



Press release

Securing High-skilled Green Jobs in the Gas Sector is Integral to the Just Transition

Brussels, 23 November 2020. Today the European trade union federations, EPSU and industriAll European Trade Union, and the industry association Eurogas, adopted a common position on the Just Transition in the Green Deal. Ensuring the socially responsible transition to renewable and decarbonised gases will provide high-quality employment for Europeans and help achieve climate objectives.

Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary of EPSU, stated: “The next five years will be critical for the future of Europe. Reaching the climate goals and a carbon neutral economy must be our first priority. Fulfilling this goal must be done in an inclusive way in which workers in the gas sector have a future. Trade Unions and Employers from private and public companies need to take responsibility and negotiate a just transition for workers, while ensuring people’s accessibility to clean energy”

Judith Kirton-Darling, Deputy General Secretary of industriAll Europe added that “Succeeding in fair transition of the gas sector to decarbonisation will also contribute to the transition of other large-scale gas consumers, such as energy-intensive industries. Showing that we can offer a just transition for those workers in the gas sector and the industrial value chains will be leading by example on a global level not only in a climate perspective, but also in sustainable employment perspective.”

Eurogas Secretary General, James Watson, concluded: “The EU industrial policies should strive to provide Europe with its own means to achieve carbon-neutrality. The deployment of new gas technologies, including those producing renewable and decarbonised gas, will guarantee high-quality, non-seasonal jobs in the gas sector.”

Note to editors: European social dialogue refers to discussions, consultations, negotiations and joint actions involving organisations representing the two sides of industry (employers and workers).

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, is the largest federation of the European Trade Union Confederation and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 260 trade unions across Europe. EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local, regional and central government, in all European countries including the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood. It is the recognised regional organisation of Public Services International (PSI). More information: www.epsu.org.

IndustriAll European Trade Union is the federation of independent and democratic trade unions representing workers in the metal, chemical, energy, mining, textile, clothing and footwear sectors and related industries and activities. We represent 7 million working men and women united within 180 national trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Press contact: Andrea Husen-Bradley, tel. +32 2 226 0061

Eurogas is a European gas industry association representing 50 companies and associations from 21 countries engaged in gas wholesale, retail and distribution. Press contact: Marina Demidova, marina.demidova@eurogas.org, tel. +32 2 894 48 05