

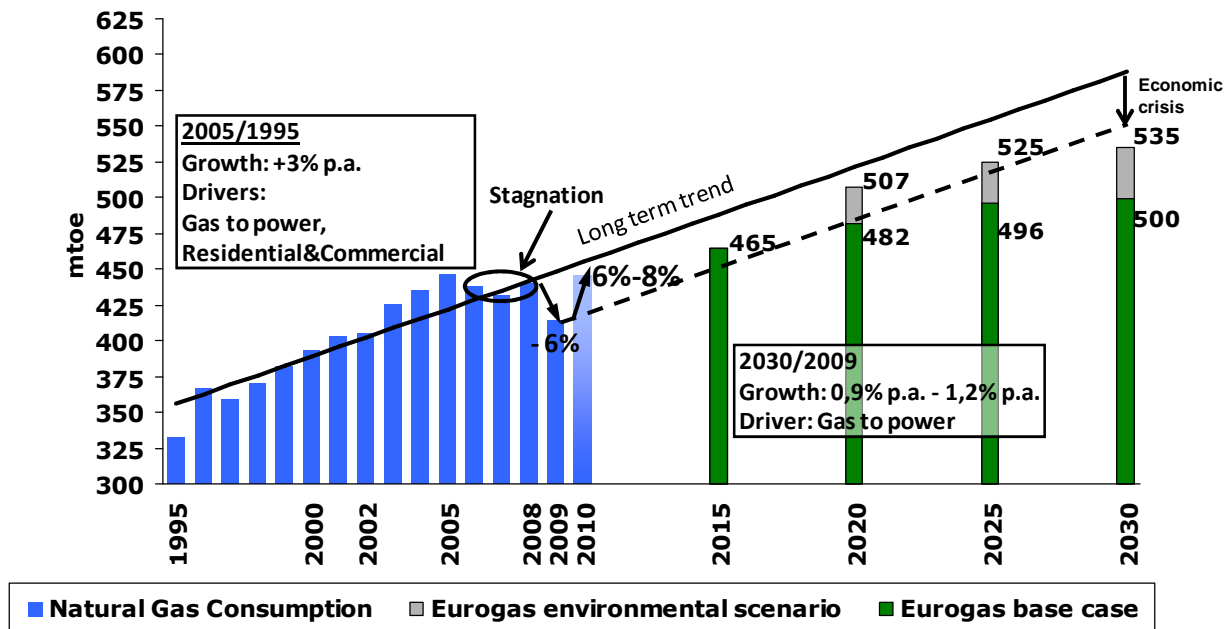
PRESS RELEASE

Eurogas: gas demand in 2010 could return to pre-crisis levels

According to Eurogas' observations gas demand in the EU increased by 12 percent in the first six months of 2010. The main driver for the surge in natural gas consumption was cold weather, which boosted demand for heating in the residential and commercial sectors at the beginning of the year. However, the progressive economic recovery also stimulated gas demand. This was especially visible in energy-intensive sectors, such as chemicals and steel. Finally in most major gas consuming countries in the EU, the improved competitiveness of natural gas prices contributed to the additional use of gas in the power sector.

A Eurogas survey, based on a questionnaire carried out amongst the Association's members, and covering more than 90 percent of the EU market, indicates that European natural gas consumption in 2010 compared to 2009 could increase between 6 and 8 percent. This follows the severe sales losses (of approximately 6 percent) in 2009 versus 2008. EU natural gas demand will recover to pre-crisis level faster than expected and much faster than economic growth which is estimated to be at a rate of 1.8 percent in 2010¹.

In the longer term, the positive natural gas growth trend should be maintained. Based on the highly efficient, proven technologies and environmental friendliness of natural gas, Eurogas expects continuing EU gas demand growth at about 1% per annum, confirming the key role of natural gas in a realistic EU climate policy.



*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), Electricité de France (F), Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft Laufenburg AG (CH), EnergieNed (NL), ENI Distrigas (BE), ENI S.p.A. (IT), ENOVOS Luxembourg S.A. (LU), European Gas Research Group – GERG (EU), Fachverband der Gas- und Wärmeversorgungsunternehmen – FGW (AT), Febeg (BE), Galp Gas Natural s.a. (PT), Gas Natural Fenosa (ES), GasTerra (NL), Gasum Oy (FIN), GDF SUEZ (F), GAZBIR* Natural Gas Distribution Companies Association of Turkey (TR), Geoplin d.o.o. (SI), HMN Naturgas (DK), IZGAZ*(TR), Lietuvos Dujos *(Lithuania), Latvijas Gaze* (Latvia), Marcogaz* (EU), MGE – Hungarian Gas Association (HU), Naftogaz of Ukraine* (UKR), OMV Gas and Power GmbH (AT), Polish Oil and Gas Company – PGNIG (PL), Romgaz*(RO), Russian Gas Society*(RU), RWE Supply & Trading GmbH (D), Slovak Gas Industry – SPP (SK), South Hook Gas Ltd (UK), Swedish Gas Association (SE), Swiss Association of Gas Industry (CH), Swissgas (CH), Total S.A. (F), Verbundnetz Gas AG – VNG AG (DE).*

* Associate Members

¹ Source: European Commission, Economic forecast published on 13 September.