

### **Eurogas congratulates ACER on the revised Gas Target Model**

**Brussels, 16 January 2015 – Eurogas welcomes the “European Gas Target Model (GTM) – Review and Update”, which the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) launched today. The revised GTM takes into consideration the developments since 2011 affecting the gas market, and consequent issues to be addressed, including the renewed emphasis on security of supply.**

*“It is very important that, at a time when we are engaged in defining the concept of energy union, the GTM asserts that security of supply and competition ‘work in concert’ and advocates a framework for reinforcing the benefits of the internal market across Europe,”* explained Margot Loudon, Deputy Secretary General of Eurogas, who is the association’s expert on internal market issues.

Eurogas calls on policy makers to recognise that improved competition conditions across Europe, with better implementation and enforcement of the Third Package, should be a fundamental aspect of the approach to energy union.

Eurogas considers that the GTM’s self-evaluation process of how well the market works is a pragmatic way forward. It is very positive that the main recommendations of the self-evaluation process place a clear responsibility on national regulators (NRAs) to monitor, analyse and intervene appropriately to improve market functioning. The Recommendations rightly envisage the need for stakeholder involvement in assessing challenges and developing solutions.

Eurogas also finds other planned steps in the GTM very practical.

- The GTM recognises that any actions must be tailored to specific market areas under consideration, and subject to rigorous cost-benefit analysis.
- The role of the GTM in support of cross-border cooperation, and encouraging NRAs to work together more closely should bring added-value in the implementation of the codes and rules, and facilitate transmission system operators (TSO) cooperation.

Eurogas welcomes other aspects of the GTM, notably the emphasis on exploring ways within the regulatory framework to strengthen the role of gas in moving towards a low-carbon energy system, especially arrangements that allow gas to complement RES electricity generation more efficiently. The constructive approach foreseen to promote new developments along the supply chain, including more use of gas in transport and power-to-gas opportunities is also a timely reminder of the benefits gas can bring to a market-based energy transition, with gas playing an important role.

*“Eurogas has a good working relationship with ACER. Now ways have to be found for NRAs and stakeholders to work more closely together to address the uncertainties facing the gas market and finding tailored solutions to improve market functioning. We look forward to continuing cooperation,”* said Margot Loudon.

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Note to Editors: Eurogas is an association representing 41 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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