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**PSTs as a tool in coping with new operational challenges
within Continental Europe interconnection**

Robert Paprocki
PSE, Poland

Abstract

The Continental Europe interconnection experienced fundamental changes over the latest two decades as far as system operating conditions are concerned. This was due to implementation of market mechanisms as well as integration of renewables on a large scale, which in combination led to more and more long distance flows with frequently changed patterns. To cope with these new challenges European TSOs developed new operational processes and tools, especially in the area of inter TSO cooperation. However, on top of these “soft” solutions a number of TSOs were forced to install phase shifting transformers (PSTs) as this was necessary to keep their grids secure. The presentation will look into the reasons behind these investments trying to point out alternative solutions in the area of European market design.