

“The global climate agreement reached in Paris is a major step in the right direction” – says Eurogas

Brussels, 14 December 2015: Eurogas welcomes the global climate agreement reached by world leaders. It is a major step forward from previous agreements. Gas will play an important role in achieving the world’s climate objectives.

Eurogas Secretary General, Beate Raabe, commented that: *“One of the most important elements of the outcome is the stated level of ambition of the agreement. This reflects the Parties’ willingness to accelerate actions to address climate change in a meaningful way. It is also notable that over 90% of global emissions are captured in the agreement, showing almost universal consensus on the challenges that we face.*

Gas will play a significant role in implementing this agreement. Whether it is by switching from coal-fired power plants to gas-fired installations, using gas efficiently in our industrial processes, utilising renewable gas, or teaming up with renewable energies, gas-based solutions will play their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building the energy system of the future.

Limiting the increase in temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels is the minimum aim. Eurogas also welcomes the commitment included in the agreement to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Current country submissions, however, are not sufficient to get us to this point, which is why a five-year review mechanism is needed. Such a review, if positive, provides an opportunity for the EU to reintroduce the use of international credits for greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved outside the EU. However, some reform to the system would still be needed to prevent the previous swamping of the market with such credits.

Sound monitoring of country commitments, coupled with robust reporting and verification, will be essential for effective implementation and will be building blocks for future developments. It will also help ensure a global playing field for addressing climate change.

While Eurogas would have preferred a stronger commitment to market mechanisms in order to deliver this agreement, there are some clauses within the agreement that provide opportunities for such greater cooperation. Market-based solutions are the most cost-effective means to achieve the climate objectives and Eurogas had joined other organisations ahead of COP21 to voice its [views](#) on this. Large investments will be needed to implement this agreement and Eurogas welcomes an approach that leverages private capital in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions cost-efficiently.

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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