

PRESS RELEASE

Gerald Linke Elected President of ERIG - Outgoing President Prof Catrinus Jepma hands over the Fast Growing Research Initiative

June 24rd, 2020 – Prof Gerald Linke was elected yesterday evening President of the European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG). Well-known in the European and international energy community, he currently holds the position as Chairman of the Board of Directors Energy at the German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW).

“DVGW is one of the initiators and founding members of ERIG, and we recognise the benefits of such an innovation platform. So far, ERIG has been of great value for expanding the research cooperation on key issues for the further development towards a climate-neutral European energy system. I will strive to support ERIG in this challenge and further strengthen its role as a pool of competence and reliable source of scientifically based facts and figures in the European energy scene”, said Gerald Linke.

Linke, who is also president of the Technical Association of the European Natural Gas Industry MARCOGAZ and Chairman of the International Gas Union (IGU) Strategy Committee, succeeds Prof Catrinus Jepma. The outgoing president has been in the forefront of ERIG’s development from its beginning until today. both during the starting years of ERIG as an informal network and since 2019 as ERIG took the formal form of an international non-profit organisation seated in Brussels. During his leadership, the organisation has developed tremendously. Today ERIG has established itself as a go to partner in several European research projects, as a platform of scientific exchange and cooperation across European borders and with a firm structure with clear roles and responsibilities working in synergy. The recent increase of country members involved in ERIG is a clear indicator of a successful approach.

Thanks to the network of leading scientist in the area of Energy Systems, Renewable & Decarbonised Gas and regional aspects of i.e. the North Sea. ERIG is currently affiliated partner in five key area projects ranging from the topic of “Introduction of 100% Hydrogen in northern Netherlands” to “Co-Development of Evaluation-tools for P2G” and “Demonstration of renewable hydrogen co-generation in real-life-equivalent conditions” as well as the “Development of the perspective of introducing hydrogen in natural gas high pressure and storage infrastructures”

“It has been a great privilege to lead and work with such a committed network concerning the topics of crucial relevance to Europe. I am certain that molecules – and particularly

green and carbon free gas – will play a vital role to achieve EU climate goals. ERIG can help finding the right answers to the current energy challenges”, resumes Jepma his perspective on ERIG.

About ERIG

The European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation (ERIG) is a non-profit organisation which aims at strengthening the important role that gas plays as an energy source for the transition of the European energy system in synergy with intermittent renewable energy production. The members are national technical and scientific gas organizations and associations in Europe. They represent, in particular, the interests of the energy and gas sectors in Europe. Currently, ERIG consists of the following member associations:

- Danish Gas Technology Centre (DGC)
- German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW)
- Koninklijke vereniging van Gasfabrikanten in Nederland KVGN (Niederlande)
- Austrian Association for Gas and Water (ÖVGW)
- Swiss Gas and Water Association(SVGW) and Association of the Swiss Natural Gas Industry (VSG)
- GASSCO (Norway)
- Slovak Gas and Oil Association (SGOA)

The network focuses particularly on promoting innovation and development. Through its members, ERIG is directly linked to research institutes, universities and industry in the respective countries. The broad research portfolio covers all aspects of the supply chain, from extraction to use of gas, and promotes European cooperation in energy research and development projects specifically in the area of sustainable gases and related innovative technologies. Moreover, ERIG will also support the strategic research agenda of the EU in the area of energy and gas. This includes initiating joint European research projects on the future role of gases in the energy system.