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Vice-President of the European Commission

Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE

Member of the European Commission

Brussels,
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Dear Mr Schäfer,

Thank you for your letter with regard to the energy market design initiative of 24 October 2016, as well as for the letter of your predecessor, Mr Lankhort, of 16 August referring more in particular to the issue of DSO cooperation.

As you know, the European Commission adopted the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package, including proposals on electricity market design, on 30 November 2016. The Commission remains committed to further developing the regulatory framework for the European natural gas markets.

To this end, the Commission will consider any necessary adaptations of existing gas rules to changes of the rules on electricity proposed in November 2016. This would in the first place address horizontal areas, in particular provisions on retail markets, including the future role of DSOs, and on the institutional framework of the EU energy market.

Furthermore, as you also mention in your letter, the European Commission will launch a study on the future of the EU gas regulatory framework early 2017. This study will address issues of a strategic nature with the aim to identify whether there are areas requiring possible further developments of the gas regulatory framework.

Therefore, 2017 will be an important year for further discussions on gas market developments and the Commission will seek the input of market participants. We would appreciate your continued support for our work also in this context, including more concrete input by Eurogas on the areas listed in the two letters.

I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Klaus Schäfer
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