



**D. RISTORI**  
**Directeur Général**  
**ENER**

## **Dossier pour le Directeur-Général**

Meeting with [REDACTED] Gasunie

**Mercredi 5 septembre 2018**

**15h00 – 15h45**

**DM24 08/84**

# Briefing for Director-General Ristori

Meeting with [REDACTED] Nederlandse Gasunie  
5 September 2018

## SCENE SETTER

Agenda points proposed for the meeting:

1. Current gas market developments, including the role of gas in the future and L-gas developments;
2. Gas regulation in a transitioning energy system, including DG Energy studies and possible follow-up



## OBJECTIVES

- Inquire about Gasunie's views on the feasibility of the cap and further reductions afterwards (which include the conversion to other sources of energy of a larger number of industrial consumers (173) and horticultural sector).
- Inquire about their views on the feasibility of further reductions in L-gas consumption in DE, BE and FR (beyond the phase-out plans already in place).

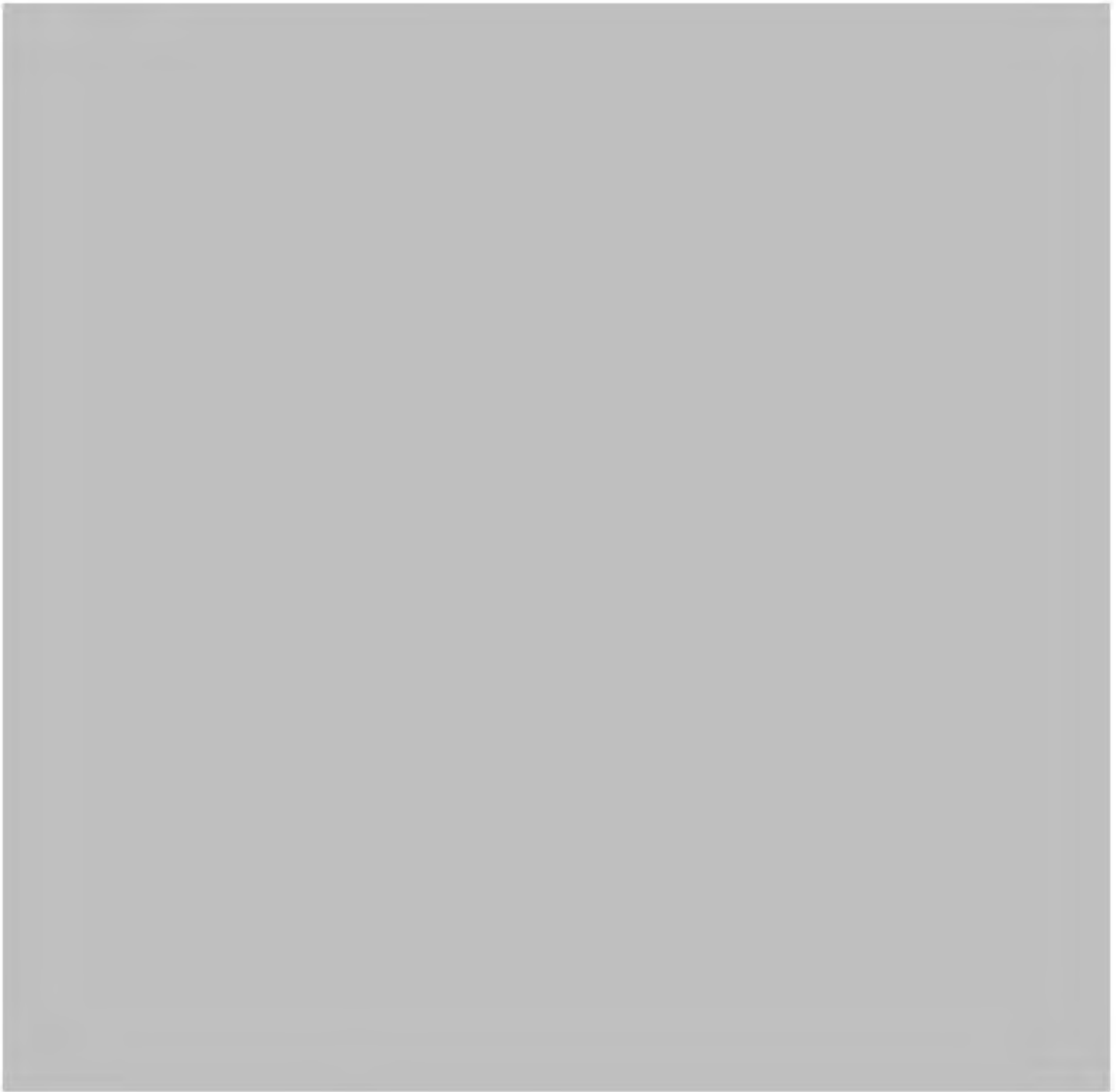
## **KEY MESSAGES / SPEAKING POINTS**

- Natural gas plays a crucial role in the current EU energy mix. To reach our 2030 targets and the decarbonisation target under the Paris Agreement, the demand for natural gas will decline. However, gas can continue play a significant role in the EU energy mix, in the form of renewable and decarbonised gases.
- In this context, the Commission [DG Energy] is currently preparing to launch a study on sector coupling. This study will be developed during 2018 and will analyse the interactions and possible synergies between the gas, electricity and heating sectors as well as the prospects of renewable and decarbonised gases in the clean energy transition.
- Regarding the future of the European gas infrastructure, the Commission (B.1) has just launched a study to develop (without new modelling) several energy scenarios until 2050. The scenarios will then be used to test against existing infrastructure and regulation to draw consequences for infrastructure policy, by August/September 2018.
- In 2018 we will work on the mentioned studies to develop our thinking on sector coupling and on the follow-up to the Quo Vadis study with regard to the upgrading of the functioning of the EU wholesale gas market.
- This could be followed up by preparing a broader review of the EU gas legislation with an Impact Assessment and the development of proposals in 2019. Such proposals could be adopted under a new Commission (and European Parliament) in 2020.

**Contact persons:**




## BACKGROUND



- The topic of "**sector coupling**", i.e. coupling the infrastructure and the markets of the electricity, gas and heat sectors, is considered in the overall context of the possible future role of gas in the decarbonised EU energy system. It is seen as a tool contributing to decarbonisation and providing the necessary flexibility in the energy system.



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- Looking further ahead, if gas is to remain in the EU energy mix for the longer term, it has to be successively decarbonised. Such a shift from fossil to renewable and decarbonised gases will require the deployment of new technologies.
  - To allow both for natural and for decarbonised gases to play a full role in the decarbonisation process, it is crucial that we develop a holistic, energy system view.
  - The electricity and gas sectors do already closely interact and given the increasing need for backup electricity generation from gas, this cooperation is expected to intensify. Gas is a source of flexibility in the energy system. Gas can already today be stored economically in big volumes over a long time period (in contrast to electricity) and can provide flexibility to the electricity system to balance demand and supply.
  - Bringing the two sectors closer together will require further assessment of whether and how gas and gas infrastructure can deliver cost-effective solutions to achieve the EU climate objectives. The Commission is not favouring one fuel over the other, but is interested to set the framework to achieve the climate goals in the most cost-effective manner.

