



Comité d'Entreprise Européen

**STATEMENT of the EUROPEAN WORKS COUNCIL of Gaz de France  
unanimously accepted  
Meeting held on 23rd March 2006**

The members of the EWC of Gaz de France met during an extraordinary meeting and noticed that the merger project between Gaz de France and Suez - announced by the French Prime Minister on 25th February - has legal and constitutional flaws, and insisted on the fact that this meeting cannot be considered as a starting point in the consultation process with the EWC.

They regretted that the French government and the top managers of both groups quickly took advantage of the legitimate fears expressed by the Suez group when they heard of the hostile takeover bid from Enel to announce this restructuring in the sector of energy, which leads to the privatisation of Gaz de France, despite the commitments made by the French government less than 2 years ago not to go below the 70% stake in the group.

Such a decision would have serious consequences on Public Service, on employment, on the rights of the employees who work in both companies and would worry customers.

The fears expressed by the employees of the group on employment have to do with :

- the notion of asset disposal.
- the social consequences for upstream business (exploration – production), downstream (services), transmission and central services.

In addition, this operation might have repercussions on the future of energy in France and in Europe and on employees.

The members of the EWC identified that :

- the withdrawal of the State gave room to private, powerful corporations whose choices in the field of supply and investment are not known to citizens and employees of the companies concerned who have no possibility to react
- the market and the private sector will not be able to ensure that long term objectives be always taken into account.

This is the reason why the members of the EWC will work with their european federations to demand the setting up of a true European energy policy, and ask Gaz de France to include the dimension of European Public Service for energy in its policy.