

# ERGaR Certificate of Origin (CoO) Scheme

Scheme Rules V1.4

**FINAL DRAFT**

10/2025

## Versioning

Version	Date	Responsibility	Reason for amendment
1.1	05/07/2021	ERGAr	editing
1.2	08/05/2022	ERGAr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification participation process</li> <li>• Limited liability of members of the Sanction and Control Committee</li> <li>• New Annex B: Introduction of scheme fees with new calculation methodology and higher cap of yearly transaction fee. Deletion of old Annex B information Fields in a Data Package</li> </ul>
1.3	05/2023	ERGAr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.17 definition Proof of Deactivation added</li> <li>• 2.18 definition of Confirmation of Deactivation added</li> <li>• 3.8 Concept of Confirmation of Deactivation was included.</li> <li>• 3.9 New rule was introduced that non automated creation of CoO Data Packages requires the provision of a Proof of Deactivation to close the transfer.</li> <li>• 4.6 audit was extended to the creation of CoO Data Packages.</li> </ul>
1.4	10/2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment with EN 16325</li> <li>• Accommodation of all renewable gases</li> <li>• Reference to new IT-platform</li> <li>• Defining the System Participants Working Group</li> <li>• New rules on decision making process</li> <li>• General update</li> </ul>

## • Table of Content

1	Objective and scope .....	3
2	Definitions .....	3
3	Data Packages .....	5
4	Requirements of and process for National Renewable Gas Registries to become System Participants .....	7
5	Activities carried out by the System Participant .....	8
6	Information system of the System Participant .....	9
7	System Participants Working Group .....	10
8	Data protection and confidentiality .....	10
9	Sanction system .....	11
10	Appendix A – Scheme Fees .....	13

# 1 Objective and scope

- 1.1 The ERGaR CoO Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the “**Scheme**”) is organised by the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) aisbl (hereinafter referred to as the “**Operator**”).
- 1.2 The Scheme facilitates the transfer of Certificates of Origin (“**CoOs**”) between participating Renewable Gas Registries that can include biomethane, hydrogen and/or any other renewable gas (hereinafter referred to as “System Participants”), which issue CoOs or equivalent documentation for renewable gas injected into the Natural Gas Network or Hydrogen Network in their country of operation.
- 1.3 CoOs are transferred via Data Packages (see 2.7), which are structured according to an agreed XML data format and uploaded and downloaded from the ERGaR Hub Platform by System Participants.
- 1.4 CoOs are fully defined in these Scheme Rules (hereinafter referred to as the “**ERGaR Rules**”) and are electronic documents that allow gas consumers to demonstrate their use of renewable gases. Other types of documents transferred via the ERGaR Hub Platform are outside the scope of the Scheme.
- 1.5 The ERGaR Hub is the IT platform that facilitates the uploading and downloading of the data packages. Renewable Gas Registries that comply with the legal and technical requirements set out in the Rules may become System Participants and connect to the ERGaR Hub.
- 1.6 The Scheme is designed to facilitate the trading of CoOs for renewable gas consignments injected into the natural gas or hydrogen networks; however, it may also be used in the future for renewable gas consignments transported by road, rail and waterway.
- 1.7 The Rules and other Scheme documents will be in English and communication between the Operator and System Participants will be in English unless otherwise agreed.
- 1.8 These scheme rules can be amended if there is consensus within the System Participants Working Group. If one member opposes the amendment, the scheme rules can only be approved by a majority vote by all System Participants that are member of ERGaR aisbl. These votes can only take place at the ERGaR General Assembly or if the operator's President considers it urgent, by written procedure where at least half the System Participants that are member of ERGaR aisbl vote in favour. Each System Participant that is an ERGaR member has one vote. In case, there is an equal number of votes for two options, the Operator's Secretary General can make the decisive vote.

