

Press Release

Stakeholders at ENTSG's Annual Conference emphasise the benefits of cooperation through an integrated energy system

(Brussels, 12 December 2025, PR0356-25) **Earlier this week, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSG) hosted its annual conference, this year titled: 'Cooperating for a more Integrated, Secure and Affordable Energy System'. The conference welcomed both online participants, and attendees at the Radisson Collection Hotel, Brussels.**

ENTSG President Pierre Duveusart opened the conference proceedings, mentioning the launch of the EU Grids Package, just an hour prior to the start of the conference. This was fortuitous, given the need for enhanced grid network coordination and planning at EU-level, and the focus of the three panel topics at the ENTSG conference: integration, security and affordability.

MEP Borys Budka, Chair of the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee, provided a keynote speech. He referenced the hard work of the ITRE Committee to ensure instruments like the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) continue to support truly European projects, integrated networks, cross-border resilience and strategic infrastructure. He also noted that integration also requires credible planning, transparent modelling, and realistic scenarios to avoid under-investment in critical assets and over-investment in infrastructure that may never be fully used.

Con O'Donnell from Gas Networks Ireland moderated the first panel, inviting Tom Howes (DG ENER) to provide an overview of the main points of the EU Grids Package proposal, and then inviting the other panelists – Lucie Boost (Gas Infrastructure Europe), Ilaria Conti (Florence School of Regulation) and Bart Vereecke (ACER) – for their initial reactions. There was an open discussion on the significance of connected grids, and it was expressed that the flexibility offered by the gas grids to the energy system was absent from the EU Grids Package. It was agreed that all energy vectors are needed to ensure system resilience.

In the second panel, Prof. Catherine Banet from CERRE and University of Oslo guided the discussions on energy security, with exchanges between Mónica Zsigri (DG ENER), Zbyněk Boldiš (ENTSG-E), Klaus-Dieter Borchardt (Copenhagen School of Energy Infrastructure) and Artur

Lorkowski (Energy Community Secretariat). It was noted that regional and geopolitical challenges go beyond EU borders, with energy solidarity at the core to address any future crises. It was commented that practical solutions are needed to address energy supply diversification.

In the third and final panel, the moderator Christopher Jones (Florence School of Regulation) asked the panelists – Anna Venturini (European Biogas Association), Olli Sipilä (Gasgrid Finland) and Guillermo Ramo Fernandez (Bellona Europa) – what is needed to deliver an affordable biomethane, hydrogen and CO₂ infrastructure. The panelists highlighted the importance of linking the physical reality of investments needs, with policy decisions. The goals should be measurable and achievable.

Exchanges also took place between the ENTSG and ENNOH Presidents on the ongoing cooperation between the two associations, and the priorities of ENNOH in 2026. To close the conference, the previous and current ENTSG Presidents discussed what has been achieved so far and the difficulties in planning ahead for all possibilities, in uncertain times. ENTSG General Director Piotr Kuś provided a summary of the takeaways to end the proceedings.

After the conference, Piotr commented: *“On the day of the launch of the EU Grids Package, it is reassuring to see that there is still an opportunity for the natural gas infrastructure to play an important role in an energy system that is embracing the challenge of transition, and that ENTSG will continue to be relied upon for its future analysis and practical processes. With our experience and expertise as trusted technical advisor, policy makers can count on us to provide a realistic assessment for a resilient and affordable energy system.”*

A full recording of the conference is available [here](#). Watch the opening conference video summarising ENTSG key partnerships and joint work, [here](#).

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

Editorial notes

- > [The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas \(ENTSG\)](#) 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, ENTSG 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 ENTSG can be found on our website – or contact info@entsog.eu.