

Minutes of the Executive Board meeting

1st of June 2023

Start & end of the meeting: 09h00 – 12h30 Venue: Det Kgl. Bibliotek, Copenhagen, Denmark

Attendants: Liam Nolan (President), Alexander Schwanzer (Vice-President), Manuel Coxe (Secretary General), Stefano Cagnoli, Thierry Chapuis, Daniel Czeto (replacing Rastislav Nukovic), Anne-Sophie Decaux, Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Kris de Wit, Sylwia Gladysz, Alvaro Laranjo, Thea Larsen, Diego Modolell, Naiara Ortiz de Mendibil, Signe Sonne (replacing Aaron Petersen), Pawel Stanczak, Jose Miguel Tudela Olivares, Steven Van Caekenberghe and Uwe Wetzel.

Apologized: Frank Graf, Mattias Hanson, Stanislav Kazda, Arto Korpela, Dimitrios Kourkouraidis, Ion Manescu, Agnieszka Ozga, Lenka Strakova, Ioannis Tsiblakis, Steven Vallender and Jeroen Zanting.

Invited: Georg Florian Kircher and Virginia Sanchez.

1. Opening of the Session

The President welcomed the Members and opened the meeting.

1.1. Quorum and approval of the agenda

The quorum was reached as 14 Executive Board Members out of 21 were present or represented. The proposed agenda was approved without modification.

1.2. Welcome to new attendants

The President welcomed Signe Sonne as representative of Energinet in replacement of Aaron Petersen. The President thanked Francisco De La Flor for his contribution in MARCOGAZ as it was his last Executive Board meeting due to a change of position and invited him to address a few words.

Francisco De La Flor thanked the Members for the very constructive work done together over the past years and ensured that ENAGAS will continue to be represented in the meetings of the Executive Board and General Assembly by Abel Enriquez.

1.3. Approval of the Minutes of 16/03/2023

The Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of 16/03/2023 were approved without modification.

2. Implementation of the decisions from the last Executive Board meeting

The President informed the Members of the Executive Board that the candidature of DVGW, together with Gasunie and DGC, to host the EGATEC 2024 in Hamburg was approved by both MARCOGAZ and GERG and that DVGW Kongress will start the preparation of the event jointly with the two associations and the hosting Members. The Members were also informed that the document *"A Methane Target for Midstream Gas Industry"* was published on the website and promoted through communications channels.

The President notified the Executive Board that David A. Merbecks who was appointed as Secretary of the Standing Committee Sustainability has started his duties.

The President let the Executive Board Members know that two fixed deposit bank accounts (3 months

1

Marcogaz

maturity and 11 months maturity) were created for MARCOGAZ, with respectively 250 (000) \in and 1.000 (000) \in as it was agreed during the last Executive Board meeting in March.

At last, the President reported to the Executive Board on the conclusions of the 37th Gas Regulatory Forum (Madrid Forum) that took place on 11-12 May 2023 and to which MARCOGAZ President and Secretary General participated. The President debriefed the Members about the discussions and outcomes of the Madrid Forum.

3. Preparation for the General Assembly: Accounts, Audit and Budget

3.1. Accounts and Audit for Financial Year 2022

3.1.1. Accounts for the Financial Year 2022

The Secretary General informed the Members about the budgeted vs actual costs in 2022 compared to the costs in 2021. The actual costs were 48 (000) \in less than the budgeted costs while an increase of 8 (000) \in of costs was verified if compared to 2021.