# 2 Definitions

- 2.1 **Certificate of Origin (CoO):** An electronic document that records information about consignments of renewable gas such as biomethane injected into the natural gas network or hydrogen network. A CoO may be used by gas suppliers or consumers to proof that the renewable gas consignment described in the CoO can be set against an amount of gas that the consumer has withdrawn from the Natural Gas or hydrogen networks. System Participants may apply different terminology to the documents they issue at national level, such as e.g. “biomethane certificates”, “guarantees of origin” or “renewable gas guarantees of origin”. Within the Scheme, all such documents will be considered CoOs. CoOs follow the approach detailed in Article 19 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (also referred to as “**RED II**”).
- 2.2 **Guarantee of Origin (GO):** An electronic document relating to the attributes for a specific amount of energy issued by an issuing body with a government mandate according to Article 19 (5) of (EU) Directive 2018/2001. The Guarantee of Origin is established in Article 19 of (EU) Directive 2018/2001 and in line with CEN standard EN 16325. The term Guarantee of Origin can only be used by Issuing Bodies according to national legislation.

- 2.3 **CoO Creation:** The creating of an electronic data set containing information about consignments of renewable gas that have been injected into the gas grid.
- 2.4 **CoO Transfer:** The transfer of a CoO either between two different accounts within a Renewable Gas Registry, or – via the ERGaR Hub Platform – between an account held within a sending System Participant and an account held within a receiving System Participant.
- 2.5 **CoO Withdrawal:** The removal of a CoO by a Renewable Gas Registry from its registry without cancelling the CoO. The National Renewable Gas Registry may do this, if it believes the information in the CoO is inaccurate or the Renewable Gas injection has been double counted, or for other specific reasons.
- 2.6 **CoO Cancelling:** Recording the final use of the Renewable Gas on the CoO by way of a cancellation statement in order to ensure that the CoO cannot be used again for any other purpose. The information on the CoO and its cancellation is not deleted and continues to be available for auditing.
- 2.7 **Data Package:** A single file, in XML data format, containing information about one or more CoOs that a System Participant wishes to transfer to another System Participant. The Data Packages must be uploaded to the ERGaR Hub Account of the sending System Participant via the ERGaR Hub Platform.
- 2.8 **ERGaR aisbl (“Operator”):** An international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation established under Belgian law on 28/09/2016, with its registered seat at 1040 Brussels, .
- 2.9 **ERGaR Rules:** The rules of the Scheme, as set out in this document including its appendices.
- 2.10 **ERGaR Hub Account:** An electronic account on the ERGaR Hub Platform, where System Participants upload and download the Data Packages, which allow them to transfer CoOs.
- 2.11 **National Renewable Gas Registry:** An organisation that operates an account-based administration system, documenting the chain of custody of injected biomethane or other renewable gases from the point of injection up to the point of withdrawal from the domestic natural gas network or hydrogen network. For the purpose of the Scheme, the electronic documents issued by the National Renewable Gas Registry constitute CoOs. A National Renewable Gas Registry is established either by government mandate or by the voluntary cooperation of market participants and operates within a domestic market. A gas GO issuing body is also considered as a national registry for the purpose of the scheme.
- 2.12 **Gas GO Issuing Body:** A National Renewable Gas Registry with a government mandate according to Article 19 (5) of (EU) Directive 2018/2001.
- 2.13 **Operator:** The Operator of the Scheme, i.e. ERGaR aisbl.
- 2.14 **Operator’s Executive Board:** The Operator’s main executive body, the members of which are elected by the members of ERGaR aisbl.
- 2.15 **Proof of Sustainability (“PoS”):** A document detailing the verification of sustainability criteria relating to biomethane or Renewable Fuels of Biological Origin (RFNBO) consignments in accordance with the relevant EU requirements (Directive 2018/2001, Delegated Acts 2024/1184 and 2024/1185 as well as Implementing Regulation 2022/996). PoSs are issued by producers certified by conformity assessment bodies (certification bodies) associated with a voluntary scheme recognised by the European Commission under the RED. If requested by an economic operator (the owner of a biomethane or RFNBO consignment), the sustainability characteristics of the biomethane or RFNBO detailed in a PoS may also be forwarded through the ERGaR Hub Platform, alongside the information contained in a CoO.

- 2.16 **System Participant:** A National Renewable Gas Registry or Gas GO Issuing Body, admitted to the Scheme by decision of the Operator's Executive Board, in accordance with the ERGaR Rules.
- 2.17 **System Participants Working Group:** The working group within ERGaR where all System Participants are welcome to participate independently of whether they are members of the ERGaR association.
- 2.18 **Proof of Deactivation:** An electronic document that records information about one CoO that has been exported to the Cet-X platform, permanently deactivated or cancelled in the database of the sending System Participant and accepted by the receiving System Participant. The Proof of Deactivation shall contain at least the following information: exchange ID, original certificate batch ID, purpose (transfer direction), target trader, energy amount.

