



To the attention of

Ms Angelica NIEBLER
Chairwoman of ITRE Committee
European Parliament
Brussels

08L597

Brussels, 01 December 2008

Proposal for a joint position of the European social partners in the gas sector - Eurogas for the employers and EPSU/EMCEF for the trade unions

on the

Amendments of the European Parliament regarding the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2003/55/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas (COM(2007) 0529 (adopted 9 July 2008))

Dear Ms Niebler,

The social partners have noted the amendments adopted by the European Parliament 9 July. The Parliament has adopted a large number of amendments focusing on consumer protection and energy poverty, on powers for the regulators and has introduced the option of the independent transmission operator amongst others. Each social partner undertakes an in-depth evaluation of the proposals adopted and will forward these to the European institutions as appropriate.

As European social partners we do wish to highlight the following amendments that we jointly consider important as social partners. We appreciate that the European Parliament has taken account of the social dimension and has underlined the role of the social partners at national as well as European level. As social partners we do know that the internal market has an, often considerable impact on companies and employees. The study of ECOTEC for the European Commission on the employment effects of the opening of the electricity and gas markets (2007) has underlined this. We are committed to provide input and feedback to the European Commission where appropriate to give full effect to the proposals of the European Parliament.

We request the Council to include these amendments in its position.

Amendment 29 amending recital 27 a (new)

27a) Member States should consider with the social partners concerned the implications of amending Directive 2003/55/EC in particular the different models to ensure independent transmission operators, in terms of the employment, working conditions and information, consultation and participations rights of workers with a view to mitigate the negative consequences.



Amendment 49 amending article 1 point h (new) Directive 2003/55/ EC article 3 – para 5 a (new)

1h) in article 3 the following paragraph shall be inserted:

5a. The implementation of this Directive shall have no negative consequences for the employment, working conditions and information, consultation and participation rights of the workers concerned. Member States shall consult the social partners concerned on the implementation of any amendments to this Directive to mitigate negative consequences for the workers concerned.

The Commission shall report to the sectoral social dialogue committees for gas on the consultations and measures taken.

We look forward to your positive appraisal of these amendments of the European Parliament and subsequent inclusion in the Directive.

Yours sincerely,

For Eurogas

Dr. Peter Gentges
Vice president of the Sector
Dialogue Committee for Gas



For EPSU

Mr. Didier Baur
President of the Sector Dialogue
Committee for Gas



For EMCEF

Reinhard Reibsch
Secretary General of EMCEF

