

## EUROGAS STATEMENT ON SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE GAS SECTOR

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The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the US have introduced a new dimension of security threat to Western society and way of life including its vital energy and industry.

The 11 September events have raised the gas industry's consciousness of security risk to its installations and operations which proceed under different conditions and circumstances in the different locations. Existing security precautions and measures have been reinforced and a number of new measures taken. The companies are in the process of assessing new risks introduced by new types and new scales of aggression, in particular with the aim of limiting damage and restoring normal supply operations within a short time. This process includes co-operation among the companies in sharing useful knowledge and experience and in securing mutual assistance in cases of security incidents.

The European gas sector, like other process industry sectors, is subject to well developed safety regulations which aim at protecting the public and the environment against major accidents hazards and their effects, under predictable safety risk circumstances linked to the type of operations concerned. The safety record of the European gas industry in this sense is excellent. Security risk however is a different matter involving direct human aggression which is not governed by law of nature and statistical probability of an accident happening but by intentional action at unpredictable times and places. Security risk is not new at an incidental and limited scale, and local physical aggression has happened to gas infrastructure in past years, without catastrophic consequences fortunately.

Security officers of European gas companies have engaged in joint consultation on these matters in the framework of Eurogas.