

Foro Europeo de regulación del gas – Foro de Madrid 6-7 de octubre 2016

- Dear representatives of the European Commission and of the Slovak EU Presidency,
- Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues.

It is a pleasure to welcome you all once more to this Madrid Forum, an event that keeps strengthening its position as the main discussion forum for the present and future of the European gas sector.

In this 29th edition the program envisages discussions in 5 areas of interest, which summarize the current challenges of the sector, and where Spain and this National Markets and Competition Commission, CNMC, have an important role to play.

We all share the goal to reinforce security of supply, especially when we must count on external sources of supply to match European gas demand. Spain, partly due to its geographical location, has led the working group of Liquefied Natural Gas of the Council of European Energy Regulators together with France, proposing policy measures to reinforce the LNG market.

New infrastructures will be needed in our countries and at a European level to achieve a market integration that fulfills the European Gas Market that we all want.

Several European Regulations must serve to identify and facilitate key investments, and this Commission works actively with the rest of National Regulatory Authorities to support this target and avoid potential excess of capacity.

Following the principles of the Gas Target Model, the Iberian Gas Market has been created, with the purpose of achieving a real integration of the Spanish and Portuguese natural gas market. In December 2015 the Organized Gas Market on the Spanish side in the Iberian Peninsula began operating, as the culmination of the work undertaken since 2012. Since then, we are witnessing a growing number of transactions and participants to it.

Beyond this Iberian approach, Spain, through this CNMC leads, together with Portugal and France, the South Gas Regional Integration, which has made relevant progress in coordinated congestion management and cross-border capacity allocation.

As you may see, we are fully committed to the objective that bring us all here: to ensure that the European citizens benefit in terms of price and security of a

competitive European Gas Market.

We wish you all a fruitful exchange of views and discussions during the Madrid Forum. Thank you very much. Enjoy your meeting and enjoy Madrid.