



IGU Conference | Conclusions

The International Gas Union held its annual conference in Lisbon on May 17 and 18, 2023.

It was attended by delegations from all continents working in the various areas of development of the energy markets, particularly Gas, and participated, together with two hundred Portuguese experts, in an important debate on the major challenges facing global economic development and the future of the planet.

This conference gave rise to the present Lisbon Letter, as follows:

Lisbon Letter

1

We live in a time of urgency. For this time it is important that we all have clear objectives, can observe the major goals, and can take into account the development of research and technology; and we are all here to participate in this.

2

There are no conditions for reaching the great goals - defined by the UN by the subregional intergovernmental structures - if we do not observe the sectors where it is urgent to intervene, such as agriculture and transports, and adapt the policies of each State to the best technologies;

3

The world cannot follow a vision of decarbonization based mainly on the electrification of the economy;

4

Natural Gas will continue to be the transition energy of the next two decades. The abandonment of coal, the slowdown in consumption of fossil fuels, especially in industry and mobility, will force countries to implement projects in renewable gases such as hydrogen and biomethane;

5

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has brought a new geopolitical reality, making evident the fact that Europe cannot continue to develop without the transitional energy that is gas, whether natural or from renewable sources;

6

Gas infrastructures are very relevant assets, which should be valued and expanded, in order to promote the production of renewable gases in the context of the circular economy, valuing endogenous resources, whether industrial, agricultural or domestic;

7

The use of waste for energy production should have as priority the production of renewable gases, as it is a more efficient solution than when used for electricity production;

8

The decarbonization of urban mobility, including collective transport and heavy goods mobility, can only happen at the desired speed with renewable gases, especially biomethane;

9

It is necessary to create incentives for the acquisition of natural gas vehicles, enhancing the use of biomethane;

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The gas industry is today ready for a rapid transformation to build a better world. But not only that, it is also committed to the energy security of each State and to the total - circular - utilization of resources, as well as to the fight against energy poverty, a central element of the policies affirmed by the UN.

Finally, in the decarbonization process, the regulator should not promote technologies, but rather set a goal for reducing emissions, encouraging those who comply and penalizing those who do not.

The market will be in charge of developing the most effective technologies to achieve the goals set by governments and we are all here to participate in this.