More details are shown in the table below:

COSTS					
Nr.	Description	2022		2021	
		Budgeted (€)	Actual (€)	Actual (€)	
1	Cost of payroll staff	385 (000)	373 (000)	398 (000)	
2	Office rent, logistic & reception	45 (000)	49 (000)	48 (000)	
3	Office operation	90 (000)	88 (000)	64 (000)	
4	Services and membership	70 (000)	40 (000)	38 (000)	
5	Communication and events	15 (000)	7 (000)	1 (000)	
	Total costs	605 (000)	557 (000)	549 (000)	

The Secretary General also presented the Financial Accounts for 2022. The current assets were **1.476 (000)** €, same as liabilities, with a net total profit of **23.821**€. The profit was achieved despite the reduction in revenues of 48 (000) € due to the wind up of membership fees of the two Members from Ukraine. More details are shown in the documents from the accountants Amaris, provided to the Members, and here below summarized:

2022 Balance Sheet (Simpli	fied) [€]	2022 Profit and Loss Statemen	2022 Budgeted [€]	
Assets (Current)	1.476.665	Revenues (Membership)	580.890	605.450
Fixed Assets	22.465	Operation Expenses	557.069	-605.202
Accounts Receivable	27.767	Net Profit	+23.821	248
Cash at Bank as of 31/12/2022	1.426.433	Capital & Reserves 2021	1.395.044	
Liabilities	1.476.665	Capital & Reserves 2022	1.418.865	
Capital & Reserves	1.418.865			
Current Liabilities	57.800			



DECISION 2023/04: The Executive Board approved the statements of the accounts for 2022 and recommended its submission to the General Assembly of the Members taking place on the 1st of June 2023 at 14h00 in Copenhagen – Denmark, for final approval.

3.1.2. Audit of the Financial Accounts for the Year 2022

The Secretary General presented the result of the audit performed by Deloitte and mentioned that the signed document was not available yet but would be distributed via email as soon as received.

DECISION 2023/05: The Executive Board agreed to recommend to the General Assembly of the Members taking place on the 1st of June 2023 at 14h00 in Copenhagen – Denmark the approval of the Audit report by email.

3.2. Budget for 2024

3.2.1. Presentation of proposal of the membership contribution in 2024

The Secretary General also informed the Members of the Board that although inflation has been very high (>10%), the proposal for the membership fee in 2024 is to keep the same amount as the one agreed for 2023. The estimation of revenues coming from the membership fees is expected to be at 628 (000) \in , the bank interests on fixed deposit is expected at 20 000 \in This leaves a total revenue of 648 (000) \in . Therefore, the following proposition was presented:

- The membership fee for Charter Members would remain at 35,700 € (no change).
- The membership fee for Corporate Members would remain at 12 210 € (no change).
- The membership fee for Associate Members would remain at 6 410 € (no change).
- The membership fee for RGC and UA TSO (Ukraine) would remain null (no change).

Following a brief discussion, the following was concluded:

DECISION 2023/06: For the year 2024, the Executive Board approved to maintain the membership fee of the Charter Members at 35.700€ (no change from 2023), Corporate Members at 12.210€ (no change from 2023), and Associate Members at 6.410€ (no change from 2023) and recommended its submission to the General Assembly of the Members taking place on the 1st of June 2023 at 14h00 in Copenhagen – Denmark, for final approval.

DECISION 2023/07: The Executive Board approved to maintain the exemption of membership fees in 2024 for the two Members from Ukraine due to the war and recommended its submission to the General Assembly of the Members taking place on the 1st of June 2023 at 14h00 in Copenhagen – Denmark, for final approval.

3.2.2. Income and cost estimation

The Secretary General first presented the Executive Board some relevant information on estimation of income in 2024.

On one hand, Membership fee for RGC and UA TSO (Ukraine) will be kept at 0 € which will mean a reduction of income of - 48 (000) €. There will also be a membership fee reduction from 18 (000) € to 12 (000) € for

two Charter Members due to the downgrading of their membership (from Charter to Corporate Membership) that will result in a reduction of income of - 11 (000) \in . There is uncertainty about the continuation of Membership of one Corporate Member due to the restructuring of the company that would mean a reduction of income of -12 (000) \in .

On the other hand, there was a Membership fee increase of 50% for three Charter Members (one in 2022 and two in 2023) which will mean an increase of income from 2023 to 2024 of +36 (000) \in . Furthermore, the fixed bank deposit will lead to an increase in income of 20 000 \in (after tax). So, the total balance for revenues is expected to decrease by -16 (000) \in .

