

4th CEGC, Budapest 15 to 17 June 2011

Congress Resolution

4th Central European Gas Congress was held in very important period of time. Hungary terminates EU presidency on 30th June and Poland takes up the EU presidency on 1st July 2011. At the same time Slovakia terminates its V4 presidency and Czech Republic takes over the chairing of V4 countries.

It means 4th Central European Gas Congress in Budapest creates an opportunity to summarize the Hungarian presidency and announce Polish one and to underline several of important issues for our region, which Poland wants to focus on during its presidency.

1. With respect to the EC Communication on the future Role of the Regional Initiatives it is important to ensure that all V4 countries belong to one region, in terms of developing new gas infrastructure.
2. V4 gas associations support the construction of the North–South interconnector through all V4 countries, between the planned Polish and Croatian liquefied natural gas terminals, which will enhance security of natural gas supply in Central European region. With regard to experience and results of the last year the North – South project still needs full political support in all V4 countries despite financial funding on the part of European Commission. Central European Gas Market cannot be set up without interconnectors.
3. Concerning the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on integrity and transparency of energy market, Gas Associations of V4 countries raised serious doubts about the legitimacy of the adoption of the proposed regulation and the subsequent delegation of the Agency (ACER) at this stage of development of gas markets and ACER as well.
4. V4 Gas Associations strongly support EU wide rules for gas balancing. Industrial shippers with a portfolio in more than one country nowadays face the problem of different gas balancing systems in most of the member states, which makes transporting of gas across boarder very difficult for industrial consumers. Detailed harmonization of the gas balancing rules is therefore a basic request, which needs to be implemented in the network code on gas balancing.
5. Natural gas consumption of V4 region represents currently amounts to more than 40 bcm a year. There is still a great growth potential. We are strongly convinced about important and stable position of natural gas in the energy mix in all V4 countries. Natural gas is a clean, affordable, reliable, efficient and secure energy source. It has a vital role to play in a sustainable energy future.