



**PRESS RELEASE**

5 November 2006

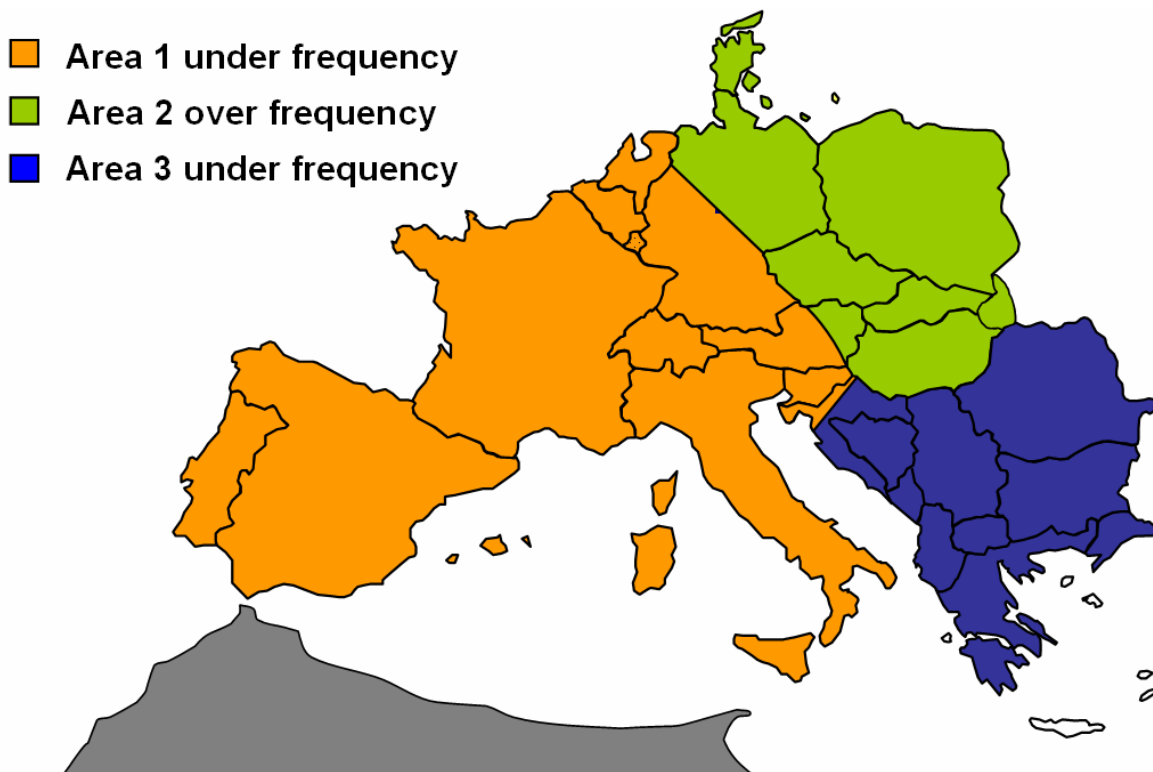
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## First facts about the system disturbance on 4 November

Last night at around 22:10 the UCTE interconnected grid was affected by a serious incident originated in the North German grid that led to disruptions of supply mainly in the Western part of the system.

As a domino effect, a grid separation in Germany took place from North to South-East and spread over to Austria which was also split into two parts.

The following schematic diagram shows the UCTE network split into 3 islands as a consequence of the triggering effect of the incident in the North of Germany.



The first island was formed by the Western part of Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, a part of Austria and Slovenia. Island 2 was formed by the Eastern part of Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and a part of Austria. Island 3 was formed by the South-East European countries.

Island 1 was characterised by a power imbalance (lack of generation), due to the fact that German wind energy injected from the Northern region belonged to island 2. As a consequence, the frequency dropped in island 1 down to 49 Hz. This activated automatic load shedding procedures (cut of supply to customers) according to UCTE standards. Island 2 and 3 had to overcome a frequency overshoot due to power surplus.

The immediate action taken by all Transmission System Operators according to the UCTE security standards prevented this disturbance to turn into a Europe-wide blackout. The supply was re-established after approximately 1 to 1.5 hour.

**UCTE is setting up an Investigation Committee in order to analyse the sequence of events, their causes and necessary additional measures to prevent such an event to repeat.**

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*Profile:*

*The Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity (UCTE) coordinates the interests of transmission system operators in 23 European countries. Their common objective is to guarantee the security of operation of the interconnected power system. 50 years of joint activities laid the basis for a leading position in the world, which the UCTE holds in the quality of synchronous operation of interconnected power systems. Through the networks of the UCTE 450 million people are supplied with electric energy and annual electricity consumption totals approx. 2500 TWh.*

*Close co-operation of member companies is imperative to make the best possible use of benefits offered by interconnected operation. For this reason, the UCTE has developed a number of rules and recommendations that constitute the basis for the smooth operation of the power system. Only the consistent maintenance of the high demands on quality will permit in the future to set standards in terms of security and reliability as in the past.*