The Secretary General then exposed the estimation of costs in 2024. Regarding the costs of Payroll staff for 2024, they are estimated to be higher than for 2023 due to inflation adjustments.

Also, it was previously agreed to have 5 full time employees with the withdrawal of 74 (000) \in of accumulated reserves per year. This strategy will be pursued by with reduced withdraw of accumulated reserved at 35 (000) \in in 2024. The Secretary General also informed the Board that there is a vacant position of energy profile to deal with the Standing Committee Gas Utilisation & New Gases, CEN/ISO Standards, Regulation on Methane Emissions and Hydrogen and other energy related Regulations and Directives.

Regarding the office rent, logistics & reception, in 2023 the costs increased by 10% due to inflation (that was the practice in the properties market in Brussels). The contract for renting the office will expire in December 2023. The initial offer received for the renewal of the contract has a 46% increase from 2023 to 2024. The consideration is to reduce the surface rented – other options are also being analysed. A remote working scheme for all employees will ease the management of the reduced surface of the offices.

Regarding the office operation, the costs of daily operations, meetings and travel are expected to remain as for 2023. Costs of services and membership are also expected to remain as for 2023 while costs for communications and events are expected to decrease due to no planned big physical events.

ESTIMATION OF COSTS					
N	Description	2024	2023		
Nr.	Description	Budget (€)	Budget (€)		
1	Cost of payroll staff	498 (000)	470 (000)		
2	Office rent, logistic & reception	50 (000)	48 (000)		
3	Office operation	85 (000)	82 (000)		
4	Services and membership	45 (000)	43 (000)		
5	Communication and events	5 (000)	25 (000)		
	Total costs	683 (000)	668 (000)		

More details are shown in the table below.

Finally, the Secretary General presented the budget for the Financial Year 2024 as depicted below:



	Income			Costs		
Nr.	Description	Amount (EUR)	Nr.	Description	Amount (EUR)	
1	Membership Fees	628 (000)	1	Cost of payroll staff (5 Full Time)	498 (000)	
2	Interests on Deposits	20 (000)	2	Office rent, logistic & reception	50 (000)	
	Total Receivable	648 (000)	3	Operations	85 (000)	
3	Withdraw of Reserves	35 (000)	4	Services and membership	45 (000)	
	Total Available	683 (000)	5	Communication and events	5 (000)	
	EXPECTED ANNUAL LOSS IN 2024 - 35 (000)			Total Costs (2,25% increase from 2023)	683 (000)	

DECISION 2023/08: The Executive Board Members approved the budget of 2024, comprising a total cost of 683 (000) € and withdrawal of 35 (000) € from the accumulated reserves and recommended its submission to the General Assembly of the Members taking place on the 1st of June 2023 at 14h00 in Copenhagen – Denmark, for final approval.

3.3. State of Budget in 2023

The Secretary General informed the Executive Board on the state of the budget of 2023 as of 15 May 2023. The approved budget in December 2022 expected a total income of 594 (000) \in with expenses of 668.000 \in , meaning a total loss of -74 (000) \in (this amount was agreed to be withdrawn from the accumulated reserves). The amount received is 580 (000) \in , expecting other 54 (000) \in that would lead to a total of 634 (000) \in ; the total expense as of 15 May 2023 was of 180 (000) \in , expecting other 476 (000) \in by the end of the year, that would lead to a total expense of 656 (000) \in , reflecting on a final loss of -22.000 \in (expected to be 52 (000) less loss than budgeted).

More details are shown in the table below:

	Approved Budget (15/12/2022)	Received / Paid (as of 15/05/2023)	Expected (16/05 to 31/12/2023)	TOTAL Projection
INCOME	€ 594 (000)	€ 580 (000)	€ 54 (000)	€ 634 (000)
EXPENSES	€ - 668 (000)	€ - 180 (000)	€ - 476 (000)	€ - 656 (000)
TOTAL PROFIT/LOSS	€ - 74 (000)	€ 400 (000)	€ - 422 (000)	€ - 22 (000)

The Secretary General also informed the Members that there is 1 802 (000) \in available at the bank, comprising 236 (000) \in in the current accounts, 315 (000) \in at flexible deposit and 1 250 (000) \in at fixed term deposit.

