

European Gas Industry Social Partners' Joint Position December 2011

Energy Roadmap 2050

The European social dialogue partners for the gas sector – represented by EUROGAS for the employers and EPSU and EMCEF for the trade unions – wish to contribute to the discussion on the future of the European Union energy policy and in particular to the work being carried out on the Energy Roadmap 2050. This Roadmap itself is based on the Communication *Roadmap 2050: Moving to a low-carbon economy* which seeks to define the CO₂ emission reduction targets for several sectors, including the energy sector. The European Commission has further set out several priorities in its Energy Strategy 2020 (Communication "Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy") and in its policy proposals for Infrastructure (Communication "Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network").

Our contribution is a follow up to the contribution we made to the consultation on the Energy Strategy 2020.¹ As European social partners we wish to contribute to the development of Europe's energy policy ensuring it is safe, secure, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

The social partners jointly agree on the following comments. We express the wish that they should be integrated into the work of the European Commission on the *Energy Roadmap 2050*.

We organized a workshop on the future of gas as social partners, on 12 January 2011.² The workshop considered in detail the changes which the sector is going through and with which it is faced.

The recent proposals of the European Commission (Communication "Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy") and (Communication "Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network") do not take sufficient account of the profound changes in the energy industry and their impact on the companies, employment and working conditions. The social dimension is not an integral part. The Energy Roadmaps 2050 should integrate a social dimension. This should include the implications for employment, skills and qualifications, the role of social dialogue and information and consultation e.g. The Energy Roadmap 2050 should indicate how the "just transition process" as agreed in Cancun will be implemented.

Eurogas and EPSU/EMCEF underline the importance of social dialogue at company, national as well as European level. This is a mechanism enabling companies to anticipate and manage the changes that are taking place. This needs to be recognized in the Energy Roadmap 2050. We welcome initiatives from DG Energy, in cooperation with the social partners, to encourage consideration of the impact of moving towards a low carbon society at all relevant levels. We expect initiatives on the part of DG Energy to discuss this with the social partners.

We have contributed to raising awareness of the scale of the challenge with our joint toolkit "*Demographic Change and Competencies for the European Gas Industry*". Such initiatives

¹ See <http://www.epsu.org/a/6653>

² See <http://www.epsu.org/a/7212>

and consultation are in line with Council resolutions, as well as with the Proposal for a Regulation on integrated guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure” and with the resource efficiency flagships of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

As social partners we underline that we wish to be consulted on the work of the EC and that we wish to be consulted at an early stage each time there are implications for the gas companies and their employees. This would allow us to consider with the Commission the social implications of proposals. A stronger role in the impact assessment process would be welcomed as well.

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