### 3 Data Packages

- 3.1 Data Packages used for the transfer of CoOs between System Participants via the ERGaR Hub Platform, are electronic datasets in an XML format. Data packages are uploaded by a System Participant to its ERGaR Hub Account either manually or possibly via an API interface defined by the Operator. Every Data Package includes information and attributes relating to a specific renewable gas consignment injected into the European natural gas or hydrogen network, as represented by one or more CoOs. The XML format is defined in the XSD which is provided by the Operator as appendix to these rules.

A Data Package serves the purpose of transferring the information contained in one or more CoOs between ERGaR Hub Accounts of two System Participants. It provides the receiving System Participant with the information necessary to issue one or more corresponding CoOs in its registry and thereby complete a transfer of one or more CoOs.

- 3.2 In the case the transfer concerns the transfer of a Guarantee of Origin, the rules of the CEN standard EN 16325 might restrict the transfer from or to another System Participant. In that case, the System Participant informs the Operator about limitations of CoO transfers via ERGaR Hub.
- 3.3 The format of the Data Package allows including information on sustainability criteria on a voluntary basis. These may be based on documents other than CoOs, such as Proof of Sustainability (PoS) documents. Such voluntary information will be added to the primary information contained in the CoOs.
- 3.4 CoOs contain as much information as available out of the following:
- 3.4.1 Medium of energy, e.g., gas;
  - 3.4.2 Unique CoO number assigned by the System Participant;
  - 3.4.3 Installed capacity of the production unit, in which the energy to which the CoO relates was produced;
  - 3.4.4 Date when the production unit entered into operation;
  - 3.4.5 First day of production of the output to which the CoO relates;
  - 3.4.6 Last day of production of the output to which the CoO relates;
  - 3.4.7 Type of production unit, e.g., biomethane from anaerobic digestion; hydrogen from electrolysis;
  - 3.4.8 Identity of the originating producer, including the unique number assigned to that producer by the National Renewable Gas Registry, as well as the name of the producer;
  - 3.4.9 Identity (country and region) of the National Renewable Gas Registry who issued the CoO in the country of production;
  - 3.4.10 Date when the electronic issuance of the CoO in the country of production took place;

- 3.4.11 An indication whether and to what extent the producer received investment or production support;
- 3.4.12 The energy source type
- 3.4.13 The validity period of the CoO.
- 3.4.14 The medium of gas transport
- 3.5 Certain fields within the Data Package are mandatory and must be completed for the transfer to be valid while others are optional. This is set out in the Annex C to these scheme rules.
- 3.6 When a Data Package is uploaded by a sending System Participant, the CoO or CoOs detailed in the Data Package must be made unavailable by the sending System Participant for further use until confirmation of the transfer is received from the receiving System Participant.
- 3.7 On receipt of a Data Package, a receiving System Participant will create a CoO or CoOs matching the characteristics and amount described in the Data Package. No information may be changed but attributes may be excluded if the receiving System Participant's systems and processes do not allow for them to be included.
- 3.8 When the receiving System Participant confirms that they are able to create a CoO or CoOs according to the details included in the Data Package, the sending System Participant must permanently deactivate the CoO in their database and confirm the deactivation to the receiving System Participant. It is the receiving System Participant's discretion to await the Confirmation of Deactivation before it activates the corresponding CoO in their database, which are then available to be used.
- 3.9 By way of derogation from 3.8, if an audit of a System Participant's registration database according to 4.6 confirms that Data Packages are not sent automatically via an API connection of the System Participant's registry to ERGaR Hub, the System Participant must provide a Proof of Deactivation to the receiving System Participant in addition to confirming the deactivation of the CoO. The receiving System Participant must await the Proof of Deactivation before it activates the corresponding CoO in its database.
- 3.10 A Data Package may represent any energy amount of biomethane from 1 MWh upwards. Upon receipt of a Data Package, a System Participant may create either one CoO, representing all the MWh recorded in the Data Package, or several CoOs that together make up the total MWh recorded in the Data Package. The new CoO or CoOs issued by the receiving System Participant must always make up the total MWh described in the respective Data Package and cancelled by the sending System Participant and must record without any alteration the attributes of the biomethane reflected in the original CoO or CoOs.
- 3.11 A receiving System Participant is entitled to refuse to create a CoO or CoOs based on a Data Package from a sending System Participant if
  - 3.11.1 the resulting CoO or CoOs would infringe legal or governmental rules or regulations in force in one of the countries involved; or
  - 3.11.2 the Data Package is incomplete, incorrect, or invalid; or
  - 3.11.3 the receiving System Participant has any credible information about relevant fraudulent activity; or
  - 3.11.4 the receiving System Participant is not provided with proof that the relevant CoO or CoOs have been deactivated in the registry of the sending System Participant.
- 3.12 All transfers of Data Packages will be effected via the ERGaR Hub Platform, which also allows System Participants to add explanatory notes regarding individual Data Packages. Any email communication between System Participants relating to the upload, download, withdrawal, rejection, or acceptance of Data Packages must be systematically labelled using the Data Package's Exchange ID, in such a way as to be auditable later.
- 3.13 The Data Package will state all information in English with the expectations of;
  - 3.13.1 Names and address of traders and production devices

