

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EUROGAS DISCUSSED THE THE PROPOSED EU ENERGY PACKAGE OF LIBERALIZATION

The General Assembly of Eurogas took place today in Brussels and debated the latest proposals on the gas market.

In his speech, the President of Eurogas Mr. Domenico Dispenza, Chief Operating Officer ENI Gas & Power focused on the third package of liberalization of gas. He insisted on the fact that Eurogas will continue systematic dialogue with the EU and reiterated the openness and the positive attitude of the industry in responding to the current challenges of the 3<sup>rd</sup> package.

Eurogas adopted a common position on Article 22 of the proposed directive on third party access and ownership unbundling exemptions in the area of large projects of infrastructure investments. Eurogas endorsed the need for improvements to ensure a more harmonized approach to the current working of Art. 22 and welcomed the principle of a clearer procedure for handling cross-border projects by the Agency of European Regulators and a clearer timetable for the processing of the request of exemptions. Moreover the infrastructure building, timing and operation should be addressed in a time scale to be proposed in each final decision but not in the directive. Development of huge international infrastructure projects is complex and time consuming, facing a number of social, economic and administrative burdens. Therefore Eurogas stressed that each decision should be handled on a case by case basis.

Another major position dealt with the increase of powers of the national regulatory authorities, which should be guided by transparency, accountability and impact assessment rules. Eurogas also expressed detailed views on the proposed powers of the Commission to adopt guidelines on a wide range of subjects and the interaction of national regulators, the Agency for the cooperation of energy regulators, the Commission and the European network of transmission system operators for gas.

The General Assembly welcomed a European Commission (DG TREN) representative, Mr. Jean-Arnold Vinois, who presented the Commission's view on the current energy legislative package. Mr. Vinois stressed the recent developments of the Gas Coordination Group in the context of global security of supply issues and the cooperation with the European industry.

The General Assembly was also addressed by Mr. Burckhard Bergmann Vice President of Eurogas and Chairman of the Executive Board of E.ON Ruhrgas AG. He spoke about his vision of a sustainable way forward for natural gas in Europe. President Dispenza expressed his appreciation on the unique contribution of Mr. Bergmann to security of supply policy and to the European energy scene.

A new membership request has been approved by the Eurogas Assembly: South Hook Gas Ltd. joined Eurogas as a full corporate member. The principal operations of the company include purchase of LNG and sale of gas. Eurogas looks forward to a long and fruitful cooperation.

**Eurogas is a Brussels based non profit making organization and has the following members : Asociación Española del Gas – SEDIGAS (ES), Association Française du Gaz - AFG (F), Bord Gáis Éireann – BGE (IRE), BOTAS\* (TR), BP plc (UK), Bundesverband der deutschen Gas- und Wasserwirtschaft – BGW (DE), Centrica plc (UK), Czech Gas Union – CPU (CZ), DEPA (GR), DONG A/S (DK), E.ON Ruhrgas AG (DE), EDF (F), Edison, (IT) Electrabel – Distrigas (BE), Electricité de France (F), Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft Laufenburg AG - EGL AG (CH), EnergieNed (NL), ENI S.p.A. (IT), European Gas Research Group - GERG (EU), Fachverband der Gas- und Wärmeversorgungsunternehmen – FGW (AT), Gas Natural SDG (ES), Gasum Oy (FIN), GasTerra (NL), GAZBIR\* (TR), Gaz de France (FR), G-E Association of Gas Distribution Companies (HU), HNG (DK), GEOPLIN (SI), IZGAZ\* (TR), Geoplin d.o.o. (SI), OMV Gas International GmbH (AT), Polish Oil and Gas Company – POGC (PL), Romgaz\* (RO), Russian Gas Society\* (RU), RWE Gas Midstream GmbH (D), Slovak Gas Industry – SPP (SK), South Hook Gas Ltd (UK), SOTEG s.a. (LU), Swedish Gas Association (SE), Swiss Association of Gas Industry (CH), Swissgas (CH), Synergrid-Febeg (BE), Transgás s.a. (PT), Union Fenosa Gas S.A. (ES), Verbundnetz Gas AG – VNG AG (DE), WINGAS GmbH (DE) \* Associate Members**