

Madrid Forum: 20th – 21st February 2007

**Views by Eurogas
on**

Gas Regional Initiatives: Progress so far



THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

Eurogas strongly supported the establishment of the GRI in Spring 2006.

Eurogas while recognizing that priorities would vary from region to region identified the overall priorities as

- Hub development

- Investment mainly on interconnection capacities

- Transparency

- Enhanced TSO co-operation

- Improved regulatory co-operation on cross-border questions

Eurogas representatives have participated in stakeholder meetings in all three regions. Eurogas has been encouraged by the readiness of all three regions to engage stakeholders in the work.

The concerns of Eurogas have been that

- The work of the GRI should lead to concrete results and focus on regional issues leaving general European issues for the Madrid Forum
- Stakeholders should be adequately involved and consulted
- Although it is recognized that priority issues will not necessarily be identical in all three areas, and it might not be possible for all the regions to make progress at the same speed, there has to be a strong coordinating role for ERGEG to minimize divergence.
- The regional markets development should not lead to barriers to an integrated market.

Eurogas acknowledges the ambitions of the GRI initiative, and welcomes that progress has been made

SSE – the case study approach is a practical approach

N-NW – the focus on CBCA is supported. Eurogas considers the proposal for a pilot exemplifies the potential progress that can be made on the ground, when all stakeholders are aiming at progress.

SW – the SW meetings have identified the areas in which progress is necessary, but they also show the limitation of the GRI to remove obstacles.

In conclusion

- Eurogas confirms the importance we attach to a co-ordination of work in the three regions, to avoid the risk of regional markets developing at too different speeds, or leading to barriers to a pan-European internal market.
- Improved co-ordination will also help the regions to learn from each other, and facilitate discussions and general progress on priorities.
- Eurogas urges the need for continuing transparency in all GRI initiatives and continuing involvement of stakeholders.