

Press Release

Don't hesitate in moving ahead with 2030 framework, says Eurogas

“We are confident that the 2030 framework, if well designed, can lead the EU into a low-carbon energy future without sacrificing competitiveness or security of supply,” says Beate Raabe, Secretary General of Eurogas following submission of the association's response, on 2 July 2013, to the Green Paper “A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies.”

According to Ms Raabe, to be successful in this aim *“one of the major elements of such a design is to focus on cost-efficient greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions at all times and in all sectors with a binding economy-wide reduction target, which should be at least 40% by 2030 to be in line with the already agreed target of 80-95% by 2050.”*

Such a target in combination with a well-functioning Emissions Trading System (ETS) and effective action in non ETS-sectors will give the much needed long-term perspective for investment in renewables, energy efficiency and other low-carbon options, including gas, in a cost-efficient way. Except for the requirement to reduce emissions, the approach would be completely technology-neutral. It would not require additional targets but it would minimise the risk of market distortion or unnecessary costs.

At the same time, existing market distortions and barriers for low-carbon technologies should be brought down and the internal energy market should be fully developed to the benefit of both industrial and household customers.

There is no doubt for Eurogas that EU climate action must be part of a global effort. Until an equitable worldwide agreement has been reached, the competitiveness of the EU economy should be appropriately addressed. For example, government revenues arising from GHG emissions reduction measures should be recycled in support of low-carbon investment.

Furthermore, the burden of reducing GHG emissions should be shared appropriately and transparently among the Member States on the one hand and between Emissions Trading System (ETS) and non-ETS sectors on the other hand.

Other complementary but key elements should be put in place for the 2030 Framework to be successful, according to the Eurogas response to the consultation. They include:

- The Emissions Trading Directive should be revised as soon as possible.
- The 2030 framework should provide more guidance for non-ETS sectors on appropriate instruments that focus on cost-efficient GHG emissions reductions.
- Mature renewable energy sources should compete without support schemes, but there should be no retroactive change to existing support schemes.
- Non-mature renewable energy sources and other non-mature low-carbon options should be supported on an equitable basis by research, development and demonstration.
- Energy production in the EU, including conventional and unconventional gas, that reaches the highest safety and environmental standards, should be developed, but imports, too, continue to be important.
- As to capacity remuneration mechanisms (CRMs), if market distortions such as price caps and inappropriate support schemes cannot be removed or if their removal takes too long, CRMs can

be effective to address concerns over security of electricity supply, which are related to a lack of backup capacity for variable renewable energy sources.

Eurogas further cautions that the 2030 framework should give a clear and reliable signal to all relevant partners as soon as possible to boost investment. *“The EU shouldn’t hesitate in moving ahead with the 2030 framework,”* concludes Ms Raabe adding that: *“Any delay would increase the risk that Member States seek their own solutions. Such fragmentation would defy the aims of cost-efficiency, integration of markets, competition, competitiveness and security of supply.”*

The full text of the Eurogas response to the Green Paper on “A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies” can be downloaded [here](#).

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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