



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
BOARD

DECISION

No. 177, dated 29.06.2026

ON

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 15-MINUTE TIME INTERVAL FOR BALANCING
MARKET OPERATIONS**

Pursuant to Article 16, (5), of Law no. 43/2015 “*On Power Sector*”, as amended; Article 104, point 3, of Law no. 44/2015 “*Administrative Procedures Code in the Republic of Albania*” as well as Article 15 of the *Regulation on ERE organization, operation and procedures*, approved with ERE Board Decision no. 96, dated 17.06.2016; the ERE Board, at its meeting held on 29.06.2026, after reviewing the report no. 449/11, dated 22.06.2026, prepared by the Directorate for Market Monitoring and Renewable Energy Development “*On the implementation of the 15-minute time interval for the operation of balancing market processes*”,

Considering that:

I. Regulatory decision-making in force and the current Market Time Interval

- By Decision No. 327, dated 18.12.2025, “On the implementation of the 15-minute time interval for the operation of balancing market processes”, the ERE Board, among other things, decided to extend the legal effects of point 1 of ERE Board Decision No. 117, dated 03.06.2025, until 30.06.2026, as well as the obligation of the TSO to cooperate with “ALPEX” company and “KESH” company, and to continue communication with all market participants regarding their readiness for the implementation of the 15-minute time interval. Likewise, within the meaning of this decision, OST sh.a. shall report to ERE every month and continue the relevant testing for the implementation of the 15-minute time interval. Also, “KESH” company and “ALPEX” company shall report to ERE every two (2) months, respectively, regarding the implementation of the project enabling the implementation of the 15-minute time interval in the balancing market and on the progress of the selection of the relevant service provider.
- With the extension of the legal effects of ERE Decision No. 117, dated 03.06.2025, until 30.06.2026, the time interval of the processes, including the nominations and the respective imbalance calculations, has continued to be carried out with a 1 (one) -hour time interval for the above-mentioned period.
- The extension of the legal effects of ERE Board Decision No. 117, dated 03.06.2025, until 30.06.2026, was carried out with the purpose of providing the possibility for “TSO” company to prepare for the implementation of the 15-minute resolution interval through the

implementation of Dry Run testing of this interval in the Albanian electricity balancing market, the implementation by “ALPEX” sh.a. of the necessary processes, including testing, so that the power exchange also applies the 15-minute resolution in the electricity market, the engagement of the Balance Responsible Parties in the dry run testing to be carried out by “TSO” company, with the purpose of adopting this resolution in the balancing market, as well as the implementation of the necessary interventions by the balancing service providers with the purpose of providing this service in the balancing market with a 15-minute resolution.

II. Notification of the decision and reporting by the entities

- By the official letter no. 2559/15, dated 24.12.2025, ERE notified the companies “KESH”, “FTL”, “TSO”, “DEVOLL HYDROPOWER”, “AYEN AS ENERGJI”, “AAES” association, “AREA” association, as well as the power exchange operator “ALPEX” company, regarding Decision no. 327/2025.
- Implementing Decision no. 327/2025, point 2, the TSO informed that it has organized online meetings with all market parties, for presenting and discussing every issue encountered during the testing process, as well as to address issues related to the readiness for the implementation of the 15-minute time interval. During the meetings organized by the TSO, it was identified low participation in the tests by both the Balancing Service Providers (OSHB) and by the Balancing Responsible Parties (BRPs), who, in a considerable number of cases, did not submit their nominations, or submitted incomplete schedules that have not been updated with the actual data.
- Implementing Decision No. 327/2025 point 3, the “TSO” has reported on the relevant tests carried out for the implementation of the 15-minute time interval, for the January–May 2026 periods, by the official letter no. 1040, dated 06.02.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 597, dated 10.02.2026; the official letter no. 1775 Prot, dated 05.03.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 848, dated 09.03.2026; official letter no. 2383, dated 03.04.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 1096, dated 08.04.2026; official letter no. 3075, dated 06.05.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 1550, dated 11.05.2026; as well as official letter no. 3633, dated 04.06.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 1791, dated 05.06.2026.
- The reports submitted to ERE contain general information on the steps carried out in the Dry Run for the calculations with a 15-minute resolution by “TSO” company, and consist of the nomination process of the schedules of the participants in the Albanian Balancing Market, the availability commitment auction process, and the energy activation auction process.
- Implementing decision no. 327/2025 point 4, “ALPEX”, by the official letter no. 109, dated 13.02.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 685, dated 19.02.2026, informed that it is in the final stages of the pre-signing process of the contract with the new Service Provider; that the delivery of the trading and clearing platforms for the Albania–Kosovo Day-Ahead Market (DAM) and Intraday Market (IDM) market coupling with Market Time Unit (MTU) resolutions of 60 minutes, 30 minutes and 15 minutes is expected to be completed by 07.05.2026; that the testing with third parties is expected to be carried out from 15.05.2026 until 24.06.2026, whereas the testing with exchange members and clearing members is expected to be completed by 25.06.2026.

