News from our members

27 April – 11 May

Czech Republic

Czech power consumption fell 18.1% on year, during the third week of April, according to the national transmission operator. The country remained an important cross border exporter of electricity during this period, with some additional 98,038 MWh flowing towards Slovakia and Austria. Lockdown measures are being gradually lifted, with carmaker Skoda Auto, one of the biggest industrial consumers, set to restart production on 27 April.

04 May: Power demand dropped 18.1% year on year during the last week of April. Czech baseload prices dropped to 8.18 €/MWh, on 1 May, after a having climbed to 27.11 €/MWh on April 27, following the reopening of some industrial consumers.

Finland

Electricity consumption fell 10% in the first quarter, against the backdrop of unusually mild temperatures. This lead to the lowest first quarter peak demand of the century, reaching 12.4 GW on 28 February. Electricity prices also declined, as a result of low demand and high hydro and wind availability.

Germany

Clean energy sources covered 85 % of the generation mix, with solar and wind representing the lion’s share. The German demand started to increase mid-April, but it continued to be 11% lower year on year. The low electricity demand is triggered by the lockdown measures, which have led to a 20% decline of the industrial production.

Hungary

Import constraints and electricity demand well below the seasonal norm kept the day-ahead power prices at low levels during the last two weeks of April. The day-ahead base on the HUPX exchange, which briefly reached about 30 €/MWh during week 17, reverted to Eur25/MWh for much of following week.

Italy

Power demand soared beginning of May, as lockdown restrictions were loosened. According to the Italian TSO, Terna, on Monday the peak power consumption rose 11% compared to the previous week.

Netherlands

The government has announced plans to meet the CO2 emission reduction targets once the economy has recovered post-coronavirus. The ceiling on emissions on coal-fired plants will
be reviewed this autumn, to include the emissions reductions resulting from the economic slowdown, but also the fuel-switch pre-dating the health crisis.

Poland

The Polish Development Fund announced that national power demand plunged 12% in April, compared to the same month of 2019. Overall, the Fund estimates a 4.5% year on year decrease. The situation could change after a second wave of relaxation measures, which may include opening hotels, libraries and museums.

04 May: Electricity consumption remained stable during the last two weeks of April, after a period of continuous drop triggered by the lockdown measures. Data from Entso-E shows that the maximum load April 30 was down 8% year on year, to 19,457 MW. PGE estimates that power consumption in April fell 10% year on year.

Spain

Spanish nuclear operating rates are 40% lower than normal. Asco1 and Almaraz 1 are offline for refuelling, with outages due to conclude in June. Such measures would enable the plants to operate and to meet increased demand once the lockdown measures are lifted and economic activities are resumed. Other plants have trimmed their output due to a sinking demand, low pool prices and increased renewable generation. Read more

United Kingdom

Lockdown measures impacted on the total energy demand in the UK, leading to a sharp decrease in gas-fired power generation and almost pushing coal out of the electricity mix. While gas-fired output covered 6.11 TWh of generation, down 3.48 TWh versus April 2019, coal-fired output reached 0.10 TWh. The baseload contract fell 35% compared to 2019, averaging 45.08 pounds/MWh.