

PRESS RELEASE
Infrastructure Package: Need for Consistency with Business Realities
Eurogas Position

In anticipation of the 28th of February Energy Council meeting, Eurogas draws attention to the need for Ministers to ensure that the European approach to supporting policies for natural gas infrastructure must be consistent with business realities.

Eurogas President Mr. Jean-François Cirelli, Vice Chairman and President of GDFSUEZ, has written to the Hungarian Presidency (Minister of National Development Fellegi), and to Energy Commissioner Oettinger, to introduce a key Eurogas Position Paper on the subject.

Eurogas' key points are that:

- Investment in infrastructure requires visibility and security about future use of natural gas in the energy mix. Policies need to be coherent on this.
- Gas shippers need a viable network. This implies a stable and predictable legal framework with adequate remuneration for investors and operators.
- Procedure to identify projects of European interest should be consulted with industry, should use transparent criteria, and consider market requirements, while market distortion should be avoided.

Other issues addressed in the Position Paper are permitting issues and matters related to regional clusters and to the Southern Corridor.

Ministers are expected to address the Commission's proposal for preparation of an infrastructure 'instrument' or 'initiative' that will cover European priority projects with a view to analysis of needs and possible sources of finance for these projects.

The Eurogas President said:

"A sound policy on infrastructure development is essential for a secure and sustainable European Energy Market". He added that "With its extensive experience, the European gas industry is willing to contribute further to this debate".

The position paper can be downloaded at: <http://www.eurogas.org/uploaded/2011-Feb%20-%2011PP142%20-%20Eurogas%20Position%20on%20Infrastructure.pdf>

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