

Brussels, 25 November 2020

Subject: Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) and the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance

Dear Director General Jorna,

GIE is committed to delivering the EU's Green Deal climate and energy objectives. GIE members acknowledge that different types of hydrogen will be one of the pillars of the future energy system and are ready to help scaling up – with the ultimate goal of fueling up the system with renewable hydrogen. GIE thinks that the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance (ECH2A) will be one of the main triggers that will enable the coordination between different sectors, securing project promotion that can jointly orchestrate a sustainable and coherent hydrogen market. We firmly believe that the future hydrogen market can benefit from our existing and new assets – and this is sustained by the actions that our members are already taking. Most of our members have green gas projects, including more and more on hydrogen.

Volumes, security of supply, connecting demand and supply, innovation and lowest cost for the society will be at the core during and after the energy transition period. The gas infrastructure is delivering on all of them. Europe benefits today from 2,2 million km gas pipelines to transport large amounts of hydrogen and connect supply and demand. Soon, a European Hydrogen Backbone will emerge by converting this existing network to make it fit for hydrogen, by adding new hydrogen pipelines where needed and coupling underground storage and import terminals. As well as we will see clusters based on smaller industrial and hydrogen partnerships. Underground storage in salt caverns have a technical potential of hydrogen storage of 85 pentawatt hour. Europe can easily be a global leader in H2 by combining this storage capacity and renewable energy available in Europe. And when renewables are not enough in Europe, import terminals can connect Europe to global (including European) H2 markets and can enable H2 shipment to where it is needed. When connecting the dots, the gas infrastructure is today responsible for 25% of the EU's primary energy consumption.

GIE members believe in the EU's climate ambitions and firmly commit to innovate, to invest in research and development, to engage their engineers in finding the best solutions for repurposing and retrofitting the gas infrastructure and then to find the right partners that can multiply the resulting benefits. In fact, this is what sector integration is about: inclusivity and cooperation. In the attachment of this letter, please find our brochure with some of the hydrogen innovations of our members. We are ready to share this knowledge within the roundtables and together with others to kick-off hydrogen to reach all EU markets, sectors and citizens. The ECH2A will be an accelerator of all these efforts by bringing like-minded companies and sectors at the same table to discuss and find the best way forward.

Decarbonization is a concern for us all – with many challenges and opportunities ahead. And hydrogen is the proof that only with good teamwork we will find the best way forward. We would like to confirm hereby our interest in joining the ECH2A roundtables and be a reliable partner in designing the future hydrogen market. Your support on this matter will be very valuable.

I remain at your disposal to discuss this interest that can bring mutual benefits in further details.

Yours sincerely,

