

Press release

Gas infrastructure companies commit to working together to develop carbon neutral gas supply by 2050

- **GRTgaz of France and Swedegas of Sweden join Dutch-Danish-Belgian initiative**
- **The five European gas infrastructure companies are to develop a 100% carbon-neutral gas supply by 2050**
- **Gas infrastructure is key to proactively help develop gas infrastructure solutions required for the realization of a low carbon scenario for Europe**

Brussels, 24 April 2013 - During Gas Week in the European Parliament today, gas infrastructure companies GRTgaz (France) and Swedegas (Sweden) joined the Dutch-Danish-Belgian initiative to deliver a carbon neutral gas supply by 2050. Together with the initial signatories of Gasunie (The Netherlands), Energinet.dk (Denmark) and Fluxys Belgium (Belgium).

In signing the common commitment, the companies agree to work together across borders in order to exchange knowledge and best practice on ways to develop a 100% carbon-neutral gas supply by 2050, in line with the EU energy and climate goals.

Gas infrastructure enables the transportation and storage of energy at a scale unmatched by other energy systems and is essential to the achievement of the EU's low carbon scenario. New technologies and know-how will have to be integrated into the gas system to arrive at a 100% carbon-neutral gas supply by 2050. With this challenge in mind in June 2012 Fluxys Belgium, Gasunie and Energinet.dk signed a common commitment to support each other on the path to reaching the target on carbon-neutrality. Key areas of cooperation are:

- Power to gas technologies and hydrogen transmission
- Gas and LNG as fuel for road and maritime transport
- Green gas (on the basis of biogas and gasification of biomass) and development of green certificates

This joint initiative is an open platform that welcomes all gas infrastructure companies committed to making a significant effort to develop a sustainable gas supply.

The five parties will arrange a number of joint seminars that will bring experts together from each company in order to further identify the potential for exchanging know-how on the initiatives that will lead to a 100% carbon-neutral gas supply by 2050.

Philippe Boucly, CEO of GRTgaz stated: "Gas infrastructure has a key role to play to support the energy transition and the development of renewable energy. The current French energy transition debate is an opportunity to increase political and public awareness of the benefits of gas and the role of the gas infrastructure in a low carbon economy. We see a clear potential in ensuring that we exchange ideas and knowledge with our partners".

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Lars Gustafsson, CEO of Swedegas commented: "Signing the Green Gas Commitment is in line with our sustainable investments for the future. We aim to find synergies between our existing gas grid and new technologies such as Power to Gas. We also see this commitment as a possibility to stimulate large scale production and distribution of biogas through a wider European collaboration"

Walter Peeraer, CEO of Fluxys Belgium stated: "We are delighted to include GRTgaz and Swedegas as strong partners in our cooperation. We have taken upon ourselves to develop a 100% carbon-neutral gas supply by 2050. This is a huge task, and cooperation across borders will help to ensure that we learn from each other and for each of us to find the path that is best suited to our market".

Paul van Gelder, CEO of Gasunie: "Natural gas is the ideal partner of renewable energy. Gas and gas infrastructure have unique properties to maintain the balance between the energy consumption patterns on the one hand and the volatile, unpredictable supply of renewable energy sources on the other. Moreover, relatively clean gas contributes to achieving European climate goals."

Peder Østermark Andreasen, CEO of Energinet.dk: "We are committed to develop a green energy infrastructure. And the best and most efficient way to do this is through European cooperation. This is why we value this partnership".

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More information

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About Gasunie

Gasunie is a European gas infrastructure company. Its network ranks among the largest high pressure gas pipeline grids in Europe, consisting of over 15,000 kilometres of pipeline in the Netherlands and northern Germany. Annually we transport about 125 bcm of natural gas. Gasunie serves the public interest in the markets in which it is active and works to create value for its stakeholders. Gasunie is the first independent gas transport provider with a cross-border network in Europe. The company offers transport services via its subsidiaries Gas Transport Services B.V. (GTS) in the Netherlands and Gasunie Deutschland GmbH in Germany. Gasunie aims for the highest standards in safety, reliability, efficiency and sustainability.

We also offer services related to gas infrastructure, such as underground gas storage, LNG storage and the certification of green gas by subsidiary Vertogas. Gasunie seeks apply its

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infrastructure and knowledge for the further development and integration of renewable energy sources, particularly green gas. Because of its geographical location the Gasunie transport network plays a key role in the European gas market. (www.gasunie.nl)

About Fluxys Belgium

Fluxys Belgium is the independent operator of the natural gas transmission and storage infrastructure in Belgium. Through its subsidiary Fluxys LNG the company also operates the Zeebrugge liquefied natural gas terminal. As part of the Fluxys group, it is the company's mission to contribute to security of supply and market liquidity in Europe by promoting cross-border flows and transfers between gas trading places.

Driven by its first mover approach Fluxys Belgium has developed its infrastructure into a central crossroads for international gas flows in North-Western Europe. The Zeebrugge area plays a key role in this pivotal function: the infrastructure in the area has a throughput capacity of some 50 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year, approximately 10% of the border capacity needed for Europe's natural gas supply. (www.fluxys.com/belgium)

About Energinet.dk

Energinet.dk is the transmission system operator for both electricity and gas in Denmark. We own the Danish natural gas transmission system and a gas storage facility as well as the electricity transmission system with shares in the electrical interconnections to Norway, Sweden and Germany.

Due to our geographical location Energinet.dk's network is linking the Swedish gas market to the gas fields in the North Sea and the wider European market. Our aim is to ensure reliable energy supply and create the framework for well-functioning energy markets and effective integration of renewable energy. Using international and preferably market-based solutions, we facilitate the increased use of renewable energy and help to solve the global energy and climate challenges.

We are a non-profit enterprise and serve the interests of society. (www.energinet.dk)

GRTgaz

Created on 1 January 2005, GRTgaz is an Independent Transmission Operator, 75% owned by GdF SUEZ and 25% owned by Société d'Infrastructures Gazières (SIG), a public consortium comprised of CNP Assurances, CDC Infrastructure and the Caisse des Dépôts. GRTgaz fulfills the obligations of a public service to guarantee a continuous gas supply and satisfy the needs of consumers throughout the region, in all climatic conditions.

Over 3,000 employees are mobilised to maintain and develop the longest transmission network in Europe consisting in 32 000 kilometers covering the majority of the national French territory.

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GRTgaz transmits the gas supplied by its shippers to over 4,500 delivery points (public distribution networks, large industrial consumers, gas-fired power plants, etc.), under the safest and most reliable conditions. (www.grtgaz.com)

Swedegas AB

Swedegas is a Swedish infrastructure company that invests in smart energy systems. Swedegas is leading the way in the responsible development of the gas market in Sweden. We create sustainable solutions for industry, energy supply and community development. Swedegas owns and operates the national gas grid, which extends from Dragör in Denmark to Stenungsund in Sweden, and each year, Swedegas transmits energy equivalent to 15 TWh to distributors and directly connected customers. The gas grid supplies natural gas to 33 municipal areas and several combined heat and power plants and companies. Swedegas is currently investing in the development of an infrastructure for biogas and liquefied natural gas (LNG). (www.swedegas.se)