

Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria)
Regulatory Authority for Energy (Greece)

Joint Decision of the Energy Regulators on the approval of the relevant points of the IGB Pipeline

February 2023

Whereas:

1. On July 17th 2017, the company ICGB AD submitted to the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission of Bulgaria (EWRC) and to the Regulatory Authority for Energy of Greece (RAE) an “*Application in Accordance with Art. 36 of the Directive 2009/73/EC for the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria*”, as foreseen by Article 36 of the Gas Directive 2009/73/EC. Consequently, two supplementary documents have been submitted to the Authorities: “*Integration of the assessment of the criteria for grant of exemption after performance of the Market Test (art. 36.6)*” in October 2017, following request for additional information by the National Regulatory Authorities, and “*2nd Integration of the assessment of the criteria for grant of exemption after performance of the Market Test (art. 36.6)*” in April 2018.
2. On May 29th 2018, EWRC and RAE (hereinafter, the “**Authorities**”) decided on the exemption of the IGB pipeline from the requirements regarding third party access, tariff regulation and ownership unbundling for a period of 25 years, adopting the common document “Joint Opinion of the Energy Regulators on the Exemption Application of ICGB AD”, with their decisions N° R-VO-1 and 483/2018, respectively. Both decisions were notified to the European Commission.
3. On July 25th 2018, the Commission adopted its decision [C(2018) 5058 (final)] on the exemption (hereinafter the “**Commission Decision**”) .
4. On August 8th 2018, the Authorities took the final decision on the exemption, adopting the «*Final Joint Decision of the Energy Regulators on the Exemption Application of ICGB AD - Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria) and Regulatory Authority for Energy (Greece)*» (hereinafter, the “**Final Joint Decision**”), a document jointly drafted by the Authorities, which amended the Joint Opinion to comply with the Commission Decision (Decisions N° P-BO-2 of EWRC and 768/2018 of RAE).
5. The provisions of article 18, par. 3 and 4 of Regulation (EU) 2009/715 state that: “3. *For the services provided each transmission system operator shall make public information on technical, contracted and available capacities on a numerical basis for all relevant points including entry and exit points on a regular and rolling basis and in a user-friendly and standardised manner. 4. The relevant points of a transmission system on which the information is to be made public shall be approved by the competent authorities after consultation with network users.*”.
6. In its letter with outgoing N° IX-59 dd. 21.09.2022 (EWRC incoming N°E-15-59-1010 dd. 23.09.2022 and RAE incoming N° I-336286 dd. 22.09.2022) ICGB AD submitted for the Authorities’ approval an “Application for definition all relevant points for transparency requirements pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 715/2009”.
7. The point of interconnection of the gas transmission network of ICGB AD and the gas transmission network of DESFA near the town of Komotini, Greece is not yet operational,

and therefore has been removed from the list. It is expected that the aforementioned point will enter operation in the near future, at which point it will be included in the list of relevant points of IGB.

8. The two regulatory authorities held a public consultation on the list of relevant points (EWRC in the period 03/11/2022-24/11/2023 and RAE in the period 27/10-16/11/2022). In the course of this public consultation, there was a request for additional information to be included in the list of relevant points, regarding the technical, available and contracted capacities for the interconnection points. Considering the fact that ICGB AD, in accordance with the requirements for transparency as stated in Regulation (EC) 715/2009, publishes the aforementioned information on the company's website, as well as on ENTSOG's Transparency Platform, on a daily basis, the above request was rejected.

Based on the aforementioned arguments, the regulatory authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece have jointly decided to:

Approve, within their powers, the following list of relevant points for the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) Pipeline:

List of relevant points of the IGB pipeline			
No	Energy Identification Code (EIC)	Description	Type
1.	21Z000000000472E Komotini TAP-IGB	Point of interconnection of the gas transmission network of ICGB AD and the gas transmission network of Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG (TAP) near the town of Komotini, Greece. This point is registered by TAP.	Entry-Exit
2.	58Z-IP-00034-STZ Bulgartransgaz EAD	Point of interconnection of the gas transmission network of ICGB AD and the gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz EAD near the Gas Metering Station of ICGB AD near the city of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. This point is registered by Bulgartransgaz EAD.	Entry-Exit