margin DE-SE4 [TenneT] 28/8 – 31/12/2020 (minimum value 41.4%)

In the time period from 28/8/2020 to 31/12/2020, with a total of 2,791 operating hours, the minimum capacity was not met during one (1) hour in the south direction (SE4 to DE). Due to the unavailability of one of the two 220 kV power lines Hamburg-Nord to Lübeck, the capacity was reduced to 238 MW, which amounts to 10 MW below the minimum capacity. This lower deviation had a limiting effect on the cross-border electricity trading.

During 2020, with a total of 7,748 operating hours, the minimum capacity was not met during one (1) hour (0.01% of the operating hours) in the south direction (SE4 to DE) and during 2,301 hours (29.7% of the operating hours) in the north direction (DE to SE4). However, these were justified based on system stability risks pursuant to Art. 16(3) of the EU Electricity Market Regulation.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Alternating current
ACER	European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
BMWi	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
BNetzA	Federal Network Agency
CCR	Capacity calculation region
CGM	Common grid model
CNE	Critical network element
CNEC	Critical network element in combination with the respective critical contingency combination
cNTC	Coordinated NTC method
Core FB MC	Flow-based market coupling in the capacity calculation region Core
CWE	Central Western European region
CZ	The Czech Republic
DA	Day-ahead
DC	Direct current
DE	Germany
DE-DK1	Border Germany – Denmark 1
DE-DK2	Border Germany – Denmark 2
DE-NO2	Border Germany – Norway 2
DE-SE4	Border Germany – Sweden 4
DFP	Default flow-based parameter
DK	Denmark
EEA	European Economic Area
$F_{\max}$	Physical capacity
$F_{\text{ref}}$	Reference flow
KF CGS	Kriegers Flak Combined Grid Solution
minRAM	Minimum remaining available margin
MTU	Market time unit
NO	Norway
NTC	Net transfer capacity
PL	Poland
PSDF	Phase shift distribution factor
PTDF	Power transfer distribution factors
RAM	Remaining available margin
SE	Sweden
SOGL	System Operation Guideline
TSO	Transmission system operator

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