Press Release
PR0309-23
15 December 2023

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Stakeholders at ENTSOG's Annual Conference discuss the implementation of new rules for gas infrastructure to decarbonise

(Brussels, 15 December 2023, PR0309-23) **Earlier this week, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG) hosted their annual conference *'15 Years on and 15 Ahead: From Third Energy Package to Hydrogen & Decarbonised Gas Package'* in hybrid format, with online participants and attendees at the ENTSOG office joining the discussions.**

ENTSOG President Bart Jan Hoevers opened the conference with a summary of ENTSOG's initial reaction to the provisional agreement between the European Parliament and Council on 8 December on the updated EU rules to decarbonise and create a hydrogen market. He welcomed keynote speeches from An Stroobandt – the Deputy Head of Cabinet for the Federal Minister of Energy in Belgium, Tinne Van der Straeten – in addition to a message from the rapporteur for the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market Directive, MEP Jens Geier. They shared their views on the constructive role that gas grids can play in facilitating the transition for the European hydrogen economy.

Sonja van Renssen (Energy Monitor) moderated both panel discussions during the event: the first panel, *'Taking stock of the Third Energy Package: Key principles to take with us'*, comprised speakers from European Commission, ACER, EFET, GIE, and ENTSOG's previous president during his tenure 2009-2021. Discussions focused on the important achievements of the Third Energy Package and the key principles that should be carried forward in the future work of the gas TSOs.

During the 2nd panel, *'Reform, Transition and Resilience: meeting the needs of the EU industrial policy',* representatives from Hydrogen Europe, Cefic, ENTSO-E, the Florence School of Regulation, and Gasgrid Finland (also an ENTSOG Board Member) discussed possible consequences for the practical implementation of the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market package and what this means for the market, as well as stakeholders along the value chain. Perspectives were also shared by the speakers on the potential impact of the EU industrial policy

and upcoming EU CCUS Strategy. Additional contributions from audience members both in the room and online were made during both panel exchanges.

The conference closed with a new element to the usual format – a 'fireside' chat between the ENTSOG President Bart Jan Hoevers and ENTSO-E President Zbyněk Boldiš. During this discussion participants heard of the gas and electricity ENTSOs vital work undertaken together for the TYNDP Scenarios and Interlinked Model, as well as strategic outlooks on energy system integration and the common support for net-zero technologies for the energy transition.

Bart Jan Hoevers, ENTSOG President said, "*We appreciate the open discussion with stakeholders on past and future priorities to achieve the EU Green Deal targets. ENTSOG and ENTSO-E's strategic alignment on Energy System Integration remain our shared goal, also with other sectors. We continue our work on the optimisation of planning and on interlinked elements of the grids.*"

Piotr Kuś, ENTSOG General Director commented: "*Two years ago, at our conference, ENTSOG learned of the details in the European Commission's proposal for the new rules on hydrogen and decarboinised gases. At the end of a long journey, ENTSOG is committed to implement the tasks required in the new legislation, when fully adopted. In the meantime, ENTSOG will continue to fulfil the obligations of the current legislation and will deliver our mandate in cooperation with our stakeholders."*

A video opening the conference, entitled *'From Third Energy Package to Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package'* is available on ENTSOG's Vimeo page, here.

A full recording of the conference is also available, here.

Should you require any further information, please contact Ms. Carmel Carey at ENTSOG.Communications@entsog.eu.

Editorial notes

- **The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG)** was founded in line with Regulation (EC) 715/2009 and has played a key role in facilitating integration of the European gas markets, ensuring technical interoperability and providing security of supply by gas infrastructure planning. Looking forward, ENTSOG is contributing to the net-zero decarbonisation by 2050, in particular, by the integration of renewable and low carbon gases via future-proof gas transmission pipelines, in line with the EU energy and climate goals. More information on ENTSOG can be found on our website – or contact info@entsog.eu.