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The European Union of the Natural Gas Industry

Press Release

"Climate policy in Europe does not recognise advantages of gas," says Eurogas

Gas consumption decreased by 10% in 2011 in the EU, according to the latest *Statistical Report* of Eurogas – the association representing the wholesale, retail and distribution sectors of gas. Good news for the climate now there is a bigger market share of renewables, up 5% compared with 2010? Yes definitely, BUT at the same time higher carbon solid fossil fuels, such as coal, rose by 3% as a result of the low coal price. With gas demand expected to remain under pressure, early indications from the Eurogas data in October suggests that gas demand in Europe is likely to register a slight decrease of 1% in compared with 2011.

"Energy pricing discourages the use of gas and sets a negative trend for the climate," argues Beate Raabe, Secretary General of Eurogas. "While the commodity price of gas and coal is – and should be – determined by supply and demand, the political and legislative framework is responsible for sanctioning emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions, as well as other emissions, would tumble with a larger use of gas complementing the growth of renewables. Energy and climate policy is not bringing this about and is therefore in urgent need of review."

Eurogas has always supported, and its own Roadmap has shown flexible options for, moving towards a low-carbon energy system. Hence, we are encouraged that the use of renewable energy sources other than hydro in primary energy consumption rose by 5%, compared with 2010 – according to the Eurogas statistical findings.

Yet, we are disappointed that EU energy trends are not climate-friendly. The use of gas declined by 10%, whereas that of higher carbon solid fossil fuels rose by 3%. The reason is mainly that coal is relatively cheap and that current energy and climate policy in the EU does not sufficiently recognise the advantages of gas.

The Eurogas *Statistical Report 2012*, which was drafted by the association's statistics experts, presents energy data for the EU Member States,[1] Switzerland and Turkey, with a main focus on natural gas statistics. The report covers energy data available as of December 2012. Among its other main findings:

- On the gas production side, gas supplies from EU Member States accounted for 33% of total net supplies and were still by far the largest source for EU customers. This was followed by Russia (24%), Norway (19%) and Algeria (9%), delivered both by pipeline and as liquefied natural gas (LNG). Other sources from different parts of the world contributed the remaining 15%.

- When considering net gas imports to the EU from non-EU countries, 25% was delivered as LNG. LNG regasification capacity of the EU has more than doubled in the past five years.

- Six new storage facilities were introduced in the EU in 2011, and capacity is expected to continue increasing in the coming years.

- Global gas reserves continued to rise around the world, adding further to the security of supply.

The Eurogas *Statistical Report 2012* is available online. Print copies can be obtained by contacting the Eurogas Secretariat.

[1] Malta and Cyprus are not included as they are not supplied with natural gas.

Note to Editors: Eurogas is an association representing about 50 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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Read more:

- *Eurogas Statistical Report 2012*
- *Eurogas Roadmap 2050* explanatory note.