

European Commission – Norway Energy Dialogue

Brussels, 22 June 2012

Commissioner responsible for energy Günther Oettinger and Minister for Petroleum and Energy Ola Borten Moe agreed to continue to develop the energy relations and co-operation between Norway and the European Union at their meeting today in Brussels. The meeting marked the 10th regular annual EC – Norway Energy Dialogue and the mutual interest in close and comprehensive consultations on key energy issues was confirmed. Norway is a major exporter of oil and gas to the European Union and, through the EEA Agreement, an integral part of the EU internal market.

During the meeting, both Günther Oettinger and Ola Borten Moe underlined the great importance of the regular energy dialogue between the EU and Norway. This dialogue is founded on the common perception of the key role of energy in achieving good, convenient lives for citizens of Europe, including the principal objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply. During the ten years the annual dialogue has been a foundation for mutual understanding and co-operation.

Key themes discussed at the meeting included offshore safety, the development of infrastructure and the implementation of the internal energy market. The two sides also exchanged views on the longer term challenges in the energy sector and the potential for further co-operation to meet these challenges.

With respect to safety in offshore oil and gas activities the two sides discussed how Norway can share its experience in this area with the European Commission.

Moreover, Minister Borten Moe and Commissioner Oettinger agreed on the importance of strengthening the energy infrastructure to achieve security of supply, the inclusion of renewables in the market, sustainability and competitiveness. Norway welcomed the invitation to participate in EU regional groups preparing strategically important infrastructure projects.

With regards to the internal energy market, the two sides recognized the importance of its well-functioning for economic growth. Norway provided an update on the progress in implementing the third package in the EEA agreement. The implementation will reconfirm Norway's integration in the internal market.

The European Commission and Norway underline the need for a transformation in production, transport and consumption of energy in order to meet the EU's GHG reduction objective, and both sides acknowledge that gas plays a long-term, key role for the transformation of the energy system. The two sides will together explore prerequisites for a stable long term partnership between Norway as a supplier and EU as a consumer of natural gas.

The two sides further recognize the importance of carbon capture and storage for the long term low carbon emission objectives. Here it was agreed that joint effort is needed to develop cost efficient solutions, the aim being to speed up the progress towards more sustainable energy production and use.