

PRESS RELEASE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EUROGAS OF BOLOGNA ELECTS NEW EUROGAS PRESIDENT AND WELCOMES THE ACCESSION OF EDF, RWE AND UNION FENOSA GAS

The General Assembly of Eurogas took place today in Bologna, Italy and elected Mr. Domenico Dispenza, COO, ENI S.p.A. - Gas & Power Division, new President of Eurogas. The Assembly welcomed three new members joining Eurogas this year, EDF, France, RWE Gas Midstream GmbH, Germany and Union Fenosa Gas S.A*., Spain.

In his speech Mr. Dispenza, reasserted the importance of the full and timely implementation of the existing internal market legislation. He stressed the need for harmonization of powers and a clear definition of the competences of energy regulators. The improvement of regional cooperation among TSOs and a better use of existing interconnections and import capacity were also underlined.

Security of supply of natural gas to Europe is a second important pillar he addressed. Security of supply depends on four factors: on a consistent and balanced approach between the Internal Market and external dimension considerations, the large need of investments, the European dialogue with producers and transit countries and a stable regulatory and political framework. *"A continuous exchange of views and expertise between the main producers and suppliers to Europe is necessary to the benefit of both our security of supply and their perception of security of demand"*, he said.

In respect of sustainability, Eurogas is fully supportive of the European Commission's policy to meet climate change objectives through increased use of renewables, energy efficiency and emission reduction targets. Member states should be left sufficient flexibility in reaching targets and choosing their own supply mix. Mr. Dispenza underlined the environmental virtues of natural gas and its major contribution to the energy mix.

The General Assembly welcomed a European Commission (DG TREN) representative, Mr. Jean-Arnold Vinois, to present the Commission's view on the current energy package "An Energy Policy for Europe". The General Assembly was also addressed by Mr. Alfonso Gianni, State Secretary for Economic Development and Mr. Ugo Draetta, Professor of International Law at Cattolica University, Milan.

Finally the General Assembly also confirmed the accession of RWE Gas Midstream GmbH, Germany and Union Fenosa S.A., Spain to Eurogas membership. EDF joined Eurogas as full corporate member earlier this year.

* Union Fenosa Gas has joined as associate member. RWE and EDF are full corporate members.

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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 (FR), 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), 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), 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