



Key Messages for 2008

Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) represents the sole interest of the infrastructure industry in the natural gas business such as Transmission System Operators, Storage System Operators and LNG Terminal Operators. GIE has currently 60 members in 27 European countries and is based on three columns: Gas Transmission Europe (GTE), Gas Storage Europe (GSE) and Gas LNG Europe (GLE).

image courtesy of OMV Gas

One of the objectives of GIE is to voice the views of its members vis-à-vis the European Commission, the regulators and other stakeholders. Its mission is to actively contribute to the construction of a single, competitive gas market in Europe underpinned by a stable and predictable regulatory framework. A sound investment climate and increased transparency are among the main areas of focus for GIE as prerequisites for a fully operational gas market in Europe.



Gas Transmission Europe (GTE)

GIE is the umbrella association
for its three columns:



Gas LNG Europe (GLE)



Gas Storage Europe (GSE)

Gas Transmission Europe (GTE)

Key Messages



Gas Transmission Europe (GTE)

GTE Primary Objective for 2008

The main priority for GTE will consist in demonstrating progress towards the single European gas market by establishing a new body - the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG), as proposed in the Third Energy Package put forward by the European Commission in September 2007.

The foundation for the future ENTSOG will be laid by the creation of a transitory structure, GTE+, as a first step before the adoption of the Third Package. The work programme of GTE+, - and later ENTSOG will feature enhanced interaction with regulators and stakeholders thereby involving them in the work towards the completion of the single European gas market.



GTE Commitments for 2008

Following the establishment of GTE+, priority areas for progress will include:

- Consultation on the first GTE+ work programme following a consultation with the market which will ensure that stakeholders' views about the priorities are taken into account. The projects proposed in the GTE+ work plan cover the following areas:
 - **Organisational development**
 - **Transparency**
 - *Transparency Platform*
 - *Winter Outlook Report*
 - **Investment**
 - *Ten-Year Network Development Statement*
 - **Capacity**
 - *Capacity Co-ordination*
 - **Interoperability**
 - *Procedure on Harmonisation of Maintenance Publication*
 - *IT & Communications Roadmap*
- Contribution to a co-ordinated approach between European initiatives and the Gas Regional Initiatives so that timely and efficient progress can be made at both the European and regional level.



GTE Rationale

Transmission System Operators (TSOs) have a unique place in the gas supply chain. They are responsible, and have specific expertise, to ensure the secure, reliable and efficient operation of the transmission networks that are the backbone of the gas system.

The procedures to be developed by TSOs – first by GTE+ and later by ENTSOG – will aim to provide the foundation on which the market can flourish. The challenge for TSOs will be to develop robust, open, transparent and responsive consultation processes which will enable the development of change proposals that balance the interests of all stakeholder groups.

Implementation of the Commission's Third Package proposals will provide an appropriate framework to create the single European market. TSOs are demonstrating their commitment by taking the first steps towards ENTSOG this year and by developing, and delivering a credible yet ambitious work programme for its first year.

Gas Storage Europe (GSE)

Key Messages



Gas Storage Europe (GSE)

GSE Primary Objective for 2008

The primary objectives for GSE for 2008 include actions aimed at promoting the most favourable regulatory framework for storage to ensure the development of a positive investment climate. Moreover, GSE will strive to provide inputs and its expertise in the storage related areas to the European institutions and market players with a view to influencing any proposals or decisions related to storage.

Furthermore, GSE will continue pursuing initiatives aimed at the increased transparency and information provision, following the already established GSE Aggregated Stock Inventory and GSE Investment Database. Enhancing its credibility towards the EU institutions and market players, will remain the priority for GSE.

GSE Commitments for 2008

The key external GSE messages will focus around the following themes:

- GSE will seek to implement the Guidelines for Good Practice for Storage Systems Operators (GGPSSO) and will address any additional concerns from market parties.
- GSE will emphasize that investment in storage can only increase if the investment climate is right i.e. regulatory stability and preserved economical attractiveness.
- GSE will aim at liaising with all stakeholders to address outstanding concerns on storage.



image courtesy of Edison Stoccaggio

GSE Rationale

The priorities for GSE are based on the key changes observed currently in the external environment. This includes in particular the perceived shift in the focus of legislators and regulators from transmission to storage, which may potentially lead to regulatory instability.

Another important development will consist in the elaboration by the European Commission at the end of 2008 of the Second Strategic Energy Review, which will focus on security of supply and where (strategic) storage will play a key role.

Finally, the significant increase of expected storage capacities in Europe is an important and positive signal of the continuous development of the storage market in Europe. Therefore, it is vital to attain the right framework to make planned investments happen.



image courtesy of Wingas

Gas LNG Europe (GLE)

Key Messages



GLE Primary Objective for 2008

GLE will continue to demonstrate the increasing importance of LNG in the European energy framework, highlighting the important role of LNG in enhancing security and diversification of supply in Europe. GLE will also seek to ensure that LNG business specificities (related to investment needs, framework, existing commitments or technical constraints, etc.) are taken into account in any future EU regulatory developments and will promote increased recognition for LNG infrastructure activities at European level.

GLE Commitments for 2008

- GLE will strive to be a key stakeholder in the process related to Guidelines of Good Practice on Third Party Access for LNG System Operators (GGPLNG).
- GLE will seek to enhance cooperation with European Union authorities, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders. In particular, GLE will seek to share its expertise about LNG business with the European Commission and other interested parties. It will also strive to establish a platform for exchange and dialogue with other LNG interest groups.
- GLE will promote increased transparency in the area of LNG business by elaborating an LNG Investment Database.



GLE Rationale

With the changing regulatory environment in the area of LNG, it is necessary to provide the expertise of LNG terminal operators to inform and shape the framework in a way which facilitates the development of the LNG market. The priorities and actions of GLE will therefore build upon the main premises relating to the LNG business which should be taken into account in any future development of the legislative framework in relation to LNG.

In particular, with regard to the regulatory framework, GLE highlights that the different existing business models should be taken into account and that compatibility should prevail over a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Moreover, in order to promote investments in LNG, it is vital that business incentives exist and that these reflect the level of risk attached to the LNG investment. Along with the different business models, it should also be recognised that LNG services are not uniform and that two kinds of services: i.e. ancillary and specific services, should be distinguished.

