

# BRIDGING CONTINENTS: SHARING EUROPEAN CBET INSIGHTS FOR SOUTH ASIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Co-organized with European Union

## Background

The increasing deployment of renewable energy (RE) technologies is transforming the electricity sector, creating a critical need for interconnected transmission networks that enable flexible trade flows between countries. Cross-border electricity trade (CBET) through these interconnected networks can significantly harness distant renewable resources, mitigating challenges such as the intermittency and variability of renewable energy sources (RESs).

In the European Union (EU), CBET is a vital component of the internal electricity market, promoting regional cooperation, cost-efficient renewable energy expansion, and enhanced energy security. The South Asian Region (SAR) presents similar opportunities, where CBET could catalyze domestic investment, ensure a more reliable energy supply, and foster regional economic growth.

However, cross-border trade in electricity encompassing several countries in the SAR has yet to progress for various reasons. These include inadequate inter-regional institutions, marketing platforms and transnational network planning, and non-uniform sectoral reforms. The session and the report on CBET will focus on examining the need of the hour in the SAR region to facilitate cross border electricity trade and role of the EU in sharing its own experiences and in supporting SAR. Particularly it will help present and bring to the regional discussion the success of policy and regulations such as the TEN-E regulation, Cross Border Cost Allocation (CBCA) and the Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) which have successfully helped shape the regional market in the EU.

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
**TIME: 11:30 - 13:00**

## Session Objectives

- Facilitate a regional discussion on the South Asian region with a focus on sharing some of the EU best practices. Particularly the challenges and opportunities it presented in the implementation of the EU Internal market and the policy and regulatory frameworks that help enable it .
- The role of CBET in its role resource planning and the experiences from EU on its resource planning framework through the Ten-Year Network Development Plans and the tools.
- What market mechanisms helped with robust cross border trade in the region and lessons learned from them.
- Explore the opportunities for bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation to enhance interconnections and electricity trade.

## Agenda

11:30 - 11:37	<p><b>Welcome Addresses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edwin Koekkoek</b>, First Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Monali Zeya Hazra</b>, Senior Regional Energy Specialist and Mission Environment Officer, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India</li> </ul>
11:37 - 11:45	<p><b>Key Learnings from EU's Experience on Cross-border Electricity Trading</b> by <b>Swetha Ravi Kumar</b>, Executive Director, FSR Global</p>
11:45 - 12:40	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional market development in SAR - the journey so far?</li> <li>• What are the models of regional market development applicable to SAR? How have we been fairing so far?</li> <li>• What has been the EU journey in establish one of the world's most complex and successful regional electricity market? What were the necessary steps they needed to take in order to implement it?</li> <li>• What are the specific regulations and policies put in place by the EU – who, how and what within these regulatory steps enabled the implementation of the now EU internal market? How does this complement with the EU resource planning exercise and what market design mechanism helped flourish regional electricity trading in the EU region?</li> <li>• What learnings (regulatory policy, planning methods, tools, methodologies, market design learnings) can EU bring to the SAR regional CBET journey and what are the opportunities to cross collaborate with key stakeholders on the same?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Swetha Ravi Kumar</b>, Executive Director, FSR Global Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christine Brandstädt</b>- Assistant Professor, Copenhagen School of Energy Infrastructure</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital</b>, Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), Nepal</li> <li>• <b>SC Saxena</b>, Director(MO), Grid Controller of India</li> <li>• <b>Dasho Chhewang Rinzin</b> Managing Director, Druk Green Power Corporation, Bhutan</li> </ul>
12:40 - 12:55	<p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
12:55 - 13:00	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> by <b>Edwin Koekkoek</b>, First Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh</p>

