



Gas Infrastructure Europe

Gas Regional Initiative (GRI)

Madrid Forum XIII
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Introduction

- GIE welcomes the results obtained so far and looks forward to further progress
- However it should be ensured that the Regional Initiative deals with regional issues and does not duplicate activities being undertaken at the European level

Regional Elements in the Third Package

- GIE recognises that the regional focus of the Third Package is a pragmatic approach to make progress
- The Third Package foresees that regions may be defined by the Commission
- GIE offers its expertise to identify regions. An appropriate balance between anticipated early progress and the regional size is required
- Coordination of the EU internal market development foreseen in the Third Package with the Regional Approach is necessary

Lessons learned from the GRI so far

- Wide stakeholder involvement crucial success factor
 - Market participants
 - Commission
 - Member States
 - NRAs
 - Operators
- Progress was best where
 - Joint understanding of issues has been established
 - Priorities have been clearly identified
 - Attention was focussed on jointly defined projects (example of Spanish-French Interconnection development)
- Hurdles need to be overcome once identified