

PRESS RELEASE

EUROGAS TOOK POSITION AT THE GAS COORDINATION GROUP ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE SECURITY OF SUPPLY IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE FOLLOWING THE GAS DISPUTE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Eurogas participated yesterday morning at the meeting organized by the European Commission in Brussels on the consequences of the gas row between Naftogaz and Gazprom on gas imports price rises which temporarily reduced gas flows in some other countries importing Russian gas. This high level meeting has been decided on an informal basis upon short notice by the Commission.

Eurogas, the European wholesale and retail gas supply organization joined in the second session of the meeting with the Commission representatives and the delegations of the 25 EU Member States and of the accession countries Romania and Bulgaria, to contribute to the discussion on the security of supply related issues. The Eurogas delegation was composed of E.ON Ruhrgas, Gaz de France and Eurogas secretariat representatives. **Eurogas** welcomed the timely organization of this meeting.

Eurogas is happy relieved that the temporary problem of the reduced gas delivery due to the disagreement between Naftogaz and Gazprom had lasted a very short time as the two parties have quickly found a settlement on a commercial basis. The predominant interest of the partners involved including Gazprom's interest in maintaining its high reputation as a reliable supplier and Naftogaz as a safe transit operator has ensured that the problems were of short duration.

Eurogas endorses the emphasis given by several Member States to the importance of the diversification of gas supplies and transport and transit routes. This confirms the need for a climate conducive to the necessary investments in infrastructure and, to facilitate diversification, the necessity for the European gas market to be able to attract volumes of gas in a competitive global gas market on a long term basis.

Eurogas sees in the Directive 2004/67 on measures to safeguard security of natural gas supply to be transposed into national law by May 2006, a suitable framework enabling the EU to respond to any future gas supply disruption.

Eurogas welcomes the discussion on gas security of supply in relation to the announced green paper and looks forward to participate in the future dialogue.

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