18.03.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 449/1, dated 19.03.2026, informed that at HPP “Koman” the implementation of the 15-minute resolution has been completed and, starting from 13.03.2026, the unit is ready for operation, while for HPP “Vau i Dejës”, the respective contractors are continuing the work to enable the implementation of the 15-minute resolution in the respective systems. Subsequently, “KESH” company, with official letter no. 2081, dated 29.04.2026, registered at ERE under protocol no. 449/2, dated 04.05.2026, informed that the implementation of the 15-minute time interval in the generating units of HPP “Fierzë” and HPP “Vau i Dejës” is expected to be completed within June 2026.

III. Hearing Session and the Positions of the Parties

- In order to have a more comprehensive understanding of the progress of this process, including the positions of the other parties, ERE, by official letter no. 449/4, dated 07.05.2026, notified the parties of the hearing session on 21.05.2026 at 11:00 a.m. The hearing session held on 21.05.2026 at ERE was attended by representatives of “TSO”, “FTL”, the “AREA” association, “DEVOLL HYDROPOWER” company, “AAES” association, “AYEN AS ENERGJI” company, “SPV Blue 1” company, also “ALPEX”, “KESH” were notified, in the same manner as the other entities, by official letter no. 449/4, dated 07.05.2026, regarding the held of this hearing session, but did not attend.
- At the hearing session of 21.05.2026, “FTL” company, stated that it has regularly submitted nominations at 15 minutes interval and had cooperated with the TSO to reconcile and understand the effect of switching from one-hour resolution to 15-minute resolution, both in terms of imbalance quantities and costs; “AAES” association stated that it considers it very important that “ALPEX” shall commence testing, so that it may observe the testings carried out by the “TSO” and “ALPEX”, and under these circumstances to review the opportunity to postpone the implementation for other six months; “AYEN AS ENERGJI” company, did not express any position during the hearing session; “DEVOLL HYDROPOWER” company, stated that it is ready to participate in the electricity balancing market with the 15-minutes resolution from 1 July, when the legal effects of ERE Board decision no. 327, dated 18.12.2025 expire.
- At the same hearing session, the “TSO”, expressed its readiness and attitude that this process is technically feasible at any time, informing that its platforms and systems are ready for the 15-minutes resolution in both balancing market and domestic market, and that with the market participants holds monthly meetings regarding this process, as well conducts daily testing according to the processes established in the electricity market, with full readiness maintained on a 24/7 basis.
- “TSO” also recalled that participation, taking into consideration the complexity and financial significance of the process, is considered low, and further informed that the nomination process at the interconnection lines continues to remain at 60-minutes interval, due to which there shall be no nominations at the interconnection at the 15-minutes interval, and such nominations shall be mathematically multiplied or divided in order to reconcile these domestic market intervals with the interconnection scheduling interval.
- “ALPEX” company, stated that during the process of selecting the Market Coupling Service Provider, after the selection of the successful bidder, the new Market Coupling Service Provider, withdrew from the contract-signing process, thereby obliging ALPEX to reopen the procedure for the selection of the new Market Coupling Service Provider. Furthermore,

“ALPEX” informed that it was unable to switch to the 15 minutes resolution on 1 July 2026, due to reasons beyond its control and outside the processes that could be managed by the company itself. When requested to provide a deadline for the termination of this process, ALPEX representative did not provide any timeframe, as the company was still in the process of evaluating the submitted bids.

