



***Eleventh Meeting of the European Regulatory
Forum
18th-19th May 2006***

Regional Gas Markets Initiative





Eurogas, representing the interests of European wholesale and retail suppliers and gas network users, wishes to see steady progress towards an integrated competitive European gas market, and considers that the gas regional initiative launched by ERGEG on 25th April is a pragmatic step that will make an important contribution to this goal.

Extract from Press Release of 27th April 2006



Eurogas welcomes the determination of ERGEG to involve stakeholders in the working process.

Network users have a central role to play in the consultations, and Eurogas would like to be confident that they will play a full part in the decision making process.

We are keen to know more about the process so we can organize the work on our side accordingly.

Eurogas considers it important that the regional markets initiative does not simply follow work done in electricity but takes account of gas specific issues. This will be an objective of the expertise and advice we contribute.



A major objective of the initiative should be to provide the right framework for market driven hub development, including

- a robust, transparent open access regime
- a sufficient number of buyers and sellers
- the mechanisms to address any distortions which are caused by interactions between adjacent markets or network rules
- the provision of incentives to promote hub linked infrastructure

Related issues will be

- identification of regional obstacles to trade and their solution
- convergence of balancing regimes
- tariffs
- TPA services



The regional markets initiative is an important next step towards an integrated competitive market.

It must not raise new barriers or slow down the achievement of an eventual single European market.

Therefore progressive convergence of different regulatory and legislative frameworks in all the member states must continue.

