

Joint press release

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The French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) and the Belgian Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation (CREG) welcome the launch by Fluxys and GRTgaz of the open season for the development of a new gas transmission interconnection between France and Belgium at Veurne

The French (CRE) and Belgian (CREG) energy regulators welcome the launch of the binding phase of the open season for the creation of a new gas interconnection between France and Belgium, to be commissioned on the 1st November 2015.

The Belgian (Fluxys) and French (GRTgaz) transmission system operators jointly launch today this open season. The results, expected for the 31st March 2012, will have to reveal a sufficient demand for gas transmission capacity from market actors in order to validate the creation of the new interconnection.

CRE and CREG highlight the importance of this innovating project. The new cross-border interconnection will allow, for the first time, to physically transport non-odorised gas from France to Belgium. This new interconnection will offer gas transmission capacities from the Dunkirk LNG terminal and the French hub PEG Nord towards Belgium, and from Belgium towards other North-West European markets. It will transport 8 billion cubic meters per year on the maximum towards Belgium. In case the market demand is sufficient, this capacity could go up to 12 billion cubic meters per year.

This new interconnection will contribute to the fluidity of the gas transmission system and to the diversification of sources and the security of supplies of France and Belgium. This project is in line with the European objectives of market integration, regional cooperation and security of supply.

These new gas transmission capacities will be developed in a regulated framework and in a coordinated manner in order to ensure a transparent and non-discriminatory access to all the market actors. The open season procedure will be compliant with the Guidelines for Good Practice on Open Seasons Procedures (GGPOS) published by the European Regulators' Group for Electricity and Gas.

CRE

Founded on 24 March 2000, the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) is an independent administrative body. CRE works to guarantee smooth and efficient operation of the electricity and natural gas markets for the benefit of the end-user. It also works to guarantee the absence of discriminatory practices, cross-subsidies or restrictions on competition.

Press contact: Anne MONTEIL- tel : 33 (0)1.44.50.41.77- mail : anne.monteil@cre.fr

CREG

The CREG is the federal regulator for the Belgian electricity and natural gas markets. In addition to its government advisory role, the CREG is also, among other tasks, entrusted with the supervision of transparency and competition issues in the electricity and natural gas markets, ensuring that market conditions are aimed at the common interest and that they fulfill the needs of the general energy policy, and also with ensuring that essential consumer interests are met.

Press contact: Laurent JACQUET – tel : 32 (0)2 289 76 90 – mail : info@creg.be