

To: Statnett SF

Date: 5 June, 2026

Subject: Response to Consultation 2026/783 - Updated Guidelines for System Responsibility and Market Terms

Sympower acknowledges Statnett's efforts to align the Norwegian power system with the European Balancing Guideline (EBGL) and the MARI platform. While we supported the transition to automated, 15-minute resolution markets, we must express concern regarding the **increasing complexity of technical requirements** and the **lack of a firm, predictable implementation roadmap**. For flexibility providers, the primary risks are "regulatory fatigue" and "stranded investments" caused by requirements that appear to be in a state of constant flux, and changing while investments have already been decided and committed.

Strategic Concerns: Timeline and Regulatory Stability

Lack of Implementation Certainty

While the mFRR EAM went live in March 2025, the current consultation introduces a suite of new requirements (e.g., mandatory consumption plans, new BESS-specific NVF standards, and EBGL Art. 18 modifications) with staggered or vague implementation windows reaching into 2027 and beyond.

- **Operational Risk:** BSPs must commit significant development efforts and CAPEX to update automated bidding and control logic. Without "locked-in" finality to these rules (*a minima with a set timeframe*), operators risk developing solutions for a moving target.
- **Recommendation:** Statnett should provide an **implementation masterplan** that guarantees technical stability for a minimum of 36 months following the full adoption of the 2027 milestones.

Risk of Requirement Recurrence

The update to the NVF introduces sophisticated modeling (EMT, RMS) and specific BESS functionalities.

- **Concern:** We see a risk that these requirements will be "refined" again shortly after implementation, as evidenced by the scheduled review of mFRR-D.
- **Position:** Constant "iterative" regulation creates a high barrier to entry for new flexibility assets, potentially reducing the very liquidity Statnett seeks to build.

Specific Feedback for BSPs and BESS Operators

A. State of Charge management and "Systematic Deviations"

Under the proposed EBGL Art. 18 updates, BSPs are prohibited from systematically deviating from plans to restore energy balance.

- **The Conflict:** For BESS, SoC management is not a choice but a physical requirement for availability. Strict adherence to this rule without allowing for some deviations for

battery re-balancing could lead to assets being unfairly penalized or forced out of the market.

- **Recommendation:** Define clear, automated protocols for SoC restoration that are recognized as "non-punishable" deviations, provided they occur within transparent parameters.

B. Mandatory Consumption Plans (fos § 8)

The requirement for all balancing market participants (above the specified thresholds) to submit consumption plans starting in 2027 is a significant shift.

- **Complexity for Aggregators:** For BSPs managing portfolios of distributed assets, providing granular, node-specific consumption plans adds a layer of administrative friction.
- **Recommendation:** Statnett should allow for **aggregate reporting** at the bidding zone (or station group) level for distributed resources, rather than requiring individual unit plans for every asset in a flexibility group.

C. Technical Adaptations for BESS (NVF Updates)

The requirement for BESS to provide reactive power and STATCOM functionality across the entire range from $\$P_{\{min\}}$ to $\$P_{\{max\}}$, including at $\$P_0$:

- **Assessment:** This is a high technical bar that may require hardware retrofits for older BESS installations.
- **Recommendation:** Sympower requests a **grandfathering clause** for existing BESS assets that were commissioned under previous NVF versions, ensuring they are not retroactively disqualified from market participation.

D. Risks of Volume Restrictions and Regulatory Volatility

Sympower expresses serious concern regarding the introduction of volume limitations for controllable flexibility in grids below 110 kV. The implementation of a 3 MW cap per 'defined geographic area' for prequalified reserves - while the specific definitions of these 92 areas remain unclear - creates immediate investment uncertainty for Balancing Service Providers and Resource owners (e.g industrial sites).

Furthermore, the upcoming Nordic-wide volume limitations for Static FCR-D, scheduled for September 2026, introduce a 'capacity ceiling' that directly impacts the commercial viability of Commercial and Industrial demand-side portfolios. These overlapping restrictions, combined with the lack of a finalized implementation masterplan, place operators at high risk of 'stranded development' costs.

Given that several measures are already designated for review as early as 2029, there is a distinct risk of moving goalposts that deters long-term commitment to the Norwegian flexibility market.

- **Recommendation:** Sympower urges Statnett to provide a transparent, 36-month regulatory 'freeze' on these technical standards following their full adoption to ensure operators can recover the necessary CAPEX for IT and control logic upgrades

- We request the immediate publication of the areas with restriction for the volume to be procured. Without this clarity it is impossible to size the financial and operational impact.
- We believe the restrictions should not be applied to the prequalified volume, but to the bids. This would allow for competition between market players, lower prices, while solving the congestion issue.

Conclusion

Sympower is committed to being a proactive partner in Statnett's transition to a more automated and European-integrated grid. However, for the flexibility market to thrive, Statnett must provide:

1. **A definitive, non-shifting timeline** for all 2026/2027 changes.
2. **Regulatory "certainty" periods** where technical requirements are frozen to allow for market maturity.
3. **Proportionality** in reporting requirements for demand-side and distributed assets.