

Ignacio Asenjo DG Energy B1 Energy Networks HyENET Meeting - 18 November 2019

An emerging consensus

What role can gas infrastructure play in the EU's path to decarbonisation by 2050?

- Gas will continue to be needed, due to the flexibility it provides for e.g. seasonal storage
- A clear role for biomethane, but insufficient to cover all demand for decarbonized gases
- Hydrogen as carbon-free gas:
 - In a first phase, injection into the natural gas grid for admixture up to 20%
 - Beyond that, shift to 100% hydrogen networks

Parts of the already existing gas infrastructure can be adapted for 100% hydrogen transport and contribute to reduce the cost of decarbonisation

See Trinomics study for DG ENER: "Impact of the use of the biomethane and hydrogen potential on trans-European infrastructure"

Assessing the implications

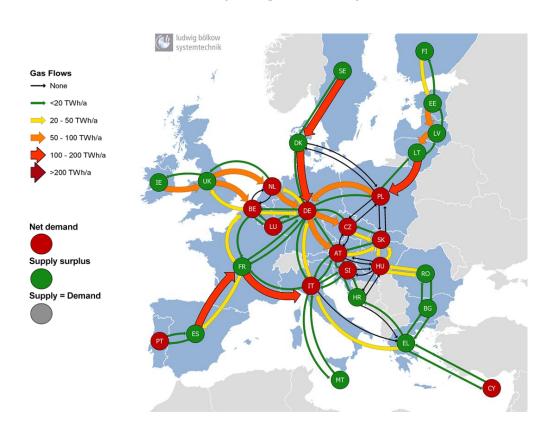
What does this mean for the future shape of the EU's gas infrastructure?

- Gas and electricity networks get connected and coupled through P2G
 - Infrastructure gaps related to RE can potentially be covered by either electricity or gas infrastructure
- P2G + Biomethane injection require smart gas grids, decentralization, reverse flow and DSO-TSO cooperation
- The replacement of natural gas provides an opportunity in terms of energy independence: what impact for import infrastructure?
 - Import sources could change substantially
 - Hydrogen and Biomethane could flow within the EU from sunand wind-rich areas to demand centers

Hydrogen and Biomethane could provide an opportunity for gas networks to remain relevant, but great challenges ahead

How gas flows can change with hydrogen

From Trinomics study: Gas flows in the EU by 2050 in a Hydrogen-heavy scenario



EU-level infrastructure policy tools

TEN-E Regulation

Can PCI and CEF be tools to promote a shift to hydrogen?

- Treaty basis focuses on interconnections between MS, not sustainability
- Current Regulation does not contemplate hydrogen
- But the Regulation also contains hooks that could be exploited

Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)

Can the TYNDP integrate a holistic vision of infrastructure planning?

- ENTSO-E and ENTSOG have just presented gas-electricity joint scenarios
- ENTSOs also working on the interlinkages between the two models
- As the network evolves, more progress will be needed towards a holistic vision