

Gas variability in Europe

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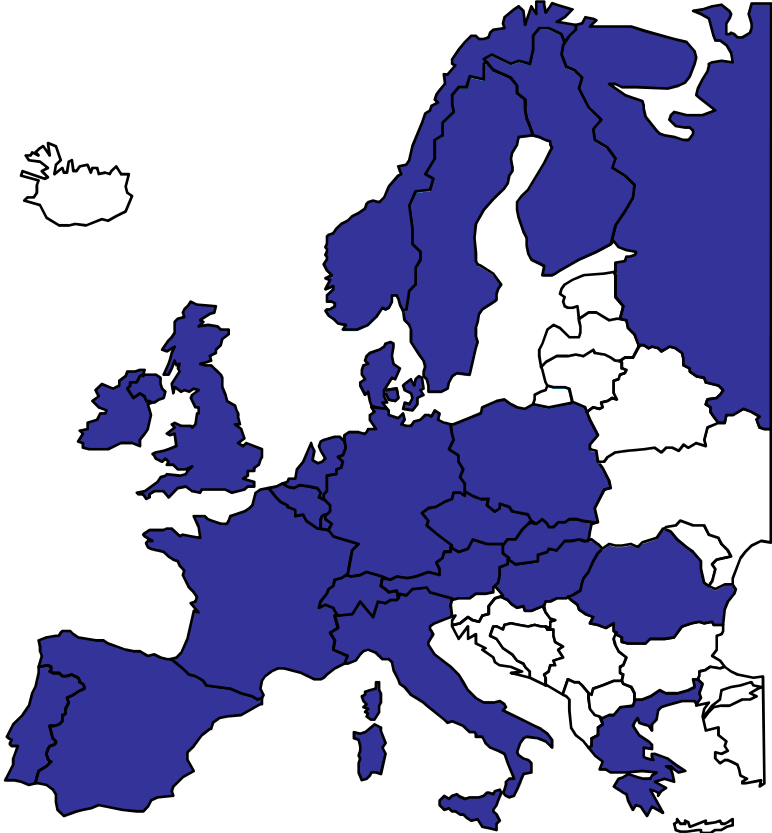
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EASEE-gas represents all segments of the gas industry

Members

- Producers
- Transporters
- Distribution Network Ops
- Traders & Shippers
- Suppliers
- Retail Suppliers
- End Users
- LTSOSP*

*LNG Terminal Operators and Storage Operators and Service Providers



Increased complexity

- The variability of the gas quality in Europe is likely to grow because of increased LNG & new pipeline imports as well as a greater interconnectivity of the networks within Europe
- This could create difficulties as many end users are not used to changing gas qualities
- There are case examples whereby this is managed effectively
- A good study case can be found in Belgium as large gas quality variations are effectively managed between Fluxys and the end users
- Key aspect is enhanced communication between the TSO and the relevant industrial end user

Belgium case example

- The Zeebrugge LNG terminal, owned and operated by Fluxys has a capacity of 9 BCM/annum and can receive LNG supply from a wide variety of sources, which potentially entails huge gas quality fluctuations.
- If the gas quality changes substantially (LNG arriving from a different supply source, Boil-off gas increase, change in network configuration...), the TSO will inform the impacted sensitive end users on changing quality (gradient, estimated time of arrival, composition...).
- The end users can adjust their facilities accordingly and avoid any detrimental impact
- Likewise, a CCGT is capable of switching from high calorific gas to low calorific gas (and vice-versa) based on close cooperation between Fluxys personnel and the power plant dispatching

Conclusion

- ➡ The previous examples show that major gas quality variability can be tackled as the required technology is available. Of course, information management is key.
- ➡ We think that an improved information flow on gas quality between producers, TSO's and end-users on a European level is an essential aspect for managing changing gas qualities in a safe and efficient way, and needs to be addressed in this framework.

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