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## PRESS RELEASE

### EUROGAS CONFERENCE ADDRESSES ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AN ENLARGED NATURAL GAS MARKET

At its spring conference in Brussels today Eurogas, the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry, addressed some of the important issues arising from the demands of sustainable development within an enlarged energy market. More than 150 delegates at the conference representing business, the European Commission, international public institutions such as the Energy Charter, the International Energy Agency, consumer organizations, trade unions, trade associations and other stakeholders, heard key note speeches from leading players in the European gas industry.

In his opening remarks, Pierre Gadonneix, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Gaz de France and President of Eurogas said that:

“The challenge of sustainability demands that we define the contours of a European energy strategy that is both viable and beneficial to everyone. There is no doubt that market opening will provide final customers with an ever wider and more sophisticated range of energy choices but we must not forget that market opening demands a clear and harmonized regulatory framework.”

He added that: “the European regulatory framework must be flexible and pragmatic, taking into account the specific economic and industrial characteristics of natural gas. A sustainable Europe in energy terms is not possible without an enduring sense of industrial responsibility.”

Mr. Gadonneix said that: “The Kyoto objectives may become an impediment if Europe, now struggling to return to growth, is unable to remain competitive and if we act in isolation.”

In conclusion he commented that: “natural gas is currently on the crest of a wave, but one day soon, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration technologies will bring coal back into favor for power generation. and nuclear power will no longer be rejected wholesale by public opinion. We all know that we must not rest on our laurels, but continue to make natural gas the energy of the future while maintaining economic, social and environmental benefits.”

Other speakers at the event, held at the Hotel Hilton in Brussels, included George Verberg - CEO of Gasunie, Enrico Aceto – President of GERG, Klaus Homann – President of Marcogaz, Claude Mandil - Executive Director IEA, Dominique Ristori of DG TREN, Simon Lewis – Managing Director Europe of Centrica, Ria Kemper – Secretary General of the Energy Charter.

A full copy of Mr. Gadonneix’s speech and copies of other speaker presentations will be available on the Eurogas web-site: [www.eurogas.org](http://www.eurogas.org)

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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.

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