

THE EUROPEAN ENERGY REPORTS I TO III

Edited by Professor Roggenkamp and Professor Hammer

Published by Intersentia, 2006.

The Belgium publisher Intersentia recently released four new publications in its Energy & Law Series, focussing on the legal frameworks regulating the European energy sector.

The *European Energy Reports I to III*, edited by Professor Roggenkamp and Professor Hammer, are based on papers presented at the European Energy Law Seminars 2003 to 2005. These seminars have been held annually since 1989 in the Dutch town of Noordwijk aan Zee.

The Reports highlight important legal developments in the field of EU and national energy law. Each Report is broken up into individual parts that are prefaced with comprehensive summaries. The range of subject matters dealt with in the Reports is diverse and include competition, antitrust and merger laws applicable in the EU after the liberalisation of the energy sector; laws and regulations to ensure the security of energy supply, especially in view of the increased market competition in Europe; energy regulators; pipeline and gas trading regulations.

For the Australian audience

For the Australian audience, the contributions on underground natural gas and LNG storage and CO₂ sequestration as well as the regulatory frameworks operating in relation to off-shore windfarms are likely to be of particular interest.

Subsurface storage of gases, liquids and even waste is explained from the perspectives of the UK, Italy and the Netherlands. The authors explain the required physical and geological features of potential subsurface storage facilities, the reasons in favour of this type of storage and the typical legal issues including legislative responses, such as the regulation of third-party access to the facility to ensure supply security.

The contribution on CO₂ use and storage in depleted North Sea oilfields provides an in-depth analysis of the technology and legal issues, arguing that the net costs generated by this method render it amongst the cheapest methods to achieve CO₂ emission reductions.

The part dealing with off-shore wind parks provides a broad insight into the legal challenges created by windfarms generally. The contributions from the Netherlands, the UK, Denmark, Germany and Belgium highlight the underlying causes for relocating windfarms off-shore and explain the several layers of international and national law that must be complied with before a development can proceed. Of particular interest are the regulatory methods chosen by the countries to overcome the severely detrimental economic conditions for this form of electricity generation.

The Regulation of Power Exchanges in Europe

The book *The Regulation of Power Exchanges in Europe*, edited by Professor M Roggenkamp and Dr F Boisseleau, containing contributions from the UK, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries, Germany, Austria, Spain, France and Italy, analyses the laws regulating power exchanges in these

countries. The exchanges, a result of the European energy market liberalisation in the mid-1990s, are instrumental to energy trading in Europe. They are spot-markets where electricity is traded on an hourly or *en bloc* basis according to supply and demand. Exploring the role of exchanges in their countries, the authors follow a particular structure to enable the easy comparison of the various markets and jurisdictions.

Conclusion

Several of the topics covered in the books will be only of indirect relevance to Australia. The subject matters are strongly influenced by the specific circumstances of the European Union and the interaction of its supra-national, national and local laws.

However, the books should feature in any library building up a comprehensive collection on energy and renewable energy laws. Many of the regulatory, economic and legal problems encountered in the European Union are likely to become relevant to Australia. The articles are an excellent comparative record of valuable lessons and innovative solutions that could assist Australian regulators, lawmakers and corporations to avoid some of the pitfalls Europe encountered in the early years.

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