Press Release

New Eurogas data confirms dynamic EU gas market

Brussels, 25 March 2015: Last year was an exceptionally warm year, with record high temperatures. Eurogas estimates that, consequently, in 2014 gas demand was 11.2% lower than in 2013. At the same time, strong potential still exists for gas to be better utilised to achieve the EU's energy and climate objectives. Moreover, new data from Eurogas shows that gas supplies are becoming more dynamic through increased hub-based trading.

Initial Eurogas estimates for 2014 published today suggest that gas consumption in the EU28 was 4418 terawatt-hours gross calorific value (TWh GCV), equivalent to 409 billion cubic metres (bcm) or 342 million tonnes of oil equivalent net calorific value (mtoe NCV).[1]

Record warm weather in 2014 (the warmest in Dutch and German recorded history and the warmest in 50 years for the Czech Republic) considerably reduced the need for end-user heating and heat production for district heating systems. This effect was further accentuated by the fact that the 2013 winter was colder than average. These swings in energy demand were, however, efficiently managed by the gas system thanks to gas infrastructure that is well equipped to deal with significant fluctuations in demand. Gas is thus able to provide reliable supplies while adapting to the unpredictability of the weather.

Other factors affecting gas consumption, particularly in power generation, were notably low coal prices and low carbon dioxide (CO_2) prices that, combined with increased generation from renewable energy sources, amplified the overall decline in gas demand. These factors, coupled with a sluggish economic situation, which has kept electricity demand low overall, put additional pressure on gas demand in 2014. However, although at the European level industrial activity remained low, in some countries, such as Germany and Ireland, industrial demand for gas increased.

The potential role of gas as the most viable fuel to foster an EU-wide sustainable economy is still not fully realised, especially in power production and industrial uses. It is worth noting that a wider gas utilisation in these sectors would further contribute to the reduction of CO_2 as well as other harmful emissions, and further increase energy efficiency. In terms of supporting renewable energy production, gas continues to be the most efficient flexible backup to a growing share of variable renewables.

Gas volumes traded at the European hubs continued to rise, increasingly contributing to cross-border trade. This illustrates the efficiency and security of gas supply allocation realised through competition. It also underlines the importance of completing the Internal Energy Market as part of the Energy Union for an affordable, low-carbon and energy-secure Europe.

[1] Based on terawatt-hours gross calorific value, the applied calorific value of one cubic metre equals 10.8 kilowatt hours, which represents a European average.

Note to Editors: Eurogas is an association representing 43 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 choice.

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Press Release

Developments in European Natural Gas Consumption 2013-2014

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2014 (PRELIMINARY)

	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	EU28	Switzerland	Turkey
TWh (Terawatt hours)	**82.6**	**162.4**	**25.4**	**24.5**	**0**	**77.4**	**29.2**	**6.5**	**32.4**	**416.9**	**823.0**	**31.8**	**92.8**	**47.9**	**655.2**	**13.9**	**26.8**	**10.3**	**0**	**375.3**	**172.7**	**47.1**	**125.4**	**46.7**	**7.2**	**301.5**	**10.3**	**772.6**	**4 417.8**	**34.7**	**512.8**
BCM** (billion cubic metres)	7.6	15.0	2.4	2.3	0	7.2	2.7	0.6	3.0	38.6	76.2	2.9	8.6	4.4	60.7	1.3	2.5	0.9	0	34.8	16.0	4.4	11.6	4.3	0.7	27.9	1.0	71.5	409.1	3.2	47.5
MTOE** (million tons of oil equivalent)	6.4	12.6	2.0	1.9	0	6.0	2.3	0.5	2.5	32.3	63.7	2.5	7.2	3.7	50.7	1.1	2.1	0.8	0	29.0	13.4	3.6	9.7	3.6	0.6	23.3	0.8	59.8	341.9	2.7	39.7
PJ (Petajoules)	297.3	584.6	91.6	88.2	0	278.7	105.1	23.4	116.5	1 500.8	2 962.8	114.4	334.1	172.4	2 358.8	50.0	96.6	36.9	0	1 351.1	621.7	169.6	451.6	168.2	26.1	1 085.4	37.1	2 781.4	15 904.2	124.9	1 846.3

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2013*

	AT	BE	BG	HR	CY	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	UK	EU28	CH	TR
TWh (Terawatt hours)	**90.2**	**185.7**	**25.7**	**30.3**	**0**	**88.0**	**35.4**	**7.0**	**36.9**	**498.1**	**941.5**	**41.5**	**102.7**	**49.7**	**741.6**	**15.5**	**28.0**	**11.0**	**0**	**431.1**	**177.4**	**47.9**	**132.6**	**54.3**	**7.6**	**333.5**	**12.4**	**850.3**	**4 976.0**	**39.9**	**479.1**
BCM** (billion cubic metres)	8.3	17.2	2.4	2.8	0	8.1	3.3	0.6	3.4	46.1	87.2	3.8	9.5	4.6	68.7	1.4	2.6	1.0	0	39.9	16.4	4.4	12.3	5.0	0.7	30.9	1.1	78.7	460.7	3.7	44.4
MTOE** (million tons of oil equivalent)	7.0	14.4	2.0	2.3	0	6.8	2.7	0.5	2.9	38.5	72.9	3.2	7.9	3.8	57.4	1.2	2.2	0.9	0	33.4	13.7	3.7	10.3	4.2	0.6	25.8	1.0	65.8	385.1	3.1	37.1
PJ (Petajoules)	324.6	668.5	92.7	109.1	0	316.7	127.5	25.2	132.8	1 793.0	3 389.5	149.5	369.7	178.9	2 669.8	55.8	100.8	39.6	0	1 552.0	638.6	172.4	477.4	195.5	27.5	1 200.6	44.6	3 061.1	17 913.4	143.6	1 724.7

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION CHANGE 2014/2013 (PRELIMINARY)

	AT	BE	BG	HR	CY	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	UK	EU28	CH	TR
%	**-8.4%**	**-12.5%**	**-1.2%**	**-19.1%**	**-**	**-12.0%**	**-17.6%**	**-7.1%**	**-12.3%**	**-16.3%**	**-12.6%**	**-23.5%**	**-9.6%**	**-3.6%**	**-11.6%**	**-10.3%**	**-4.2%**	**-6.9%**	**-**	**-12.9%**	**-2.6%**	**-1.7%**	**-5.4%**	**-13.9%**	**-5.1%**	**-9.6%**	**-16.9%**	**-9.1%**	**-11.2%**	**-13.0%**	**7.0%**

* Data for 2013 is updated to the most recent official statistics. Consequently, slight differences could occur with the estimated data for 2013 as reported in the Eurogas Statistical Report 2014.
** Based on terawatt hours, the applied calorific values (10.8 kWh/cubic metre GCV; 11.63 TWh/MTOE NCV; NCV = 0.9 GCV) are representing a European average.

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