



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B - Internal Energy Market
Director

Brussels,
ENER/B/KDB/PP S(2013)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GAS COORDINATION GROUP

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I would like to invite you to the next meeting of the **Gas Coordination Group** that will take place on **24 September 2013 from 10:00 to 16:00** at the European Commission, Brussels, Conference Centre Albert Borschette, (Rue Froissart 36), Room 3A.

As announced, we tried to select particularly pertinent topics which allow for more discussion of issues (and less frontal presentations).

We could win Ukraine for the first half of the meeting to give a broad overview of the latest developments in its gas sector. We will then have the opportunity to discuss one issue which is currently lively discussed, namely the role of underground gas storages and the implications of lower-than-usual storage levels on security of supply.

The Commission will then demonstrate and offer to test the new emergency / web-conference tool that is planned for organizing virtual meetings in the case of an emergency (but which can also be used if a physical meeting is not feasible). You will be able to participate in the testing with any electronic device (laptop, smartphone etc.) that has internet connection and has Adobe Connect installed by clicking on the link: <http://ec-wacs.adobeconnect.com/pp5205>.

Following the lunch break, we would invite you to share with the other participants how you make sure that supplies to protected customers will be sufficient in the upcoming winter, and, in particular, how the "supply standard" is implemented in your country and which difficulties you faced in this context. If you have questions or challenges that you are facing, this will also be the occasion to raise them.

As the next Gas Coordination Group will take place only in December 2013, there will be a mini tour-de-table to discuss the possible issues affecting your preparedness in the upcoming winter.

The latest gas market trends will be uncovered by the International Energy Agency and DG Energy's Market Observatory for Energy.

Please find attached to this invitation letter a set of questions along which we would like to orient the discussions.

Member States and Representative Bodies are kindly requested to indicate the name and contacts of their **two representatives for the meeting** by filling the registration form accessible through the link <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=B2GCG>. I would like to kindly ask you to complete your registration before **17 September 2013**.

Please note that according to current Commission rules, travel costs of only one representative per Member State or Representative body can be reimbursed. Experts must provide the secretary of the meeting with the documents necessary for their reimbursement, as required by the financial rules applicable in the Commission, by letter, fax or e-mail postmarked or dated not later than 30 calendar days after the final day of the meeting. The Commission is released from any obligation to reimburse travel expenses or pay any allowances after this period.

For any correspondence related to the Gas Coordination Group, you may use the functional mail box ENER-GAS-COORD-GROUP@ec.europa.eu

Please inform us of any particular need resulting from a disability, so that we may take it into account when organising this conference.

Yours sincerely,



Klaus-Dieter Borchardt

Annex: Questions for the discussion

Annex:

These questions are meant to help participants better prepare for the discussion. The Commission welcomes any written feedback from Member States, but it shall not carry out a summary of responses ahead of the meeting.

The role of underground gas storages in SoS and the implications of current storage levels / storage use patterns

- Is the level of gas in underground storages in your territory significantly lower than in previous years? Do you see a change in the way storages are used in your country?
- Have you carried out an assessment how the low level and/or the changing storage use impacts security of gas supply, and the ability of undertakings to ensure the implementation of the supply standard? If not, do you plan to carry out such an assessment?
- Do you foresee any measures to counter-balance the negative impacts on security of supply? What are they?

Update on the current security of supply situation and expectations for the winter by Member States

- Do you see any developments within or outside the EU that may raise concerns for security of gas supply in the upcoming winter period?
- Are you satisfied with the level of preparedness in your country ahead of the coming winter season?

Ensuring supplies to protected customers – implementation and monitoring of the supply standard

- *Orientation questions will be sent based on your feedback (see email of P. Pozsgai 2 August 2013) together with a non-paper at a later stage before the meeting.*