

# Recent Trends and Key Issues for State Aid in Energy Markets

#### Céline GAUER\*

European Commission DG Competition

Paris – 24 November 2017

\* All views expressed are personal and do not commit the European Commission

Competition



## Challenges for the energy market

### Intertwined energy and climate policies

- An on-going liberalisation process
- An active climate change policy

### Energy markets in crisis?

- High energy prices
- Concerns in relation to security of supply
- Decarbonisation at risk



# Priorities of State aid control in energy markets



Make the Green transition work



Ensure security of supply preserving competition and cross border trade



Ensure transparency for all nuclear costs



## Make the Green Transition Work

#### Costs

- Increasing costs for all energy consumers
- Risk for the acceptance of the climate policy

## Market distortion

- Are renewable operators competitors on the electricity market?
- Negative prices and hidden balancing costs

# Market integration

- National schemes
- Impact on networks



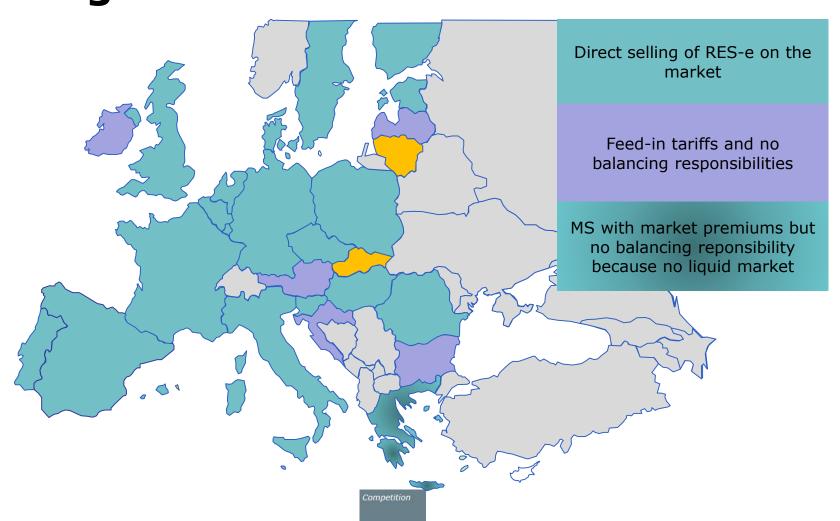
## Make the green transition work

### Make it less distortive and more affordable:

- No feed-in tariffs anymore (except installations < 500 kW)
- Direct marketing (premium, balancing responsibility and no support at negative prices)
  - → RES becoming a market actor
  - → New services, devices (technologies increasing the predictability of production, etc.) and new market operators appearing (aggregators) facilitating market integration.
- Tenders (except installations <1MW)</li>

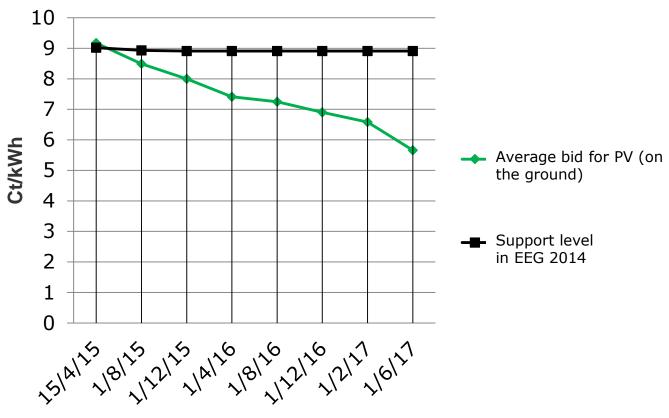


## Integrate renewables in the market





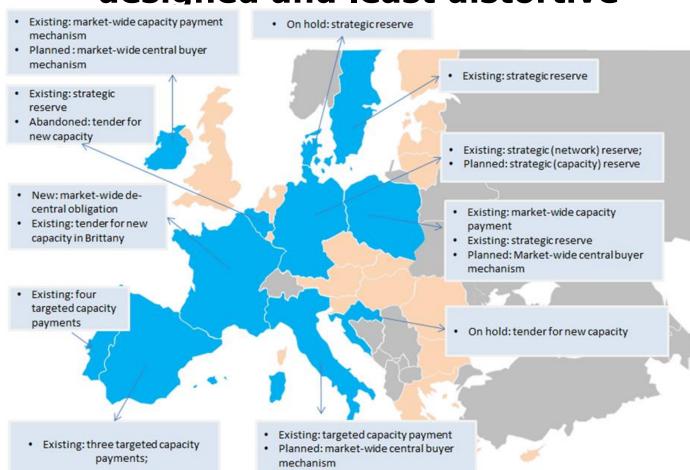
# Decline in support levels with tenders (ex. PV (on the ground) tenders in Germany)



Date of auction



# Ensuring that capacity mechanisms are well-designed and least distortive



Competition



# State aid rules ensure minimum market distortions

### Establishing need

Market reforms first

Economic adequacy assessment and reliability standard



### Choosing an appropriate CM

Long term? Market wide

Short term? Reserve

Local issue or need for DR?



