

Conference on Social Issues in the Context of the
Energy Community

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Gas

Vienna, 18 October 2007

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euro  gas
THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

A Forum and an Ambassador of the European Natural Gas Industry

Eurogas is a non profit association governed by the Belgian law
Offices are located in Brussels

Objectives:

- To promote the interests of its membership, companies, national federations and associations involved in the supply, trading and distribution of natural gas, and related activities such as storage and LNG.
- To promote the development of natural gas in Europe particularly in the legal, economic, technical and scientific areas to prepare studies and to promote cooperation within the gas industry.
- To promote the smooth functioning of the European internal gas market
- To take stance on issues of interest to the European natural gas industry with respect to international and supra-national organizations including but not limited to the European Institutions and to public opinion.

Areas of Interest for Eurogas

- Internal Market
- Security of Supply
- Competitiveness
- Energy Efficiency
- High Level Group
- Gas Coordination Group
- Regulatory Forum of Madrid
 - Fossil Fuels Forum
 - Sustainable Energy Forum
- South Eastern Energy Community Treaty
- Contribution to the EU Russia Dialogue
- EU Social Dialogue for natural gas

Social Dialogue in the Sector of Natural gas

- Representativity study started early 2005
- The Commission provided Eurogas with questionnaires to be filled by the members
- Eurogas received 27 responses (at that time Eurogas had 35 Members – now 43)
- The answers were submitted to the Commission
- An organisation is representative if its members have a social mandate
- A social mandate means that the company is entitled to negotiate social agreements
- **If no such mandate, then Eurogas - not representative**
 - = > Problem: most of the companies members of Eurogas have delegated their social mandate to employers federations
 - = > Legal problem
 - = > Eurogas and Commission sought solutions
- **Eurogas decided to ask two employers federations to delegate officially a member of their organization to our social committee (Gaz de France and E. ON Ruhrgas)**
 - = > Problem solved !!

Social Dialogue in the Sector of Natural gas

- November 2006 – EU Commissioner Vladimir Spidla sent an official letter to Eurogas informing about the official decision to recognize **Eurogas social partner** for the natural gas sector
- First Sectoral committee took place on 15 March 2007
- A working group was established in July 2007 – first meeting on 12 October in Brussels

Working Programme 2007-2008

- Internal market for gas and EU energy policy issues and their social impact
- Conclusions of Ecotec study
- Impact of demographic evolution on competencies in the gas industry
- Health and safety

Joint Working Group

Enhancement of available data and information about the social reality in the gas sector.

This project is expected to be developed by the joint WG with the support of DG Employment.

Priorities:

- All available data and surveys to be studied in order to identify challenges, lacks of and/or prospective chances of the gas sector's employment situation in place.
- Look at how the EU's future energy policy (liberalization and regulation of markets, unbundling, greenhouse effect, renewable energies) impacts the employment situation in the gas sector.
- Are there specific scenarios to develop (decrease, increase, or status quo) in order to describe the situation? How does the employment evolve under different scenarios?
- What could be expected as a future evolution of this sector on behalf of competencies, technical skills and commercial and managerial behaviour (decrease, stagnation or increase)?

Eurogas and the Energy Community

- Eurogas is supporting the Energy Community from its creation
- Is participating at all the initiatives on natural gas
- For Eurogas it is important that the EU *acquis communautaire* is respected in the framework of the Energy Community
- Eurogas is ready to provide input on number of issues
- A Eurogas task force is closely following the activities of the Energy Community
 - Eurogas took part in the Mini Gas Forum on 11 May 2007, in Vienna
 - ...and in the Energy Community conference on investments, 28 September 2007
 - Eurogas foresees to participate at the 1st official Gas Forum on 9 November 2007, in Maribor, Slovenia

Thank you for your attention

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