

PRESS RELEASE

EUROGAS'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES THE COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC ENERGY REVIEW AND REVIEWS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Eurogas, the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry held its General Assembly on 5 December 2008 in Brussels and discussed the Strategic Energy Review II. It discussed priorities for the years to come and welcomed two new members, Latvijas Gaze and Lietuvos Dujos.

The General Assembly debated the Strategic Energy Review II, recently published by the European Commission. Eurogas will provide a comprehensive response to this package including the need to develop new infrastructure. The announced revision of the security of supply directive (2004/67/EC) and the positioning of natural gas in the future energy mix were also addressed.

Eurogas members discussed the priority review of activities of the organization that was launched recently by the Eurogas President, Mr. Dispenza in October this year. The topics of this review are:

- competitiveness and economics of natural gas
- sustainability and positions of natural gas in the energy mix
- security of supply, external relations and dialogue with producers
- internal market build-up and level playing field
- image, role and responsibilities of our industry

The outcome of this review will serve to set up a Roadmap of future priority work areas for Eurogas. This Roadmap will be finalised early 2009.

The likely impact of the financial crisis on the energy agenda was subject to an analysis by Mr. Jonathan Stern from the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. Special attention was given to the risk of slowing down of major gas related investments.

In its final part, the General Assembly welcomed Mr. Jean Vinois, EU Commission DG TREN Head of Unit –“Energy Policy and Security of Supply” who outlined the Commission's views in the Strategic Energy Review.

President Dispenza underlined Eurogas' commitment to support the EU Commission's security of supply objectives and the tools put in place to achieve these but insisted that legal, regulatory and economic conditions should be conducive to encourage investments. The Commission should continue to emphasize the key position of natural gas in the energy mix and the need for a positive investment climate. Eurogas President also insisted on the importance of the role of natural gas in a sustainable energy future, on its contribution to energy efficiency and CO₂ reductions, and on the importance of close dialogue with producing countries.

This General Assembly meeting was also the occasion to welcome two new memberships, Latvijas Gaze (Latvia) and Lietuvos Dujos (Lithuania) who joined the organization late this year. Their Eurogas membership is also a reflection of the growing attention to the development of the natural gas market in the Baltic Region.

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 Energie- und Wasserwirtschaft e.V. – BDEW (DE), Centrica plc (UK), Czech Gas Union – CPU (CZ), DEPA (GR), DONG Energy A/S (DK), E.ON Ruhrgas AG (DE), 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), Galp Energia (PT), Gas Natural SDG (ES), GasTerra (NL), Gasum Oy (FIN), GDF SUEZ (F), GAZBIR* (TR), Geoplin d.o.o. (SI), HNG (DK), IZGAZ* (TR), MGE – Hungarian Gas Association (HU), OMV Gas and Power GmbH (AT), Polish Oil and Gas Company – POGC (PL), Romgaz* (RO), Russian Gas Society* (RU), RWE Supply & Trading GmbH (D), Slovak Gas Industry – SPP (SK), SOTEG s.a. (LU), South Hook Gas Ltd (UK), Swedish Gas Association (SE), Swiss Association of Gas Industry (CH), Swissgas (CH), Synergrid-Febeg (BE), Union Fenosa Gas S.A. (ES), Verbundnetz Gas AG – VNG AG (DE), WINGAS GmbH & CO. KG (DE). * Associate Members

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