

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Eurogas announces 2.5% increased Natural Gas Consumption in Europe in year 2001**

Brussels, February 2002

**According to preliminary figures and estimates from Eurogas Member Countries, total natural gas consumption in Western Europe<sup>1</sup> increased by 2.5% in 2001 in comparison to 2000.**

Consumption amounted to 15,839 (PJ) i.e. 406 billion cubic metres (BCM)<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 341 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE)<sup>3</sup>, when in 2000 it had reached almost 15,458 PJ / 396 BCM / 332 MTOE.

The steady growth trend of natural gas consumption, even in times of low economic growth is reflecting the environmental and economic benefits of using natural gas, which remains the preferred fuel in the energy market.

The increase with 2.5% of natural gas consumption in Western Europe in year 2001 was the overall result of the following developments:

- significant increase in the number of household-customers and a steady increase in the numbers of customers in all other sectors combined with colder weather conditions,
- slightly lower consumption in the sector of industry due to lower economic growth in year 2001,
- firm increase in gas consumption for power generation in many countries, both by electricity companies and by industrial customers for auto-production of electricity.

The lower consumption in the sector of industry reflecting less economic growth in year 2001 was more than compensated by higher consumption owing to increased numbers of household customers and to colder temperatures. Still, the historical record shows a long term average of lower temperature years than 2001.

At the end of year 2001 more than 81 million customers were connected to the Western European natural gas grid.

While natural gas consumption has been increasing across Europe the rate of change has varied between countries. Negative to low growth was recorded in a few major gas consuming countries (The Netherlands, UK, Italy). Other countries showed well above average growth rates (Switzerland, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, France) with even high bracket figures for the gas markets in Luxembourg, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, Spain and Austria. Spain showed good growth in gas consumption, but it was lower than in 2000 because of lesser industrial sector growth in a low economy context, and because of warm weather conditions. In Austria the competitiveness of natural gas used for power generation in the last months of the year and the expansion of the distribution grid resulted in increased consumption. In Finland higher market electricity prices and colder weather conditions especially in December produced the higher consumption.

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<sup>1</sup> See tables below

<sup>2</sup> Applied calorific value : 39MJ/cubic metre GCV

<sup>3</sup> Applied calorific value : 41.86 PJ/MTOE NCV

Very good sectoral developments were recorded in The Netherlands with high growth of natural gas in the sector of power generation. Colder weather conditions and rising numbers of connected customers strongly increased the consumption in the residential and commercial sector in Germany as well in The Netherlands and in Belgium.

Total supplies to Western Europe (indigenous production and imports) amounted to 15810 PJ / 405 BCM / 340 MTOE, and were slightly lower than consumption. The difference was withdrawn from storage.

Indigenous production (Norway included) remained the main source of supplies with two thirds of total; one third was supplied by Russia, Algeria and others.



Eurogas is the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry. In 2001, the Member Companies of Eurogas employed more than 165.000 persons.

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## DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN \* NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION 2000-2001

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2000																					
	A	B	CH	CZ	D	DK	E	F	FIN	GR	H	I	IRE	L	NL	P	S	SK	T	UK	WESTERN EUROPE
PJ	282,9	623,0	113,2	343,6	3250,0	179,5	704,9	1655,0	158,7	77,6	450,1	2682,6	160,0	31,2	1628,3	94,2	36,8	286,5	581,0	3780,0	15457,8
BCM**	7,3	16,0	2,9	8,8	83,3	4,6	18,1	42,4	4,1	2,0	11,5	68,8	4,1	0,8	41,8	2,4	0,9	7,3	14,9	96,9	396,4
MTOE**	6,1	13,4	2,4	7,4	69,9	3,9	15,2	35,6	3,4	1,7	9,7	57,7	3,4	0,7	35,0	2,0	0,8	6,2	12,5	81,3	332,3
billion kWh**	78,6	173,1	31,4	95,4	902,8	49,9	195,8	459,7	44,1	21,6	125,0	745,2	44,4	8,7	452,3	26,2	10,2	79,6	161,4	1050,0	4293,8

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2001 (PRELIMINARY)																					
	A	B	CH	CZ	D	DK	E	F	FIN	GR	H	I	IRE	L	NL	P	S	SK	T	UK	WESTERN EUROPE
PJ	305,6	614,0	117,8	368,8	3390,0	186,9	763,0	1743,9	171,9	76,0	495,9	2720,9	166,7	35,7	1619,0	108,4	40,5	286,7	627,0	3779,0	15839,3
BCM**	7,8	15,7	3,0	9,5	86,9	4,8	19,6	44,7	4,4	1,9	12,7	69,8	4,3	0,9	41,5	2,8	1,0	7,4	16,1	96,9	406,1
MTOE**	6,6	13,2	2,5	7,9	72,9	4,0	16,4	37,5	3,7	1,6	10,7	58,5	3,6	0,8	34,8	2,3	0,9	6,2	13,5	81,2	340,5
billion kWh**	84,9	170,6	32,7	102,4	941,7	51,9	211,9	484,4	47,7	21,1	137,8	755,8	46,3	9,9	449,7	30,1	11,3	79,6	174,2	1049,7	4399,8

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION CHANGE 2000/2001 (PRELIMINARY)																					
	A	B	CH	CZ	D	DK	E	F	FIN	GR	H	I	IRE	L	NL	P	S	SK	T	UK	WESTERN EUROPE
	8,0%	-1,4%	4,1%	7,3%	4,3%	4,1%	8,2%	5,4%	8,3%	-2,1%	10,2%	1,4%	4,2%	14,4%	-0,6%	15,1%	10,1%	0,1%	7,9%	0,0%	2,5%

\* Norway, though a major gas producer, has insignificant inland consumption

\*\* The results are based on petajoule, the applied calorific values (39 MJ / cubic metre GCV, 41.86 PJ / MTOE NCV, NCV = 0.9 GCV) are representing an European average. Results in other units than petajoule shall give an indication and can vary for countries using a different conversion factor than the European average.