

MRA FAQ

to

Agreement on Trial Phase of Multilateral Remedial Actions within TSC

1. What is an MRA?

MRAs are multilateral remedial actions, a type of security measure used by TSOs to keep the electricity system secure. Unlike existing bilateral measures, they can be identified and simultaneously executed by a group of TSOs, both neighboring and non-neighboring. MRAs may include both so called non-costly (no direct payment connected to the activation of such MRA) - typically topological measures or costly ones (e.g. redispatching, countertrading).

2. Why are MRA's introduced as additional measures?

An increasingly interconnected European network with a high level of intermittent energy production and cross border trade via third party access (TPA) calls for closer coordination between system operators. The common security assessment implemented by the TSC, the CTDS system is a step in this direction. However, a coordinated assessment can be supplemented by a coordinated response. MRAs are a coordinated response to security violations anticipated during the D-1 common security assessment.

3. When are MRA's used?

MRAs are supposed to be used when a security violation occurs (typically a violation of the (n-1)-security criterion). When such violations cannot be resolved by other types of existing remedial actions, MRAs will be used. MRAs will also be used if a security violation could be resolved by other remedial actions but only at the cost of creating new security violations elsewhere.

4. How long is the trial phase and why a trial phase?

The trial phase is intended to last for a period of one year after the start of operation, 1st of June 2012. The aim is to provide TSOs (and NRAs) with sufficient time to implement and test MRAs under various operational conditions. However, the trial phase may also end earlier if one of the TSC TSO's reaches its cost cap set by its NRA. This arrangement has been approved by NRAs as a temporary solution especially due to the cost sharing principle. Meanwhile, TSOs will develop sustainable cost sharing principles for the upcoming terms (beyond the trial phase) together with their national regulators.

5. Who pays for these MRA's?

The TSO/s in whose grid/s the security violation/s were identified pay. This means that requesting TSO/TSOs finance/s the cost incurred by other connected TSOs in delivering the MRAs.

6. Are MRAs intended to increase cross border capacity available for trading?

The TSC MRAs are developed and implemented with the primary objective of ensuring system security.

7. Will cross-border ID-trade be stopped in the whole region after the activation of a MRA?
No, cross border ID capacity allocation counteracting the effect of the MRAs will only be blocked during the particular period that MRAs will be used. However, all scheduled intra-day trade will be respected and will not be affected by MRAs.

8. What's the legal basis for using MRA's?

The legal basis is an agreement between the TSC member TSOs which has been approved by all respective regulators

9. Have the national regulators approved the use of MRA's?

Yes, all national regulators have been consulted via several workshops since the inception of MRAs and all regulators have approved the trial phase agreement.