



Gas Infrastructure Europe



PRESS RELEASE

## GIE: 'Hydrogen is one of the solutions at the forefront of the EU's Industrial Strategy'

Brussels, 16 March 2020

The European Commission presented its European Industrial [Strategy](#) that aims to drive Europe's competitiveness through its twin transitions towards climate neutrality and digital leadership.

The Strategy recognizes that all carriers of energy, including electricity, gas and liquid fuels will need to be used more effectively by linking different sectors. It emphasises the role of trans-European energy networks to support the transition to climate neutrality. *'An integrated sector coupling approach would facilitate the development of the energy system as it would capture the value generated by the gas infrastructures. We need more ambitious efforts for exploring further the coupling of gas (natural gas, green gas and hydrogen) and electricity systems whilst fostering sectoral integration to decarbonise all energy sectors.'*, says Gas Infrastructure Europe Secretary General Boyana Achovski.

The Strategy is clear on the need to launch a new European Clean Hydrogen Alliance bringing investors together with governmental, institutional and industrial partners. *'The Alliance will build on existing work to identify technology needs, investment opportunities and regulatory barriers and enablers.'*

*'It is good that more attention is given to technologies and investment opportunities that accelerate the decarbonization of industry. Our future energy system will be a combination of electricity, gaseous and liquid energy. Hydrogen is one of the solutions at the forefront of the EU's industrial strategy. It provides a cost-effective solution from an infrastructure perspective. The existing gas infrastructure can be largely retrofitted and future-proofed to help transport and efficiently store hydrogen across the EU.'* says Achovski. *'Now it is time to act and make this happen. We need to ensure an EU framework for gas that fosters the development and uptake of renewable and low-carbon gases, thus sustaining a cost-effective energy transition'*, Achovski adds.

The Strategy outlines the review of EU competition guidelines and the "fitness" check of various State aid guidelines. *'It is essential to ensure the competitiveness of EU industry and a level playing field for all clean technologies within Europe, while avoiding a fratricidal subsidies race and supporting important public interest objectives.'*, Achovski comments.

### Note to Editors

Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) is the association representing the interests of European gas infrastructure operators active in gas transmission, gas storage and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) regasification. GIE is a trusted partner of European institutions, regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders. It is based in Brussels, the heart of European policymaking. GIE currently represents 70 member companies from 26 countries. GIE's vision is that by 2050, the gas infrastructure will be the backbone of the new innovative energy system, allowing European citizens to benefit from a secure, efficient and sustainable energy supply.



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