BRIEFING FOR COMMISSIONER KADRI SIMSON

VISITS TO FLUXYS’ H2-READY PIPELINE AND PORT OF ANTWERP

DOORSTEP AT FLUXYS SITE

Following the visit of the Fluxys site, there is an opportunity for a photoshoot and a moment with journalists. Depending on the number of journalists, it will be either in the form of a short interview or a doorstep.

- I am very happy to be here at Fluxys today and to see with my own eyes the potential of your project.
- I believe this project is emblematic of the challenges and transition we face in the energy sector.
- Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has left us with no choice than to re-orient and diversify our gas supply and to reduce our energy consumption in record time.
- Since February of last year, we have managed to reduce our reliance on Russian pipeline gas massively, by tapping into the potential of our LNG terminals and thanks to other reliable international partners.
• As a result, the traditional direction of natural gas flows in the Union is also changing, from east-west to a flow mainly from the west.

• Fluxys’ new pipeline will reinforce transmission capacity from the well-supplied Zeebrugge gas hub, in line with these new market developments and will help boost liquidity and security of supply in Belgium and other Member States.

• At the same time, we need to look further into the future, and I believe this project helps us with the longer-term view as well.

• Switching to hydrogen for hard-to-abate sectors is a crucial step on our path towards a greener economy. We have high ambition regarding hydrogen. Fluxys’ hydrogen-ready pipeline could help transport it, both from hydrogen imports arriving in Zeebrugge and from future hydrogen production sites in the North Sea.

• This is real innovation, giving us a chance for increased cooperation and will help us build a better tomorrow.