

GASNATURALLY POSITION ON THE EU HEATING AND COOLING STRATEGY

GasNaturally welcomes the European Commission's objective to establish a common framework of options through which Member States can achieve decarbonisation goals in the heating and cooling sector in a cost effective way.

CONSIDERATIONS

A clear focus on decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sectors will aid the achievement of the binding 2030 targets for a 40% reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions and the accompanying targets energy efficiency and renewable energy ambitions. Given the variety of member state characteristics, cost-effective decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector will require a wide and increasingly complex range of energy sources and technology solutions; as well as requiring a balanced utilisation of currently available solutions and timely investment in new sources and technologies. To achieve the 2030 and 2050 decarbonisation targets, the heating and cooling sector in Europe must undergo structural changes. Gas is an important energy source in the heating industry today and can continue to play an important role in a cost-effective transition towards a low carbon heating and cooling sector.

WE RECOMMEND A STRATEGY BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Clarity of objectives: while the long term 2050 goal of a low carbon heating and cooling sector is an important ambition, this strategy should also be designed to ensure the achievement of the 2030 GHG reduction target of 40%. A clear focus on GHG reductions will go hand-in-hand with increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.
- 2) Focus on consumer choice and affordability: The strategy should ensure that consumers are offered choice and affordability through a competitive heating and cooling sector.
- 3) Framework for cost-effective national decarbonisation pathways: It should include three dimensions:
 - Recognize Member State differences: the framework should recognize the considerable national and regional differences in heating and cooling sectors. It should take a broad view including all relevant current options and future potential solutions.
 - Take a holistic view: The framework should take a system wide approach and include an assessment of options and pathways across each stage of heat delivery: energy source, transportation, storage, conversion, control, and demand. A wide range of existing and new technologies exist within each stage and synergies can be developed across stages.
 - Sequence the transition: The framework should include a sequencing of the various options available in the short, medium and long term to ensure that the potential of current solutions is maximized while new technologies are matured and new investments are triggered in time to allow for a balanced transition.

THE ROLE OF GAS IN THE HEATING AND COOLING SECTOR

Gas can contribute to enable a cost-effective decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector and facilitate the entry of renewable energy sources in the system. This applies at the system level, where gas infrastructure supports innovative solutions such as green gas or power to gas, and on the end-user level, where gas systems can be integrated with renewable technologies to achieve significant emission reductions.

GasNaturally is an initiative bringing together 6 associations representing the entire gas chain and aiming to showcase the importance of natural gas in the forthcoming transformation of the EU energy system. The members of GasNaturally are: International Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), Eurogas, Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), International Gas Union (IGU), GERG and MARCOGAZ.