

College of Commissioners,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels

Our reference
20L010

3 February 2020

Dear President,
Dear Commissioner

SUPPORT FOR A CLEAN HYDROGEN STRATEGY

Eurogas fully subscribes to the importance of achieving a carbon neutral EU economy by 2050 in order to limit the worst effects of climate change and to demonstrate strong global climate leadership. The proposed Green Deal is a strong mechanism to build the framework that will be required to drive investments into the technologies that we need to achieve our climate objectives. We believe that the current discussion surrounding the Green Deal, including the development of an Industrial Strategy and a Hydrogen Initiative for Europe should include a focus on all forms of decarbonised and renewable hydrogen.

In this regard it is vital that finance and regulatory support is provided for the most necessary and promising technologies to deliver our climate neutrality ambition. Eurogas recognises that gaseous fuels will also need to undertake a decarbonisation pathway to contribute to climate neutrality in 2050. Therefore, we fully support a strong focus on the development and production of all gaseous fuels that deliver this target.

Considering commendable initiatives such as the battery alliance, aimed at developing strong value chains within the European Union, we strongly support a similar approach for Hydrogen. This should cover all forms of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen. The development of a hydrogen strategy is a great opportunity to signal Europe's commitment to developing decarbonised gas, as a necessary fuel for a competitive industrial sector.

It should also provide an opportunity to develop our own innovative manufacturing base in the technologies to decarbonise gas and the wider economy, including: hydrogen ready turbines, engines, heating appliances, fuel cells and electrolyzers. Europe leads in the production of these technologies today and with a smart hydrogen strategy that knowledge and know how can be translated into potentially millions of jobs and a thriving European industrial base exporting technology to the world.

From a scientific point of view the IPCC recognises that if we stand any chance to reach our ambition of keeping global warming to 1,5C we must deploy carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the coming years. CCS is a technology that can produce large volumes of decarbonised hydrogen from natural gas, if we quickly scale it up. Thus, the focus of the hydrogen strategy should be on all forms of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen.

We would therefore urge you to ensure that any hydrogen initiative covers all forms of decarbonised hydrogen, not only hydrogen produced from renewable electricity.

Yours Sincerely,

Philippe Sauquet
President of Eurogas

