

Energy Union: “Maintain momentum in the market and trust the results,” says Eurogas

Brussels, 18 November 2015: Eurogas welcomes the progress that has been made as set out in today’s State of the Energy Union Package published by the European Commission. We support the main thrust of Energy Union policies that are aimed at addressing climate change, as well as achieving a more robust and integrated energy market that delivers secure and affordable energy to meet customers’ needs.

Commenting on this important package, Eurogas Secretary General, Beate Raabe, said:

“Eurogas fully supports the objectives of the Energy Union. We note that the Commission aims to move away from an economy driven by fossil fuels and would urge the distinction in this context between gas and higher carbon fuels if we want to see a cost-efficient, market-based transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy mix. The gas sector through the qualities of our product and the services we offer customers is able to make a vital contribution to this aim. The guidance on governance should bring a welcome transparency to our collective efforts through a range of strategies, to make the necessary progress.”

At the same time, Eurogas supports the recognition in the Energy Union Package that despite progress more remains to be done, especially to bring the benefits of an interconnected energy market to all parts of Europe. Eurogas applauds the progress already made in physical connections, but these steps have to be supported by a greater readiness to cooperate cross-borders at all levels, government, regulators and transmissions systems operators (TSOs), in implementing energy market legislation and regulation.

“The energy market is changing fast and if it is truly to meet the needs of Europe’s economy and our citizens, a concerted approach is required to maintain momentum in the market and trust in its results,” added Ms. Raabe.

Eurogas considers that customer needs should be at the centre of policy-making for a sustainable, affordable, and secure energy system. A competitive energy market will benefit all customers, including the most vulnerable. Eurogas engages fully in dialogue to find sound approaches to these goals, especially mindful of the increasing concerns for the vulnerable in our society. There are different categories of vulnerable customers and measures to assist those who have difficulty paying their bills should be well targeted and not distort the competitive energy market. Well-designed use of energy efficiency products tailored to the circumstances within Member States and their frameworks can alleviate problems for such customers, while at the same time addressing a range of Energy Union aims. Gas-fired technologies have a key role to play here.

Note to Editors: Eurogas is an association representing 44 companies and associations engaged in the wholesale, retail and distribution of gas in Europe. Eurogas provides data and information relevant to EU decision makers and opinion formers in making the right policy choices.

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