

Press Release

Energy Roadmap 2050: Eurogas agrees with strong role for gas

Brussels, 15 December 2011: Eurogas welcomes the clear recognition in the Commission's *Energy Roadmap 2050* that natural gas 'will be critical for the transformation of the energy system'—a transformation that is needed while attaining Europe's energy objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and supply security.

Eurogas notes a new phase in the policy orientation and recommendations of the *Roadmap*. Natural gas will be central to the future low carbon agenda:

- **Substituting** for higher carbon fuels in high-efficiency generation of electricity;
- **Providing flexibility** in dispatch that will support the further extension of renewables;
- **Opening options** for technological change—in carbon capture and storage, in new high efficiency uses in heating and transport, and in sophisticated energy storage in combination with renewables.

Eurogas welcomes that the *Roadmap* gives 'prime focus' to energy efficiency, where gas equipment has many advantages. We also welcome the Commission's emphasis that 'with evolving technologies, gas might play an increasing role in the future'.

The association also underlines the strong compatibility and partnership between gas and renewable energy.

Eurogas notes an inconsistency between the main *qualitative* and policy messages of the *Roadmap* in relation to gas and the *quantitative* energy balances in the various scenarios that are attached. This inconsistency adds to uncertainty for investors. The Commission comments:

"The scenarios are rather conservative with respect to the role of gas."

Eurogas acknowledges that such scenario exercises have their limitations. This is why they should not prevent flexible approaches to deep decarbonisation. For example, there is no need to depend fully on the electrification of transport and heating. Gas is a carbon-reducing alternative that is instantly available in both sectors.

The *Eurogas Roadmap 2050*¹, published in October 2011, shows flexible options to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80%. Amongst them are new highly-efficient gas and hybrid heating, and trucks running on LNG.

The Energy Roadmap 2050 should trigger clear and reliable policies to make investment in technology and infrastructure attractive. These policies must be diverse, flexible, cost-efficient and compatible at the same time.

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¹ See Eurogas website [link](#) and reference in Introduction to Annex 2 of the Commission's *Energy Roadmap 2050*