

**Eurogas Board meeting endorses Strategic Energy Review II position  
and welcomes new member from Bulgaria**

**The Governing Board of Eurogas met in Brussels, debated the recent crisis, adopted the Eurogas position on the Strategic Energy Review II and welcomed a new company member, Bulgargaz.**

Eurogas and its members acted quickly in helping the European Commission to set up the gas experts team to monitor the gas flows between Ukraine and Russia. A joint communication of Eurogas and of the European Commission was adopted on the second day of the crisis calling for an immediate resumption of the natural gas supplies to Europe, urging both parties to respect their contractual supply and international transit obligations (<http://www.eurogas.org/uploaded/Joint%20Statement%20by%20Eurogas%20and%20the%20European%20Commission%20-%206%20January%202009.pdf>)

The Governing Board had a strategic review of the impact of the January 2009 crisis and stated

- that the market response generally worked well during the crisis,
- that the impact on consumers was limited except in a few countries isolated in the EU energy market,
- that the EU and national administrations should continue to facilitate energy dialogues with producing and transit countries,
- and that further progress should be achieved in ensuring diversity and interconnections especially with isolated countries.

The Board reconfirmed the gas industry's clear priority given to security of supply issues.

Finally, the Eurogas Board welcomed a new member, Bulgargaz, which joined this month. This accession demonstrates the interest of companies from countries which have experienced negative impact in the January crisis to become member of our association and to be more involved in discussions on security of supply issues that take place at European level.

Mr. Matthias Ruete, DG TREN Director General attended the meeting and exchanged views with Eurogas members on the crisis and the impact this could have on the revision of the security of supply directive including future solidarity mechanisms. Mr. Ruete also addressed the progress made in the Trilogue meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> energy market package.

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The Board also endorsed the *paper "Eurogas views on an EU security and solidarity action plan"* which is the umbrella paper of Eurogas' position on the Strategic Energy Review II. Principal approach to security of supply should cover the following:

- Further development of the internal gas market is needed, with improved trading liquidity, interoperability and interconnections to enhance the security of individual Member States as well as Europe as a whole. It is a matter of concern that some Member States are not connected to the main European gas grid or have available only limited interconnection capacity. Possibilities to connect isolated Member States to the main EU gas grid must be investigated as a priority.
- Diversification potential, both of producers and supply routes to Europe, has to be improved.

- Therefore investments are needed in pipelines to Europe and within Europe, and also in LNG terminals/facilities.
- Increased investment in commercial storage over and above that in progress or planned is also essential, as this will not only contribute to short-term market flexibility, but improve security of supply in the longer term.
- Although it is the companies' responsibility to conduct commercial relations with producers, it is important that the EU strengthen energy dialogues with producer and transit countries (current and future). The dialogues should provide a framework for increased co-operation on a range of issues, and be aimed at achieving necessary political assurances from the countries concerned.

The position paper can be consulted in all details on our website <http://www.eurogas.org/uploaded/2009-Mar%20-%2009PP161%20-%20Views%20of%20Eurogas%20on%20an%20EU%20Security%20and%20Solidarity%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

**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), Bulgargaz (BU), 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), 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), 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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