- 3.13.2 Biomass information or information on energy input where that information is stated in a language other than English on the energy source input coding list published by the operator.

## **4 Requirements of and process for National Renewable Gas Registries to become System Participants**

- 4.1 National Renewable Gas Registries may become System Participants irrespective of whether they are member of ERGaR aisbl.
- 4.2 National Biomethane Registries may only become System Participants, if they maintain an electronic, account-based documentation system for the registration of energy quantities of biomethane or other renewables gases injected into the domestic natural gas or hydrogen network, allowing the issuing of corresponding renewable gas CoOs as well as the transfer of CoOs between registered account holders.
- 4.3 In order to be admitted to the Scheme, each National Renewable Gas Registry must, as a minimum
- 4.3.1 maintain independence from economic operators;
  - 4.3.2 not directly or indirectly own Renewable Gas CoOs (or other similar products) or participate in markets associated with Renewable Gas CoOs (other than the functions defined in their foundation documents);
  - 4.3.3 carry out operations in a professional and transparent manner, adhering to the relevant laws and regulations;
  - 4.3.4 have an auditable system such as an archive documenting the issuing, handling and cancelling of CoOs, where applicable this should be according to the relevant legislation.
  - 4.3.5 follow appropriate auditing procedures, including conducting external audits that confirm the accuracy of their processes for issuing CoOs; in case such a requirement for audits is required by the national legislation; If no external audit took place, the Operator can perform an audit instead.
  - 4.3.6 keep any documentation (digital or otherwise) for a minimum of five years;
  - 4.3.7 accept responsibility for the preparation of all relevant information for the auditing of activities relating to their participation in the Scheme.
- 4.4 The National Renewable Gas Registry may issue CoOs for renewable gas installations in other European countries that do not have a National Renewable Gas Registry for that specific gas, provided that any National Renewable Gas Registry offering such a service has implemented appropriate measures to ensure that there is no double registration of those installations' production in other National Renewable Gas Registries.
- 4.5 When applying to become a System Participant, a National Renewable Gas Registry will provide the following documentation to the Operator:
- 4.5.1 a completed application form;
  - 4.5.2 a copy of its terms and conditions (with English translation);
  - 4.5.3 a copy of an audit report showing its compliance with industry good practice (with English Translation);
  - 4.5.4 a description of its functions, procedures and organisational structure (with English translation);
  - 4.5.5 a declaration that it will adhere to the current ERGaR Rules which may be updated from time to time;
  - 4.5.6 a description of its scope, features and requirements for issuing and accepting certificates as well as the applied energy source codes; if applicable, the legal text containing the government mandate as Issuing Body for gas.



