



Press release

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EFET welcomes progress in Madrid

At the second meeting of the European Gas Regulatory Forum held in Madrid on 11/ / 12 May 2000, representatives from the European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET) contributed to a positive debate on how to create a real, competitive, internal European gas market. The Forum included representatives from regulators, member states, the European Commission, customers and the gas industry. The Forum was the final meeting before the implementation of the Gas Directive on 10 August 2000.

EFET welcomes the conclusions from the meeting, and in particular, the proposed creation of a new European body of gas transmission system operators. Based on the model of the Electricity Transmission System Operators (ETSO), this organisation will need to be able to demonstrate its independence from related gas activities. EFET looks forward to consultation on this issue. The organisation has been requested to provide, in time for the next Gas Regulatory Forum (October / November 2000) -

- a summary of the existing regimes for third party access
- an examination of tariff regimes, including cross-border arrangements
- a matrix of transmission capacity, and
- an inventory of any other issues necessary to facilitate and promote the creation of a real internal gas market.

At the Forum, EFET emphasised strongly the importance of fair, non-discriminatory, durable and transparent mechanisms for access to the gas network on a cost reflective basis. EFET also agreed with the views of the Commission that access to the network should include access to gas storage (and other similar services), as this is necessary for the efficient operation of the internal gas market. EFET underlines the importance of a clear unbundling of the gas industry

In its submission to the Forum, EFET identified existing barriers to trading in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. EFET expects that the work of the gas transmission operators' organisation will enable the third meeting of the European Gas Regulatory Forum to accelerate liberalisation of the European gas market, as agreed by the Member States in Lisbon and similar to the accelerated development of a pan-European electricity market.

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