### Ensuring proportionality

'Capacity payments' not acceptable - need competitive price setting



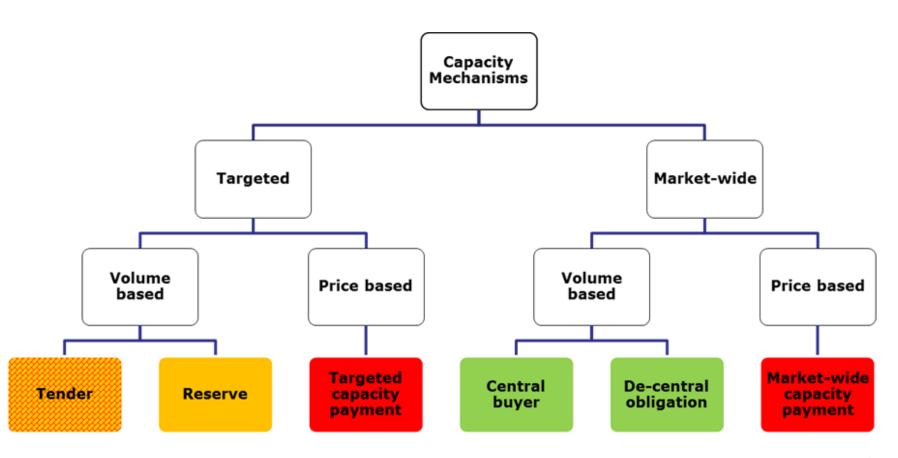
### Protecting trade and competition

Open to all technologies, appropriate sizes

Open across borders (market wide)

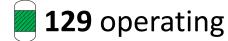


# Enforcement – Capacity mechanisms

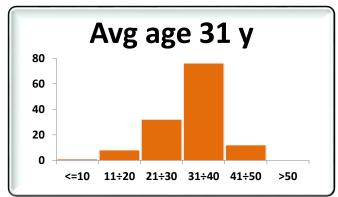


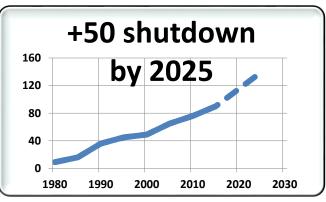
Creating transparency of all nuclear costs

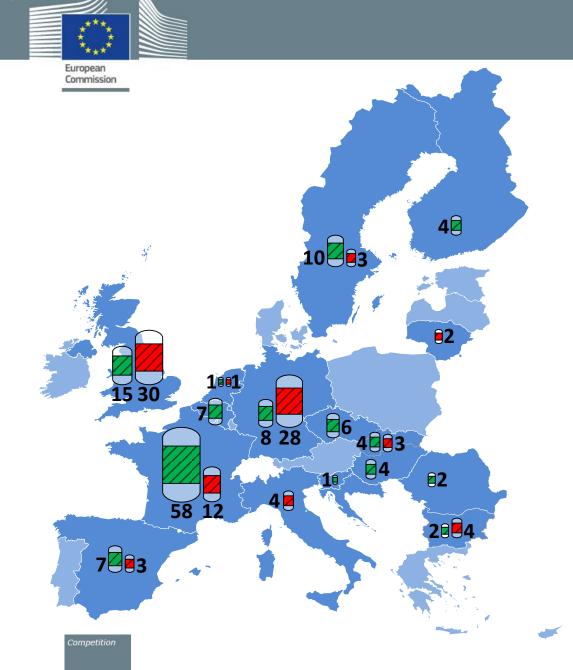
### **Reactors**













# Objective of State aid assesment in nuclear matters

- Addressing the competition impact of the investment
- Ensuring cost transparency and comparison across technologies
- Ensuring internalisation of costs and externalities to the largest extent possible



# Key principles of State aid assessment

New built

- New built and lifetime extension
- Mitigating the market impact, creating cost transparency
- Hinkley Point C; PAKS II; NPPs in Belgium

Waste

- Polluter pays principle and adequate remuneration of the risk taken by the State
- German nuclear fund

Insurance

- Avoiding that State intervention prevents the development of a competitive market for nuclear insurance
- Belgian guarantee scheme



### Conclusion

State Aid as a key tool for managing the energy transition

Significant progress made since the entry into force of the guidelines

Ensure transparency, cost effectiveness and competition for the benefit of consumers