

Press Release

Stakeholders at ENTSOG's Annual Conference discuss an optimistic, pragmatic and collaborative future for the gas grids

(Brussels, 13 December 2024, PR0332-24) **Earlier this week, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG) hosted its annual conference ‘Supporting a Competitive, Secure and Sustainable Europe’ in hybrid format, with online participants and attendees at Bibliothèque Solvay joining the discussions. It was also a special milestone event for ENTSOG, as it marks 15 years since the establishment of the association.**

The conference proceedings were expertly steered by Sonja van Renssen (Carbon Pulse), opening the conference and inviting ENTSOG President Bart Jan Hoevers to provide his introductory words. He emphasised the need to keep all options open when progressing with the Energy Transition and the importance of gas grids for long-term storage, offering flexibility and security of supply. He also referenced the ENTSOG paper, *Decarbonising European Industry, Enhancing Competitiveness and Ensuring Affordable Energy Prices*.

Łukasz Koliński, Acting Director for Green Energy Transition and Energy System Integration at Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, provided a keynote speech. He referenced ENTSOG acting as central platform for cooperation between national TSOs, the benefit of ReCo, and how ENTSOG contributes to the achievement of the EU energy and climate goals. He also referenced the need for good cross-border cooperation and enhanced transparency in the context of Clean Industrial Deal and review of the Security of Supply Framework.

Two new elements to this year's conference included an exchange with key ENTSOG stakeholders in an informal format, providing their experiences and perspectives with Bart Jan and General Director Piotr Kuś in a session titled, *Thanking for the Memories, Reflecting on the Next Opportunities*. This was followed by an ENTSOG Spotlight discussion between Bart Jan and Krzysztof Bolesta, Poland Secretary of State Climate for Policy and Green EU Funds. Krzysztof outlined the priorities for the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU, which include energy security and competitiveness and Ukraine.

Dr. Klaus-Dieter Borchardt from Copenhagen School of Energy Infrastructure moderated the first panel of the conference - *Global and EU Competitiveness with Repurposed Gas Grids*. The panelists comprised Nicola Rega (Cefic), Susana Lagarto (European Investment Bank) and Małgosia Rybak (Cepi) providing their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for hydrogen infrastructure investments without negatively impacting consumers, and addressing the needs of energy intensive industrial off-takers to decarbonise cost-effectively.

The second panel *Regulation and Economics of the Clean Energy Transition* was moderated by Sonja van Rensen, with the following panelists - Csilla Bartok (ACER), Daniel Fraile (Hydrogen Europe), Vasiliki Klonari (WindEurope) and Pascal de Buck (Fluxys). Here, the panel examined the possibilities for CO₂ and Hydrogen infrastructure to accelerate Europe's decarbonisation, including the plan for regulation of CO₂ transport, and the role for molecules and electrons in an integrated energy system.

The conference closed with a summary of the takeaways and key points discussed during the afternoon, with an overview provided by both Sonja and Piotr.

After the conference, Piotr commented: *"ENTSOG's priority is open and fair dialogue with all stakeholders, as a way to develop the concepts that are then implementable. It is clear that there is a role for ENTSOG in the frame of the Clean Industrial Deal and Energy System Integration. We've heard that technology-neutrality and simplicity are key. I would like to extend my thanks to all the speakers and participants, who exchanged ideas and celebrated with us on our special occasion of 15 years anniversary."*

A full recording of the conference is available, [here](#).

For further information, please contact Carmel Carey at ENTSOG.Communications@entsog.eu.

Editorial notes

- > [The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas \(ENTSOG\)](#) was founded in 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. Within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2024/1789 and other relevant legislation, ENTSOG is contributing to the net-zero decarbonisation by 2050 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.