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Title - Integration: tool or objective?

While encouraging competition in energy sector the challenge for national regulator lays at developing techniques and approaches to combine infrastructure investments, efficiency, security of supply, consumer and environmental protection. In certain cases the balance of short term goals versus long term strategies should also be taken on board, as even independent regulators can't deny political life cycles and general development trend defined by the Government.

These challenges can be particularly hard to overcome in small isolated markets - vital infrastructure investments are heavily acceptable among relatively small number of consumers, competition requires a sufficient number of competitors, which is hard to achieve within the physical limits, higher risk of political interference. Thus integration to wider regional construct and close relations with neighbouring countries might look like panacea healing multiple negative aspects of national market and providing with an advantages against all the efforts to manage everything on your own.

Still at the core of integration some potential obstacles should also be considered and most evident are the same lack of sufficient infrastructure, its' fragility, non-fulfilled opening of the retail market. It seems that national energy market should achieve some level of maturity in its own efforts first before going into the wider regional combination.