

Working Party on Gas
Geneve, 19-20 January 2010

ITALY

From January 2009 to November 2009 Italy consumed 68.37 Bcm of natural gas, down 9.3% from the total of 75.36 Bcm over the same period in 2008 according to statistics published by Italy's Ministry of Economic Development.

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION: JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2009

Provisional Data

Million Standard cubic meters (38,1 MJ/cm)

		2009	2008	CHANGE %	
a)	DOMESTIC PRODUCTION*	7.419	8.529	-13,0%	
b)	IMPORTS	61.962	69.186	-10,4%	
	per entry point	MAZARA DEL VALLO	19.310	22.032	-12,4%
		GELA	8.398	8.916	-5,8%
		TARVISIO	20.436	22.005	-7,1%
		PASSO GRIES	10.955	14.099	-22,3%
		PANIGAGLIA*	1.176	1.465	-19,7%
		CAVARZERE*	893	-	-
		GORIZIA	33	90	-63,3%
		OTHERS	761	580	31,3%
c)	EXPORTS	108	193	-44,0%	
d)	CHANGES IN STOCKS*	900	2.165	-58,4%	
e) = a)+b)-c)-d)	GAS CONSUMPTION	68.374	75.357	-9,3%	

Source: Ministry of Economic Development - Energy Department - DGSAIE
<http://dgerm.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/dgerm/bilanciogas.asp>

* losses included

After the first nine months in 2009, characterised by a downturn of natural gas consumption, October and November registered respectively a 1% and 2.3% increase. It is however remarkable to note that natural gas consumption had plummeted by 16.3% in November 2008 due to the initial phase of financial crisis.

In the period January – November 2009 indigenous gas production and imports showed a drop of respectively 13% and 10.4%.

Volumes coming in through Mazara del Vallo, Sicily, the entry-point from Algeria, declined by 12.4%.

At Tarvisio, the entry-point for Russian gas, volumes were down 7% and at Passo Gries, the entry-point for the Transgas pipeline from Northern Europe, imports were reduced by 22%.

At Gela, Sicily, the entry point for Libyan gas, imports fell 5.8%.

Volumes coming in to the LNG plant in Panigaglia registered a 19.7% drop.

The new Rovigo LNG import terminal at Porto Levante on the Adriatic coast (Cavarzere) started delivering gas into the national grid. Qatar, as a new supplier for Italy, is going to deliver LNG to Rovigo terminal (6.4 bcm/year).

The OLT Offshore Toscana LNG plant is expected to start in early 2011 and the offshore LNG regasification plant near Trieste in the Northern Adriatic, continues to work toward securing the permit (VIA) it needs from Italy's Ministry of the Environment. Furthermore Enel received final authorization needed to start construction on the Porto Empedocle LNG terminal in Sicily (forecast start-up 2013)

As per energy policy, the economic development legislation, passed in July 2009, makes nuclear power a key component of energy policy. It also provides for a proposal to set up a new gas exchange in 2010 which will be run by the operator of the Italian power exchange, GME.

An even greater use of renewable and clean energy is also an important issue of Italian energy policy. According to Unione Petrolifera, renewable sources marked a 18.5% increase in 2008 (mainly thanks to hydro, wind and photovoltaic) representing a 8.8% share of total energy use in Italy.

Moreover the 2010 Finance Bill, as the former one, pays particular attention to energy matters, defining extended fiscal incentives and providing the allocation of substantial funds to develop energy efficiency.