4. Organisation of EGATEC 2024 & 2026

The President informed the Members that the official call for hosting the event initiated in December 2022 and that MARCOGAZ received an expression of interest from Gas.be (Belgian gas Association) and official candidature from DVGW (with the possibility of organizing it together with Gasunie and DGC), to host the EGATEC 2024. The Members were notified that no expression of interest or candidates were registered from GERG Members.



MARCOGAZ and GERG Executive Boards jointly approved the organization of EGATEC 2024 by DVGW, jointly with Gasunie and DGC.

It was also addressed the fact that internal discussions with OVGW are being held to organise the EGATEC 2026 in Vienna, Austria (and possibly with MARCOGAZ Members from Austria's neighbouring countries).

DVGW Kongress, exposed to the Executive Board the milestones achieved on the organisation of EGATEC 2022 and presented the proposal of the organisation of EGATEC 2024. He also presented the 3 options for the event's venue, suggesting the preference of the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg. The side events were also introduced: 11th GERG Young Researchers' Awards, the scientific poster exhibition and MARCOGAZ's Annual Ordinary General Assembly. Nonetheless, the Secretary General said that MARCOGAZ General Assembly would take place the day before the EGATEC 2024 event.

The representative of DVGW Kongress also proposed the event ticket prices for approval: 1700 € (excl. VAT) for the regular ticket, 1500 € for early bird ticket, 1400 € for Members in MARCOGAZ, GERG, DVGW, DGC and Gasunie, and 700 € for students and poster presenters.

Finally, the representative of DVGW Kongress presented to the Members the sponsoring possibilities: Diamond (30 000 €), Gold (10 000 €), Member Gold (5 000 €), Silver (4 000 €), Host of Evening event (30 000 €), Host of Bar Reception (15 000 €), Breakfast Reception Host (8 000 €) and Video Sponsor (3 000 €).

The President suggested that Alexander Schwanzer, Vice-president of MARCOGAZ, represents the Association in the Programme Committee of the event. Nonetheless, the Vice-President asked for time for reflection.

DECISION 2023/09: The Executive Board approved the dates (18 and 19 of June 2024) and the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg as the venue for EGATEC 2024 following the proposal of DVGW Kongress.

DECISION 2023/10: The Executive Board approved the ticket prices and sponsorship prices proposed by DVGW Kongress.

5. Presentations from Standing Committees

5.1. Standing Committee Gas Utilisation and New Gases (SCGU&H2+)

The Chair referred that the report "Exposing the Hidden Health Impact of Cooking with Gas" of NGO CLASP was addressed, and it was agreed that the position of MARCOGAZ, should not directly point to the CLASP report nor the electric cooking.

During the meeting there was also an exchange on National/Regional situations regarding heating and cooling of buildings, a template will be drafted to facilitate collection of information. The topic of hybrid heat pump as a solution for collective heating systems was also covered.

The Chair referred to the fact that the **WG Gas Quality** is following closely the activities at CEN/TC234/WG11 and CEN/TC408 level. The position paper *"Harmonization of gas quality on Wobbe Index restriction in product standards"* (internal publication) was shared with ENTSOG.

Following up of the standard *EN16726:2015 Gas quality H-gas*, it was referred that CEN SFGas GQS WG proposed the inclusion of class system, nevertheless TSOs do not see feasible to implement deviation treatment and some regulatory framework would be needed. It was referred that Madrid Forum supports an amendment of INT NC for considering WI (Wobbe Index) class system.

It was referred that the 2nd meeting of the **WG Energy Efficiency** took place on 20th of April and following that an ad hoc meeting was held on the 12th of May to discuss the position paper on revision of Ecodesign for central heating appliances and water heaters. The WG drafted a MARCOGAZ position paper in response to the European Commission's call for contributions following the 27th of April Consultative Forum.



