

PRESS RELEASE

Prof. Dr. Catrinus Jetses Jepma first ERIG-President

Brussels, 16 September 2015 – Prof. Dr. Catrinus Jetses Jepma was elected first president of ERIG, the European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation. Jepma chaired the Dutch gas innovation program Energy Delta Gas from 2010 to 2015, a 44 Mio. Research & Development program in the Netherlands to show the potential of gas in the future energy system. Catrinus Jepma has a background in economics and law and is university professor since 1988, holding a chair in energy and sustainability at the University of Groningen and in economics at the Open University, Heerlen.

Jepma has vast experience in energy policy and markets, environmental impact and policy issues, energy efficiency measures and energy technologies. He is listed as an author of more than hundred publications. Aside of his academic work, he guides policy makers and project developers regarding emissions trading projects, as well as in the areas of energy policy, renewable energy and energy system integration. As coordinating lead author within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from 1993 to 2007, he shared the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC in 2007.

In June 2015 six leading European technical and scientific organizations have established ERIG to foster the role of gas and innovative gas technologies in the future energy system. ERIG is a new European research and development network that will guide gas in this transition process towards a future renewable based energy system. It works on a non-profit basis. The competence network aims to develop the role of gas by improving the efficiency of gas related energy conversion processes in the domestic, commercial and industrial area, in particular in the field of gas appliances and other utilization technologies. Furthermore it wants to enhance safety, reliability and economic sustainability of the European gas infrastructure system and gas storages, including LNG as a transport fuel for long distance transport, on land and on sea. Besides enhancing the share of renewable and synthetic gases, such as biogas, bioSNG, hydrogen or methane, in the gas system it is one major goal to support the integration of volatile renewable power in the energy system by flexible gas options (Power-to-Gas) to balance the power grid through the combination of demand and supply flexibility and storage.

ERIG offers a unique platform that is directly linked to an existing and broad research and innovation infrastructure in the member countries. This covers research facilities, universities as well as industry. ERIG focusses in particular to the new requirements of energy and gas in Northern/Western Europe. ERIG will be supporting a strategic research agenda of the European Union concerning energy and gas. This covers the joint promotion of calls within the framework of Horizon 2020 as well as the development of positions and suggestions to the political sphere.

The cooperation agreement of ERIG has been signed by the French Gas Association (AFG), Danish Gas Technology Centre, German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW), Energy Delta Gas Research (EDGaR, Netherlands), Energiforsk – Swedish Energy Research Centre, Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association (SVGW) and the Swiss Association of Gas Industry (VSG).

Please check www.erig.eu for further information.

The **European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG)** is a non-profit network that serves as a focal point for European collaboration in research and innovation by planning and executing R&D in the field of sustainable and innovative gas technologies. ERIG members represent national technical and scientific gas organizations and associations. Via its members, ERIG is directly linked to existing R&D structures in EU countries such as research facilities, universities and industry. The members represent in particular the requirements of energy and gas in Northern/Western Europe. The research portfolio of ERIG members covers all aspects from the production of gas through to gas utilization in different markets.

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