

Press Release

Managing gas supply in the cold weather

Brussels, 3 February 2012 - The President of Eurogas, Jean-François Cirelli, confirms that the tough winter conditions in Europe and Russia have led to a higher demand and a tighter than normal supply situation, particularly in central and eastern Europe.

The 50 members of Eurogas will continue to use all options available to ensure that there is no negative impact on EU customers, i.e. households, industry and others who rely on their supplies or that if there is an impact, this is minimised.

The European gas market is set up in such a way that it can deal with extreme weather conditions that occur from time to time.

Moreover, the industry has made considerable investments in recent years that increase security of supply in general. The European gas grid has been further developed and integrated. Following the adoption of the EU Regulation on security of gas supply, the possibilities to change the direction of the gas flow in the pipelines (reverse flow mechanism) have been increased.

This development adds to the option of drawing on the volumes stocked in gas storage facilities. Thanks to the fact that the winter has been very mild up until now, even more gas is available in storage at present than normal. Whilst the share of LNG has already risen to 25% in EU gas supplies over the past years, extra LNG can be bought from the world market.

The European gas industry will, of course, continue to monitor the situation under these cold weather conditions and is fully committed to managing it in the best interest of their customers.

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