- 4.6 The Operator will review the application form and associated documents. An audit of the process of creating and receiving Data Packages as well as an interface test with the ERGaR Hub platform and the IT-solution of the National Renewable Gas Registry complements the qualification process. If there is any cause for doubt or concern, the Operator may at its own discretion either request further evidence from the applicant or request the Operator's Executive Board to give a decision on how to proceed.
- 4.7 If the National Renewable Gas Registry fails the qualification process pursuant to 4.6, the National Renewable Gas Registry may reapply to participate in the Scheme when the reasons for denying the qualification have been successfully addressed. If the National Renewable Gas Registry is seeking to re-apply, it has to complete the full application process in accordance with 4.6.
- 4.8 If the National Renewable Gas Registry has successfully passed the qualification process pursuant to 4.6, the Secretary General will submit a proposal to the Operator's Executive Board that the National Renewable Gas Registry shall be admitted to the Scheme as new System Participant. The final decision lies solely in the discretion of the Operator's Executive Board.
- 4.9 Following a positive decision by the Operator's Executive Board the Participation Agreement will be signed between the applicant and the Operator.
- 4.10 If information provided by the System Participant as part of the joining process, or during any later involvement in the Scheme, is found to be misleading, wrong, or fraudulent, or if the Operator discovers unusual or extraordinary activity by the System Participant, the Operator may suspend the System Participant's ERGaR Hub account and/or terminate the Participation Agreement immediately.
- 4.11 Each Party (System Participants and Operator) shall have appropriate risk identification and management procedures in place within the scope of its activities under the Scheme. The Parties agree that, upon identification of a risk that may affect the other Party, the identifying Party shall promptly inform the other Party, enabling it to take appropriate measures within its area of competence to manage the identified risk.
- 4.12 Should the Operator become aware of circumstances indicating that the System Participant is not or has not been adhering to the ERGaR Rules, or to the terms of this Agreement, or is suspected of any abuse or misuse related to the ERGaR Hub Platform, the Operator has the right to block the System Participant's account, cancel this Agreement and take any other appropriate action the Operator considers necessary in order to protect or regain the credibility of the Scheme or to protect the rights or interests of economic operators or other System Participants until the System Participant adheres or makes required changes and corrections to the ERGaR Rules or to the terms of the System Participant Agreement

## **5 Activities carried out by the System Participant**

- 5.1 Activities carried out by the System Participant include all tasks and processes necessary for the robust maintenance and administration of their renewable gas registry and its IT system. Depending on the registry, these tasks and processes include, but are not limited to:
- 5.1.1 the creation, transfer and cancellation of CoOs;
  - 5.1.2 the registration of account holders;
  - 5.1.3 the processing of customer service and market participant enquiries;
  - 5.1.4 the supervision of the IT system;
  - 5.1.5 the generation of statistics;
  - 5.1.6 the ongoing maintenance of the website;
  - 5.1.7 the nomination of a representative to the SPWG and his/her participation in the SPWG; and

- 5.1.8 the provision of training for staff and account holders.
- 5.2 System Participants may create renewable gas CoOs only on the basis of reliable and accurate metering data provided by distribution and/or transmission network operators.
- 5.3 System Participants must document the creation, transfer, withdrawal and/or cancellation of every renewable gas CoO, to maintain a clear record of each transaction.
- 5.4 System Participants must never issue CoOs for any non-renewable gas that may be blended with renewable gas and enters the gas network via the same injection point.
- 5.5 System Participants may use the net or gross method for issuing CoOs and must keep the Operator informed of their current practice (see relevant data field description in the appendix).
- 5.6 Data held by System Participants must be stored for at least five (5) years.
- 5.7 System Participants may only upload Data Packages to the ERGaR Hub Platform at the request of their account holders.
- 5.8 System Participants must allow every three years the audit of their system by an auditor assigned by the Operator. The audit procedures for this audit will be prepared by the Operator and approved by the System Participants Working Group.

## **6 Information system of the System Participant**

- 6.1 System Participants must ensure that their manual and automated information systems for creating, sending, receiving, and deactivating Data Packages are able to support the auditing of all transactions.
- 6.2 System Participants must successfully pass a technical interface test with the ERGaR Hub Platform prior to sending or receiving their first Data Package. This test ensures that all technical requirements for receiving or sending a Data Package are met. The test is carried out by the Operator or a third party on behalf of the Operator. Registries are only allowed to send or receive Data Packages after a successfully completed interface test.