It was said that the last **WG Gas Installations** meeting took place on 15th of March and the following will be on 5th of October. The WG GI is addressing data collection for EGAS-C study, maintenance of appliances, blending of natural gas with H2 and H2 issues, the CLASP report on cooking appliances.

The 1st meeting of the **WG Sector Integration** was held on the 21st of April with only 4 participants (BE, ES, IE and CH). It was reported the need to have more participants involved in the group.

The next duties of the WG SI would identify topics related to geological H2 storage at different scales, study the role of pipelines compared to electricity cables in transporting energy from offshore wind plants to onshore distribution and usage points, analyze sector coupling of natural gas and electricity through H2, understanding the interplay between energy efficiency measures and sector coupling to mitigate costs.

The Chair referred to the kickoff meeting of the **WG H2**, **bioCH4 & SNG** that was held on the 25th of May, with the scope being a study on technological and gas infrastructure related aspects as well as the climate impact of new gases. The foreseen next steps of the WG will be to analyse existing studies on new gases (e.g., IRENA), define topics for detailed examination and to elaborate and coordinate MARCOGAZ related work items with experts from different WGs. The gases and derivatives that will be under the scope of the WG are hydrogen, biomethane and SNG, hydrogen derivatives (NH_3 , Mohede, LOHC), CO_2 provision for SNG and H_2 derivatives.

5.2. Standing Committee Sustainability (SCS)

The Chair referred about the project "EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities" that is directly addressed at SCS level to align positions of different TSO's in the reporting. PSG launched an initiative to distribute a questionnaire specific to DSOs in the WG Distribution and SCS, to try pave the way for involvement of DSOs in this project.

The Chair of SCS referred to the work of the **WG HLS**, presented the technical note on "*Black Powder and Mine Dust*" that was addressed during the 8th of May SCS meeting and proposed its approval for publication.

It was also notified on the ongoing discussions on Contractor Safety Management in the 3 phases of prequalification. The WG will also be addressing the topic of education and training of the workforce especially related to the handling of H2.

Likewise, the topics of Gas cooking appliances impact on health (CLASP report) and organisation of HSE in companies were being addressed.

The Chair gave an update on the topics being addressed by the **WG Methane Emissions+**, including the follow up with CEN/TC234/WG14, CEN/TC264/WG38 and ISO/TC197/SC1. The Chair referred that the expert group of 5 Associations (MARCOGAZ, GERG, ENTSOG, GIE and EUROGAS) is working on a 1–2-page document to support the discussion during the Trialogue whose intention would be to have a shared position paper from the midstream and downstream of the gas system.

A new topic on IED (Industrial Emissions Directive) was covered in an ad hoc meeting (25th of May). The revised IED is expected to have a Trialogue discussion starting soon, with the final text expected for early 2024. It was referred that the revised Directive could have a large impact on emissions of Large Combustion Plants (LCP). The intention of the group was to start building a common position to influence the upcoming Trialogue process.

The Correlation Factors project, aiming to propose arguments for the revision of standard EN15446, so far has collected unsatisfactory data both in terms of number of datasets received (11 companies) and in terms of the amount of data points within the datasets. The Chair invited the Executive Board Members to reinforce the relevance of sending the data for this important initiative within their companies.

The Chair referred that the BATs on venting and flaring were finalized and approved, with only the introductory document missing, for which delivery is expected before the next Executive Board meeting on 13th of September.



The Chair reported that the project on Scope 3 emissions will have its kick-off in the second half of the year, and a call for participants will be made in June.

5.3. Standing Committee Gas Infrastructure (SCGI)

The last meeting of the SGGI was held on the 19th of April where an update on the work done on repurposing UGS to hydrogen and on methane emissions under CEN/TC 234 was given. The Chair reminded that Chairmanships positions for the WG LNG and WG Storage are still vacant and Executive Board Members were encouraged to propose candidates.

Regarding **TF H2**, the Chair referred that the power point summarizing the report "Cost Estimation of Hydrogen Admission into Existing Natural Gas Infrastructure and End Use" was presented, covering the goals of the study and its scope, the methodology applied, the draft results and key finding and conclusions. It was also reported that the infographic published in 2019 was updated with new findings and information.

