

## Press Release

### **European energy roadmap must tap advantages of large gas use**

#### **Urgency and realism: the approach to Europe's energy and climate policy goals**

**Brussels, 22 November 2011 - The climate challenge and the challenge of European competitiveness both require pressing - indeed urgent - policy responses. Energy policy will be at the centre of any such response. A large role for gas over the coming decades is an indispensable policy tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990.**

The Commission will publish an Energy Roadmap 2050 in December 2011. Its policy recommendations will reflect the urgency of the need for change in the established track of energy use and energy emissions. For this change to happen, realistic measures are needed that allow Europe to remain competitive in a challenging global environment.

Long-term energy policies need to allow maximum flexibility for innovation in technology. Moreover, they must be able to respond to possible changes in the nature of the European economy.

Gas integrates well into such a policy and a clear commitment to increasing the use of gas in high efficiency equipment for power generation and home heating, as well as in transport can satisfy all of the above objectives, as it will encourage the necessary investment that needs to be made now.

In the short and medium term, as the [Eurogas Roadmap 2050](#) shows, large and immediate reductions in emissions can be achieved today by substituting gas for higher carbon fuels. It can do this without subsidy, and, thanks to a global diversity of sources available to Europe, while enhancing energy security.

In the longer term, thanks to its flexibility, gas leaves open plausible technological and policy options to achieve the 2050 targets. Significant growth in the use of zero-carbon renewables and the deployment of carbon capture technologies, along with energy efficiency gains, will be needed for deep decarbonisation across Europe.

But the balance between zero-carbon renewables and CCS in the distant future is unknown today. Crucially, by investing in gas now, there is an option to go in either direction in the longer term, i.e. to go in whichever direction technology and economics may point at that time. The addition of biogas to the mix will help the process further.

Gas therefore opens up - in an unforced and natural way - options for a European energy future that requires progress to a low-carbon economy. A pragmatic and feasible roadmap for a sustainable energy future has to include a large role for gas.

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