

EASEE-gas Press Announcement

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European Gas Industry Ratifies Agreement on Gas Quality Specifications

On October 27, EASEE-gas, the European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange-gas, ratified its agreement on harmonisation of gas quality specifications for the European gas market. Common Business Practice 2005-001/01 recommends natural gas quality specifications to streamline interoperability at cross-border points in Europe and describes the recommended gas quality parameters, parameter ranges and the implementation plan. The Common Business Practice (CBP) is limited to cross border and EU entry points for high calorific gas without added odorants, including LNG import terminals but excluding areas of production and isolated systems where production, transportation and utilisation are combined.

The formal ratification of the agreement through a special General Meeting of Members was necessary because following the earlier approval of the CBP by the EASEE-gas Executive Committee, three members from Spain had appealed the decision. Earlier this year, the September Madrid Forum had called upon participants upon the Forum, including members states and relevant national authorities, to analyse the consequences of the implementation of the CBP with a view to enabling EASEE-gas to present to the next Forum the challenges involved in reaching implementation.

Common Business Practices simplify and streamline business processes and thereby lead to an efficient and effective European gas market. The development of Common Business Practices is managed by an Executive Committee comprised of industry representatives from each part of the gas value chain.

Wim Groenendijk, chairman of the Executive Committee says "The ratification of this Common Business Practice now enables us to move ahead and resolve the challenges associated with the implementation. The next step will be for each member state to consider the implications and bring these to the table for discussion. I am convinced that more issues will surface from this review but confident that we can resolve these with good cooperation. The implementation of this CBP will be of great significance in terms of the ability to import different sources of gas, to transport gas throughout Europe and for European security of supply."

For any queries, please contact the EASEE-gas Chairman of the Executive Committee Wim Groenendijk [wim.w.p.groenendijk@shell.com, tel. +31 6 224 80 568] or the EASEE-gas General Manager, Andrew Morris [easee-gas@ilexenergy.com].

The CBPs can be found on the EASEE-gas website - www.easee-gas.org