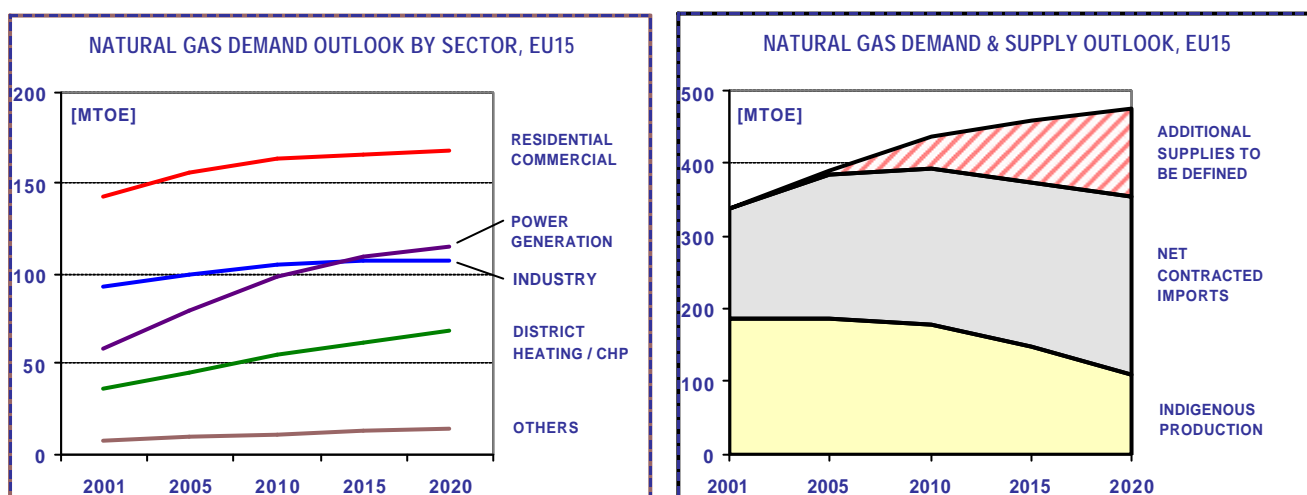


## PRESS RELEASE

**On the occasion of EUROGAS General Assembly in Copenhagen on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2003, President Gadonneix stressed the role of industry in ensuring security of supply to the enlarged European Union and announced the new Eurogas structure.**

“With a growing demand of Natural Gas in the next two decades in the enlarged Union, Industry will need to take the appropriate investment decisions. These decisions are largely dependent on its capacity to respond to market signals, but also on the legal and regulatory environment which should be supportive. Positive investment climate and sufficient entrepreneurial flexibility must be ensured”.



The Natural Gas Industry is confident of meeting the challenges of growing gas demand in the enlarged Union provided some key conditions are fulfilled.

At a recent hearing of the European Parliament on security of energy supply, Eurogas called for a continued and structured dialogue between Member States, the European Institutions, producing countries, and Industry on these issues which should provide a sound basis for achieving our common strategic objective. However, Eurogas also warned against the risk of over-regulation of natural gas markets and related industry activities.

At the Copenhagen General Assembly Eurogas adopted a plan leading to an opening of its membership. In this respect the Eurogas membership will be composed of three distinct categories of members: major European natural gas companies, national federations and interested European associations. This new structure reflects the readiness to adapt Eurogas to the new changes in the European gas markets. As a major contributor to the economic, environmental and social development, Eurogas wishes to reinforce its advocacy towards the EU and other institutions and stakeholders.

***Eurogas is the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry representing the European natural gas industries of 19 countries towards the EU, all other relevant international institutions and stakeholders.***

**For more information, please contact Eurogas at: Avenue Palmerston 4, B-1000 Brussels, Tel: +32.(02).237.11.11, E-mail: [eurogas@eurogas.org](mailto:eurogas@eurogas.org), Web site: [www.eurogas.org](http://www.eurogas.org)**