

PRESS RELEASE
**Eurogas President Jean-François Cirelli spoke at
High-Level Stakeholder Conference
on the Future of Energy Policy**

"Innovation towards a low carbon energy system"

Mr. Jean-François Cirelli, President of Eurogas and Vice Chairman and President of GDF SUEZ spoke at the high-level stakeholders' conference organized by the EU Commission on the future of energy policy that took place yesterday in Brussels.

Mr. Cirelli highlighted how gas technology offers 'big wins' in reducing CO₂. Since 1990, the biggest reduction of greenhouse gases in Europe's energy sector was thanks to using gas for power generation instead of other more polluting fuels. *"In the power segment alone emissions of almost 400 Mt CO₂ could be eliminated in the EU by 2020 if one were to substitute the other fossil fuels with natural gas"*, he said.

He also emphasized the essential link between increasing the contribution of intermittent renewable energy sources and the availability of quick-response natural gas.

Natural gas is the driver of efficiency in other areas as well. Home heating, transportation and combined heat and power, can all provide a remarkable amount of energy saving through research and development and efficient modern appliances. Mr. Cirelli said *"As an example, a natural gas vehicle produces 25 to 30% less emissions than a conventional gasoline car"*.

In his conclusions Mr. Cirelli stressed four main messages:

- Natural gas has a key role that must be fully recognized in any energy strategy to 2020 and beyond
- In the short term natural gas is essential both for the increased penetration of renewables and to lower emissions in a CO₂ constrained environment
- In the long term new technologies and the development of unconventional gas offer significant prospects
- Any negative messages on gas from energy planners will risk discouraging industry from making the necessary investments as they give the wrong signal

The conference was opened by EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger who addressed the energy challenges of the next ten years. It involved speakers from European Institutions, energy research institutes, national administrations and from NGOs including climate protection associations and energy consumer organizations.

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