The last meeting of the **WG Distribution** was held on 8th of March. The Chair mentioned that the WG Distribution agreed to merge the EGAS-B and KPI reports in a single report on safety and for that a call to gather data was launched through MARCOSTAT (CALL#4).

The **WG Transmission Pipelines** has recently addressed the "Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive" and plans to address the topic of CO2 transmission. The Chair informed that the document "Gas Transmission Pipeline Safety" was published on the MARCOGAZ website.

The **WG Odorization** has revised the document "*Natural Gas Odorization Practices in Europe*", with it now being ready for publication. The WG is also working on the document "Odorization of Natural Gas/Hydrogen Mixtures and Pure Hydrogen" although the countries odorizing hydrogen are not yet known. A document for internal use was shared on fuel cells and impurities from odorants.

The **WG Gas Metering** is gathering information through a questionnaire on measurement of nonconventional gases and is working on the meter's life service.

DECISION 2023/11: The Executive Board approved the document "Mine Dust and Black Powder" and recommended its publication.

DECISION 2023/12: The Executive Board approved the publication of the position paper "Pan-European 'boiler ban' in 2029 - another way is possible and preferable and recommended its publication."

6. Communications & Liaisons

6.1. Communications

The Secretary General informed the Members that the technical document "A Methane Target for Midstream Gas Industry" was published and disseminated through social media. Also, the internal library in the Intranet was updated with new documents.

The Association keeps on conducting activities related to the 55th MARCOGAZ Anniversary Conference & Gala Dinner. It was also mentioned that MARCOGAZ has partnered and participated in numerous relevant energy related events addressing technical topics on renewable and low-carbon gases and continues to organize the Monthly Methane Mondays, together with GIE and the Energy Community Secretariat.



Finally, it was informed that other communication activities are coordinated with other associations (EBA, Eurogas, Ready4H2, etc). Likewise, the Secretariat will closely support the activities of DVGW Congress for the organization of EGATEC 2024.

6.2. Liaisons

The Secretary General informed the Members of the Executive Board that MARCOGAZ's mandate in the Clean Hydrogen Alliance Transmission and Distribution Roundtable has been recently renewed for other two years. MARCOGAZ continues to be part of ENTSOG's Advisory Panel.

The Secretary General let the Executive Board know that meetings with OIML and WELMEC were carried out and that there was an exchange with EURAMET on the availability of MARCOGAZ to be part of the Advisory Panel. There was also an exchange with the Canadian Gas Association to partner on the promotion of both MARCOGAZ organised events and CGA events, such as the International Gas Research Conference 2024.

At last, the Secretary General informed the Members of the Executive Board that there was an expression of interest from ICGB (the gas interconnector Greece-Bulgaria) to become Member in MARCOGAZ and the Secretariat held a meeting with its representatives.

7. Administration and Secretariat

The Secretary General informed the Executive Board Members that a new colleague, Friso Resink, seconded by Gasunie, joined the Secretariat for 8 months traineeship and will be supporting the technical activities.

8. 55th Anniversary event

The Secretary General informed the Members of the Executive Board about the general and specific communications being carried out for the 55^{th} MARCOGAZ Anniversary event, that included openness of registrations to the public (with a symbolic cost of $140 \in$) due to the limited registrations verified from the Members.

9. Dates of the next meetings

The following dates summarize MARCOGAZ's next meetings:

- 22/06/2023: 55th Anniversary of MARCOGAZ (Brussels).
- 13/09/2023: Executive Board Meeting Virtual meeting on Teams.
- 13/12/2023: Executive Board Meeting Zurich, Switzerland.
 Welcome dinner the night before (12 Dec. 2023).
- 13/03/2024: Executive Board Meeting Dublin, Ireland.
 Welcome dinner the night before (12 Mar. 2023).
- 17/06/2024: Executive Board Meeting and General Assembly Hamburg, Germany.
- 18-19/06/2024: EGATEC 2024

10. Any other business

Nothing relevant to report.

