

Press Release

Managing gas supply in the cold weather

Brussels, 3 February 2012 - The President of Eurogas, Jean-François Cirelli, confirms that the tough winter conditions in Europe and Russia have led to a higher demand and a tighter than normal supply situation, particularly in central and eastern Europe.

The 50 members of Eurogas will continue to use all options available to ensure that there is no negative impact on EU customers, i.e. households, industry and others who rely on their supplies or that if there is an impact, this is minimised.

The European gas market is set up in such a way that it can deal with extreme weather conditions that occur from time to time.

Moreover, the industry has made considerable investments in recent years that increase security of supply in general. The European gas grid has been further developed and integrated. Following the adoption of the EU Regulation on security of gas supply, the possibilities to change the direction of the gas flow in the pipelines (reverse flow mechanism) have been increased.

This development adds to the option of drawing on the volumes stocked in gas storage facilities. Thanks to the fact that the winter has been very mild up until now, even more gas is available in storage at present than normal. Whilst the share of LNG has already risen to 25% in EU gas supplies over the past years, extra LNG can be bought from the world market.

The European gas industry will, of course, continue to monitor the situation under these cold weather conditions and is fully committed to managing it in the best interest of their customers.

EUROGAS is a Brussels based non-profit making organisation and has the following members:

AFG - Association Française du Gaz (FR), AGN (PT)*, ANIGAS (IT), BDEW - Bundesverband der Energie - und Wasserwirtschaft e.V. (DE), Bord Gáis Éireann (IE), BOTAS *(TR), BP (UK), Bulgargaz *(BG), Centrica (UK), CPU - Czech Gas Union (CZ), DEPA (GR), Distrigas (BE), DONG Energy (DK), EDF - Electricité de France (FR), Edison (IT), EGL AG (CH), ENA - Energy Networks Association* (UK), Energie-Nederland (NL), Energigas Sverige (SE), ENI (IT), ENOVOS Luxembourg S.A. (LU), E.ON Ruhrgas AG (DE), Febeg (BE), FGW - Fachverband der Gas- und Wärmeversorgungsunternehmen (AT), Gas Natural Fenosa (ES), GasTerra (NL), Gasum (FI), GAZBIR* Natural Gas Distribution Companies Association of Turkey (TR), GDF SUEZ (FR), Geoplin (SI), GERG - European Gas Research Group (EU), HMN Naturgas (DK), Latvijas Gaze* (LV), Lietuvos Dujos * (LT), Marcogaz (EU), Naftogaz of Ukraine* (UA), OMV Gas and Power GmbH (AT), PGNIG - Polish Oil and Gas Company (PL), Romgaz*(RO), Russian Gas Society* (RU), RWE Supply & Trading GmbH (DE), SEDIGAS - Asociación Española del Gas (ES), SHELL Energy Europe Ltd. (UK), South Hook Gas Ltd (UK), Slovenský plynárenský priemysel, a.s. (SPP) (SK), Swiss Association of Gas Industry (CH), Swissgas (CH), Synergrid* (BE), Total S.A. (FR), VNG AG - Verbundnetz Gas AG (DE)

* Associate Members

Eurogas – The European Union of the Natural Gas Industry
Tel: +32 (0)2 894 48 48, E-mail: news@eurogas.org, Web: www.eurogas.org
Avenue de Cortenbergh 172 – B-1000 Brussels - Belgium