

French eastern borders: situation update on 27th of August 2024

1. A look back at August 2024

As communicated via the JAO Message Board on the 23rd of July, RTE is facing a new tense situation in terms of system operation from 29th of July 2024 until mid-October 2024. The causes are comparable to the previous tense period this year (between March and April 2024), namely the combination of low consumption, abundant and competitive generation coupled to the grid and high transit flows over the French network. As published by RTE in its first semester outlook ([Electricity review 1st semester 2024.pdf \(rte-france.com\)](#)), this led to historically high exports towards France's eastern bordering bidding zones, while some planned outages are still required to ensure a well-functioning grid and reinforce it.

The first feedback from the August period shows that RTE has managed to deal with the constraints with a limited number of limitations. In some situations, limitations were required to ensure operational security and led to cross-border capacity limitations on the France-Italy and France-Switzerland borders in the first two weeks of August, and no limitations on France's eastern borders for the second half of the month.

During the period between 29th of July and 26th of August, the cumulated net values of cross-border commercial flows between France and its eastern bordering bidding zones (Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy) exceeded 8 GW 35% of the time.

2. Expectations for the month of September 2024

For the upcoming month of September, RTE would like to inform market participants of the different actions which could be applied to ensure system security:

- Usage of all conventional (costly and non-costly) remedial actions to manage grid constraints.
- Activation of the individual validation step (IVAs) on the 19 CNECs added in May 2024. This validation step was deactivated for these CNECs starting 20th of June, to maximize cross-border capacities. In particularly tense situations, IVAs could be applied on these elements. These measures will be activated when the conventional measures (both costly and non-costly remedial actions) will not be sufficient to ensure the French grid operational security.
- As reminded on the 23rd of July situation update, for the concerned period, RTE has established a dedicated monitoring of the situation and will adapt its strategy according to the global value of exports on its eastern borders (with Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy). Starting 2nd of September and until 29th of September 2024, RTE estimates that limitations might be required when the global value of exports on its eastern borders exceeds 10 GW (vs. 8 GW for the month of August). In some cases, it is possible that some limitations would still be needed and applied below this 10 GW threshold.

However, this does not mean RTE intends to limit the exports to its eastern borders to 10 GW, and neither was the case in August with 8 GW as per the figures reminded at the beginning of this document. This essentially depends on the flows' distribution over France's different

eastern borders, but also on other fundamental features such as the variation of the consumption throughout the day. This value will be updated for the October period and communicated on the JAO Message Board end of September.

- Potential limitations will first be applied as close as possible to the constraints, namely closer to the France-Italy border and France-Switzerland border. However, if these measures prove not to be sufficient, RTE could also activate Remedial Actions and Individual Validation Adjustments on the France-Germany and France-Belgium borders, to ensure that the cumulated flows on the French eastern borders do not induce system security risks.

3. Communication

All planned and unplanned outages, as well as specific measures such as Individual Validation Adjustments will be published on the transparency tools related to the regional capacity calculation process. Moreover, in case of important changes in the validation strategy during the tense period, RTE will keep all stakeholders informed via the JAO Message Board.

RTE reminds that all planned and unplanned outages are published on the [ENTSO-E Transparency Platform \(entsoe.eu\)](https://entsoe.eu).

RTE remains committed to ensure maximal and secure cross-border capacities to the market.