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# EASEE-gas

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European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange - gas

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## Common Business Practice

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Number: 2019-001/01

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Subject: Agreement update & Certificate exchange

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Approved: 22-10-2019

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### Summary

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This Common Business Practice specifies the method of agreement update messages and transmitting certificates electronically using AS4.

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CBP 2019-01/01 – Version 1, final

31 **About EASEE-gas**

32 <https://easee-gas.eu/about-easee-gas>

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34 **Version List**

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Number/ Version	Approved	Implementation date
0.4	TSWG	
1	ExCom	22-10-2019

36

37 **Reference List**

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Reference	Document name	Version
1	Explanatory Notes Agreement update	1

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**Common Business Practice 2019-001/01:**  
**“Agreement update & Certificate exchange”**

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**1. APPLICATION AREA**

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45 The adoption of this Common Business Practice means that EASEE-gas members will  
46 use the proposed standard way of setting up agreements and change certificates  
47 using AS4 [AS4].

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**2. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

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50 This CBP therefore encourages EASEE-gas members to use the agreement update  
51 messages according to the AS4 ENTSOG profile [AS4PROF] and in addition use the  
52 EASEE-gas certificates of which the public keys can be exchanged using AS4.

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54 The main benefits include:

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- Certificate updates are distributed securely, using signed and encrypted AS4 messages, between peers.

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- The certificate updates are linked to the messaging configurations to which they apply.

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- The updates are in a structured XML format that supports both automated and manual validation and loading.

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- Certificate updates can be introduced without shutting down the AS4 system and/or stopping the exchange of AS4 messages. In principle, the concept even works in critical, massively high volume situations where messages are exchanged every second of every hour.

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- Correct and consistent deployment of new certificate configurations can be tested using the embedded ebMS3 test service.

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- Existing and updated certificate configurations can be used in parallel during a transition phase.

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- Individual certificates can be updated. There is no need to synchronize multiple certificate updates.

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**3. IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

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73 The implementation of this CBP shall be as soon as practical but not later than the  
74 start of the next EASEE-gas certificate migration project (Q3-2020). The expiration  
75 date of the certificates released in 2018 is Q3 2021. The implementation of the CBP  
76 will be monitored by the TSWG.

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#### 78 **4. TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED**

79 The OASIS ebCore Agreement Update [AU] specification provides a flexible  
80 mechanism for exchanging certificates and for managing and updating security  
81 configurations for signing and encryption of ENTSOG AS4 messages.

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83 The ENTSOG AS4 profile mandates support for Agreement Update.

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85 The AS4 messaging software must be capable of handling multiple communication  
86 agreements and associated certificates. We encourage stakeholders to actively  
87 request support for this feature towards their messaging software vendors and/or  
88 service providers.

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#### 90 **5. COMMUNICATION DETAILS OVERVIEW**

91 Before being able to use Agreement Update an existing AS4 connection must be in  
92 place. This means that the initial message handling system setup is out of scope of  
93 this CBP.

94

##### 95 *ENTSOG compliance*

96 Sections 4.1 and 4.4 of the Agreement Update specification provide information on  
97 the use of ebCore Agreement Update with ebMS3 and AS4. [AU]. Agreement Update  
98 in ENTSOG AS4 uses AS4 itself to communicate the configuration updates. [AS4AAA]

99

100 For the AS4 messaging software, these update messages are just payloads targeting  
101 a specific pre-identified service. The update messages defined in the Agreement  
102 Update can be processed in various ways, from fully automatic to manual, as long as  
103 any updates to the AS4 messaging software configuration can be done using the  
104 product's configuration API.

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#### 106 **6. PROCESS**

107 The goal is to have the transition ready before Q3-2020.

108 The aim for EASEE-gas will be to NOT organise a MoC in 2021 for AS4.

109 The TSWG will closely monitor the progress of the implementation.

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112 **7. DEFINITIONS**

113 AS4: Applicability Statement 4 [AS4], a web services based protocol for  
 114 transporting documents.

115 ENTSOG: The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas  
 116 <http://entsog.eu/>.

117 API: Application Programming Interface.

118 TSWG: EASEE-gas Technical Standard Working Group.

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121 **8. REFERENCES**

122

123 [AS4AAA] INT1049-170109\_ENTSOG AS4 Agreements and Agreement.  
 124 [https://entsog.eu/interoperability-and-data-exchange-nc#as4-](https://entsog.eu/interoperability-and-data-exchange-nc#as4-supporting-documents)  
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127 [AS4PROF] INT0488-170328 ENTSOG AS4 Usage Profile for TSOs V3 R5 2017-03-  
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129 [https://entsog.eu/interoperability-and-data-exchange-nc#as4-](https://entsog.eu/interoperability-and-data-exchange-nc#as4-documents-for-implementation)  
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132 [AS4] AS4 Profile of ebMS 3.0 Version 1.0. OASIS Standard, 23 January  
 133 2013.

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 135 [profile/v1.0/AS4-profile-v1.0.html](http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/profiles/AS4-profile/v1.0/AS4-profile-v1.0.html)

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 138 Committee Specification.

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