## **7 System Participants Working Group**

- 7.1 The System Participants Working Group serves as a forum between the Operator and System Participants to:
  - 7.1.1 enable a smooth collaboration between the Operator and the System Participants;
  - 7.1.2 inform about relevant updates and news in relation to renewable gas transfers;
  - 7.1.3 inform and discuss irregularities; and
  - 7.1.4 prepare updates to the Scheme Rules, modify XML data fields and propose new functionalities of the ERGaR Hub platform.
- 7.2 The System Participants Working Group is coordinated and managed by the Operator.
- 7.3 Each System Participant can nominate one or more representatives to the System Participants Working Group regardless of it being member of the association ERGaR aisbl.
- 7.4 This working group is managed by the Operator. The System Participants Working Group discusses all relevant aspects of the ERGaR CoO scheme including updates to scheme rules, data fields and IT providers. However, it doesn't have decision power on budgetary aspects.
- 7.5 The System Participants Working Group takes decision if consensus is achieved amongst the System Participants. In case of no consensus is agreed, there can be vote. These votes can only take place at the ERGaR General Assembly or if the operator's President considers it urgent, by written procedure where at least half the System Participants that are member of ERGaR aisbl vote in favour. Each System Participant that is an ERGaR member has one vote. In case, there is an equal number of votes for two options, the Operator's Secretary General can make the decisive vote.
- 7.6 The System Participants Working Group can also elect a chair. The chair is elected according to the decision procedure of point 7.4. The main role of the chair is to support the secretariat in providing guidance on the work of the System Participants Working Group and lead during the meetings.

## **8 Data protection and confidentiality**

- 8.1 Due care must be taken to protect data provided by economic operators, the Operator, and other System Participants.
- 8.2 Participation in the Scheme is conditional on compliance with all applicable national data protection laws and the EU General Data Protection Regulation.
- 8.3 The Operator will maintain a Privacy Policy which will be publicly available on the Operator's website.
- 8.4 System Participants must preserve confidentiality of information provided to them in connection with their activities unless
  - 8.4.1 they are implicitly or explicitly required to disclose such information under their own rules;
  - 8.4.2 they are otherwise authorised to disclose such information by the person to whom a duty of confidentiality is owed; or
  - 8.4.3 they are required to disclose such information by law, including by request of a competent authority having the force of law.
- 8.5 Confidentiality obligation remains in force 12 {twelve} months or longer if so stipulated in the national legislation after termination of the Participation Agreement.

## **9 Sanction system**

- 9.1 The Scheme has pre-defined measures to be taken if a System Participant fails or ceases to satisfy the requirements and commitments set out either in the ERGaR Rules or in the Participation Agreement.
- 9.2 These are internal Scheme sanctions, independent from the regulatory involvement of any competent authority.
- 9.3 The System Participants are legally responsible to the Operator: their commitments are laid down in the Participation Agreement concluded between the System Participants and the Operator.
- 9.4 Violations of commitments and requirements may be identified through audits and inspections by impartial auditors or inspectors acting on behalf of the Operator, or by any other means. If a violation in the aforementioned sense is identified, the Secretary General will initiate a sanction process by formally addressing the respective System Participant and point out the identified violation.
- 9.5 The System Participant is obliged to immediately take sufficient measures to remedy the violation of ERGaR Rules, and/or non-compliance with the stipulations of the Participation Agreement signed between the Operator and the System Participant. The Secretary General will set an appropriate period of time for remedying the violation.
- 9.6 Should the period of time elapse without successful corrective measures having been taken, the Secretary General will call a meeting of the Control and Sanction Committee.
- 9.7 The Control and Sanction Committee is composed of at least three of the Operator's Board Members, including
  - 9.7.1 The Chairperson of the Control and Sanction Committee (being a person independent of the Operator and the System Participants, who has been nominated to the Control and Sanction Committee by the Operator's President following a decision by those of the Operator's Board Members who are not employed by any of the System Participants);
  - 9.7.2 The Operator's Secretary General or Assistant/Deputy Secretary General;
  - 9.7.3 One of the Operator's Board Members (nominated to the Control and Sanction Committee by the Operator's President following a decision by those of the Operator's Board Members who are not employed by any of the System Participants).
  - 9.7.4 If there are fewer than three (3) members who are not employed by any of the System Participants, the Operator's Secretary General will make up the shortfall by inviting representatives of the Operator's Full Members to make the decision. If the Operator has no Board Members who are not representatives of System Participants then a representative of one of the Operator's Full Members may be appointed to the Committee.
- 9.8 Decisions of the Control and Sanction Committee on violation matters taken to it under 8.6. will be rendered by a minimum of three (3) members appointed according to 9.7.1 and 9.7.3.
- 9.9 The Committee as formed above may choose to invite independent legal, sustainability or auditing experts to form part of the committee on a permanent basis or to consider particular violation matters.
- 9.10 The Committee's first step is to conduct a thorough investigation of the case, based on which it will decide on sanctions against the violating party. As part of this process, the Committee may consider a written submission from the System Participant(s) in question, should they wish to provide one.
- 9.11 During the time that the Operator is calling a meeting of the Committee and the Committee is conducting its investigation, the Operator may suspend the ERGaR Hub account of the System Participant in question.
- 9.12 The Operator imposes sanctions only on System Participants and only in accordance with the Participation Agreement signed between the Operator and the System Participant, which includes a commitment to adhere to the ERGaR Rules. Any party other than the Operator