- “SPV Blue 1” company stated that, during the testing period conducted by the TSO for the operation of 15-minutes interval, in which it actively participated, an artificial increase has been observed in the volume of imbalances due to the fact that part of its nominations are operated through ALPEX, thereby establishing imbalances increase; an issue encountered during operation on the testing platform relates to the nominations submitted to ALPEX for the four consecutive 15-minute intervals, given that the production of the photovoltaic plant is not the same during each of four quarter – hour segments, as well as on the approach in which the balancing service providers submit their bids. In this context, it is considered important that the 15-minutes interval in the balancing market process shall be harmonized with ALPEX switch to the 15-minute resolution, at least during these operational periods, so that the ALPEX testing phase is carried out simultaneously with the testing phase of the TSO.
- “AREA” stated that testing shall be carried out properly and the purpose shall not be forgotten, emphasizing that the switch to 15-minutes interval should not be pursued solely for increasing network security. It further stated that should be analysed to determine what benefits are achieved by 15-minutes interval, whether positive and negative imbalances have been reduced, whether network security is increased and what measures shall be taken to reduce the prices. In this context, it underlined that the imbalance market intends to increase network security through the reduction of imbalances and that the absence of KESH, from the price perspective, is an issue that shall be considered.

IV. Request for information addressed to "KESH" company following the hearing session

- Following the hearing session and considering that “KESH” company is the main service provider in the Republic of Albania, ERE with the official letter no. 449/7, dated 02.06.2026, requested the company to provide information regarding the readiness of the HPP-s under the administration of KESH company for the implementation of the 15-minute scheduling interval.
- By the official letter no. 2659/1 dated 08.06.2026, ERE registration no. 449/9, dated 09.06.2026 “KESH” company, informed ERE that due to the issues encountered by the contractor in implementing the contract, it estimates that the works for “Fierza” and “Vau i Dejës” HPP-s shall be completed within the first 15 (fifteen) days of July.

V. Assessment of the conditions for the implementation of the 15-minute time interval

- As identified above, the necessary conditions have not yet been fulfilled, the conditions required for the switch to a balancing market operating with a 15-minute resolution.
- Among the main conditions remain the harmonisation of the domestic electricity market, the switch to the 15-minute interval in both the market operated by “ALPEX”, and in the balancing market, as well as the completion by the “TSO”, of comprehensive Dry Run testing using the 15-minutes interval with the broadest possible participation of the balancing market participants.

- The harmonization of electricity domestic market, namely balancing market operated by “TSO” company and DAM, IDM markets operated by “ALPEX”, within the same 15-minute interval is necessary to achieve an efficient balancing market aiming the reduction of imbalances and respective costs.
- In order to achieve a comprehensive testing process for the implementation of 15-minutes resolution in the Albanian electricity balancing market the participation of KESH is required, participation with its full capacity as the Principal Balancing Service Provider in Albania.
- Consequently, the extension of the legal effects of Decision no. 327, dated 18.12.2025, until on 31.12.2026 shall serve to achieve the harmonization of time intervals in the domestic market, as well as to increase the efficiency of Dry Run testing carried out by the “TSO” company within this time period.

Decides:

1. The time interval of the processes, including nominations and the respective imbalance calculations, shall continue to operate on a one-hour Market Time Unit (MTU) time interval for the period from 1 July 2026 until 31 December 2026.
2. Market participants shall participate in the Dry Run testing processes organised by “TSO”, by carrying out the scheduling and nomination of programmes at 15-minute intervals, starting from 1 August 2026.
3. By 6 November 2026, “TSO” company shall submit to ERE an assessment report on the implementation of this obligation, as provided on point 2 of this decision, for the testing period 1 August 2026 – 31 October 2026. The assessment report shall clearly identify the list of the participants, any issue encountered during the testing process, as well as the relevant proposal/justification regarding the market’s readiness for the 15-minutes time interval implementation, prior to its application on 1 January 2027.
4. “KESH” and “ALPEX” companies shall report to ERE every two (2) months, respectively regarding the implementation of the project enabling the implementation of 15-minute time interval in the balancing market and on the progress of the respective service provider.
5. The Directorate of Market Monitoring and Renewable Energy Development shall notify the stakeholders of ERE Board Decision.

This Decision shall enter into force immediately.

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

ERE CHAIRMAN

Petrit AHMETI