

## PRESS RELEASE

### EUROGAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY –BRUSSELS 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2005

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**Eurogas, the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry held its General Assembly this morning at the Renaissance Hotel Brussels.**

The date of the General Assembly coincides with the presentation by the Commission to the EU Council of the 2005 Progress Report on the functioning of the internal gas and electricity markets and of the report of DG Competition inquiry. Eurogas discussed these two important preliminary reports and their contents and will analyze them further.

Eurogas considers that the evaluation of the gas market should adequately take into account the global nature of the natural gas business. As reflected in our annual report ([www.eurogas.org](http://www.eurogas.org)) the growing dependency on other production areas is an important factor. Therefore it is very important that the needed competition within the European internal market should take this into account.

Eurogas will pursue the dialogue with the EU in this field and strongly encourages the completion of the internal energy market and the EU wide fair and transparent competition while meeting the challenge of the increasingly global nature of the natural business. Eurogas takes this occasion to support fully the objectives of the internal gas market and to participate actively in the dialogue to assess progress in this field.

This General Assembly gave Eurogas also the occasion to welcome officially two new members, **the Russian Gas Society** and **GERG**.

GERG, "Groupement européen de recherche du gaz" is the representative body coordinating R/D projects relevant to the natural gas industry. GERG will join as a full "Association" member from 1 January 2006.

The Russian Gas Society represents the vast majority of gas companies in Russia including Gazprom and will join Eurogas from 1 January 2006 as an "Affiliate" member. Eurogas and the Russian Gas Society will cooperate in events such as conferences and joint workshops. Exchange of information will take place regularly in the economic, legal and regulatory fields.

The policy session as the second part of the General Assembly introduced key policy areas and future Eurogas activities and also welcomed the visit of Ian Cronshaw, Head of the International Energy Agency's Energy Diversification Division who talked about the likely scenarios and the role of natural gas.

The next General Assembly will be held next 23 June in Bratislava, Slovak Republic and will be organized jointly with the Eurogas member SPP - The Slovak Gas Industry.

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