

PRESS RELEASE
Eurogas Annual Conference
and General Assembly
9-10 December, Brussels

Eurogas organised its Annual Conference on 9 December 2010 in Brussels. With the theme "Natural gas to 2020 and beyond" the Annual Conference focused on the role of natural gas in the energy mix, on ways in which natural gas and renewables can work together, and on infrastructure and gas supply. The Eurogas General Assembly took place on 10 December.

The Annual Conference's key note speech was given by the President of Eurogas Mr. Jean-François Cirelli, Vice-Chairman and President of GDF SUEZ. *"We need a stable, coherent and predictable EU regulatory framework on the long term and not rules changing every two years. A long-term vision is hard-wired into the companies that operate in the European gas industry. It is in our DNA. Our relations with suppliers have flourished as a result for that vision. Our customers have benefited from the warmth, light, stability and economic and environmental benefits that have come from those relationships"*.

Session I on the contribution of natural gas on CO₂ reduction included contributions by *Greenpeace, GasTerra, PÖYRY Energy Consulting* and *Eurelectric*. This session dealt with the ways that natural gas and renewable can complement each other. It underlined that the capacity to deliver gas quickly for renewables backup is essential for intermittent wind and solar power to play their full role in a low carbon future. The panel looked at strategic implications and underlined the needs for further investments.

In Session II "Towards a European strategy to promote natural gas" the moderator Mr. Claude Turmes, MEP, Greens/EFA, from Luxembourg underlined the important role of gas in the future energy mix. Mr. Philip Lowe, General Director DG ENER, European Commission, explored what is needed for implementation of the EU Energy 2020 strategy. Mr. Lowe said that investing in energy infrastructure has slowed down in recent years – *"we now invest one quarter of what was spent in 1980"* – and that €600 billion would be needed for transmission and distribution in coming years, mostly from the private sector. The General Manager and the Director of the new entities *ENTSOG* and *ACER* discussed the regulatory context for the construction of new infrastructure. Prospects for unconventional gas in Europe were addressed by Mr. Slawomir Hinc, Vice-President, Polish Oil and Gas Company.

The Eurogas President concluded *"The future of energy is designed today. I hope it will be driven by ambition but also with sufficient realism to draw the most pragmatic, environmentally friendly and financially affordable pathway towards a low carbon energy system for Europe. This means more gas!"*

The General Assembly which took place on 10 December in Brussels approved the Association's comments on proposed financial market legislation, which stressed the need to avoid unintended consequences that may damage well functioning energy markets.

The General Assembly also received a recent Eurogas publication: "The Role of Natural Gas in a Sustainable Energy Market", prepared in cooperation with IGU and presented at the COP 16 in Cancun on 5 December (available [here](#))

Eurogas presented its Statistical Report 2010. The industry data in this report presents the situation of the energy markets in Europe with a special focus on the recovery of natural gas demand in 2010. (available [here](#))

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), Bulgargaz *(BG), Bord Gáis Éireann – BGE (IE), 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 (FR), EGL AG (CH), Energigas Sverige (SE), 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 Gás Natural s.a. (PT), Gas Natural Fenosa (ES), GasTerra (NL), Gasum Oy (FI), GDF SUEZ (FR), GAZBIR* Natural Gas Distribution Companies Association of Turkey (TR), Geoplin d.o.o. (SI), HMN Naturgas (DK), IZGAZ*(TR), Latvijas Gaze*(LV), Lietuvos Dujos *(LT), Marcogaz*(EU), MGE – Hungarian Gas Association (HU), Naftogaz of Ukraine*(UA), OMV Gas and Power GmbH (AT), Polish Oil and Gas Company – PGNIG (PL), Romgaz*(RO), Russian Gas Society*(RU), RWE Supply & Trading GmbH (DE), Slovak Gas Industry – SPP (SK), South Hook Gas Ltd (UK), Swiss Association of Gas Industry (CH), Swissgas (CH), Total S.A. (FR), Verbundnetz Gas AG – VNG AG (DE). * Associate Members