who has been affected by the violation of either the ERGaR Rules or a Participation Agreement must pursue recourse by their own means.

9.13 Sanction levels that can be applied are:

9.13.1 Sanction level 0: The Control and Sanction Committee determines that no other measures against the System Participant are necessary.

9.13.2 Sanction level 1: The Control and Sanction Committee determines that a reprimand note must be issued to the System Participant along with an instruction to implement the requirements of the Scheme more carefully.

9.13.3 Sanction level 2: The Control and Sanction Committee determines that a warning must be issued to the System Participant. If the problem continues to exist after the warning, a sanction of Sanction level 3 will be imposed.

9.13.4 Sanction level 3: The Control and Sanction Committee determines that a warning with contractual penalty must be issued to the System Participant. At Sanction level 3, a contractual penalty payment of up to 25,000 € [twenty-five thousand euros] may be imposed, depending on the severity of the violations and/or the level of damage caused by the violations and/or taking into consideration any advantages achieved through illegal activities, as well as the overall scale of the System Participant's activities. The penalty payment is set individually in each case, at the discretion of the Control and Sanction Committee, and is legally enforceable as set out in the liability clause of the Participation Agreement.

9.14 Decisions of the Secretary General, the Control and Sanction Committee and its members in violation matters lie fully in the own discretion of the acting persons. The System Participants may not claim that decisions in violation matters may be rendered in a specific way or under application of certain principles or procedural steps. There is no judicial recourse to any instance of state courts or private arbitration against any decision rendered in violation matters. The Operator, the Secretary General, the members of the Control and Sanction Committee or any other person involved in violation matters may not be held liable – on whatever legal ground – by the System Participant for compensation of any damages or detriments resulting out of decisions rendered.

## **10 Appendix A – Scheme Fees**

- 10.1 This appendix sets out the fees payable to the Operator for each System Participant's use of the ERGaR Hub Platform.
- 10.2 The following fees will be charged to each System Participant:
  - 10.2.1 Fixed Connection Fee;
  - 10.2.2 Transaction Fee.
- 10.3 The Fixed Connection Fee payable by every System Participant is 5,000 € (five thousand euros) (excluding VAT) for a full calendar year. In the event that the ERGaR Hub Platform begins operation and/or the Participant gets connected after 01 January, the Fixed Connection Fee will be reduced pro rata on a monthly basis. A System Participant gets connected to the ERGaR Hub Platform upon receiving the log-in credentials to the live version of the ERGaR Hub platform.
- 10.4 The Transaction Fee is 0.02 €/MWh for each MWh of CoOs sent and accepted by the receiving System Participant as well as received and accepted by the System Participant.
- 10.5 Regardless of the calculation in clause 10.4, the maximum Transaction Fee payable during a calendar year will be 10,000 € (ten thousand euros) for each System Participant.
- 10.6 The Operator will issue an invoice for the Transaction Fee within 30 (thirty) days of the end of each calendar quarter. The Fixed Connection Fee will be invoiced together with the Transaction Fees for quarter 1. In the event that the System Participant gets connected after 01 January, the Fixed Connection Fee will be invoiced within 30 (thirty) days after the System Participant's connection to the live version of the ERGaR Hub Platform.
- 10.7 The Operator will produce a yearly report on the payments invoiced to the System Participants, to be issued by 15<sup>th</sup> February of the following year.

## **Annex B – CoO XML data format**

Currently found in the User Manual.



European Renewable Gas Registry aisbl  
Rdpt Robert Schuman 6  
BE - 1040 Brussels  
[info@ergar.org](mailto:info@ergar.org)  
[www.ergar.org](http://www.ergar.org)

