



## PRESS RELEASE ON GAS PACKAGE REFORM AND METHANE PROPOSALS

**GasNaturally welcomes the reform of the EU natural gas market and the new regulation of methane emissions from the energy sector. This opens opportunities to accelerate the market integration of low-carbon hydrogen and other low-carbon and renewable gases and to address methane emissions through consistent EU-wide measures. GasNaturally calls on policymakers to seize these opportunities and make full use of all gaseous solutions to reach climate neutrality by 2050.**

Brussels, 15 December 2021

**GasNaturally welcomes the Commission’s proposals to modernise the EU gas market policy framework. By accelerating the deployment of low-carbon hydrogen and other low-carbon and renewable gases in the coming years – while building on safe and affordable natural gas supplies - the EU can offer its citizens and businesses versatile and clean energy solutions that do not compromise on affordability or climate ambition.**

GasNaturally President Dawn Summers stated: *“The review of the EU gas market presents a clear opportunity to bring huge benefits to the whole energy system. Low-carbon hydrogen and other low-carbon and renewable gases offer viable solutions for a net-zero economy and provide flexibility during the transition, leveraging the existing, well developed energy infrastructure.”*

The key objective of the Third Gas Package – the completion of the Internal Gas Market – has largely been achieved. GasNaturally believes the development of a market for low-carbon hydrogen and other low-carbon and renewable gases such as biomethane and biogas should take place within the existing framework for natural gas. The market reform should enhance the current natural gas market functioning, while fostering the rapid scale-up of low-carbon hydrogen and other low-carbon gases into the market to reach the EU’s decarbonisation objectives.

The European gas industry also supports the establishment of a robust Monitoring Reporting and Verification system based on the OGMP 2.0 framework and the establishment of an independent International Methane Emissions Observatory. These will establish a common, consistent, and reliable reporting of methane emissions based on one EU wide standard.

Dawn Summers added that: *“As gas will continue to play a key role in the EU’s energy future, we welcome incentives to promote innovation and new technologies and practices in tackling methane emissions across the European gas supply chain. We must be careful not to lose sight of the few relevant emission sources and avoid being overly prescriptive in policy instruments; new technologies and practices have the potential to further increase the cost-effectiveness of methane reductions over time; it’s important to retain that flexibility.”*

*GasNaturally is a partnership of eight associations (Eurogas, Natural & bio Gas Vehicle Association [NGVA Europe], European Gas Research Group [GERG], International Gas Union [IGU], International Association of Oil and Gas Producers [IOGP], Gas Infrastructure Europe [GIE], Liquid Gas Europe [LGE] and Marcogaz) that together represent the whole European gas value chain. Our members are involved in gas exploration and production, transmission, distribution, wholesale and retail operations, as well as gas in transport.*