

## Activity report of the Ecology and Healthcare Committee for the second half of the year 2014

**Dear Mr. President of the EBC,  
Dear Members of the EBC Presiding Committee,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to bring to your attention a summary of the performance of the Ecology and Healthcare Committee during the second half of this year. Working meetings were held in Athens and Walldorf with the kind support of Prometheus Gas and SAP... and of course of the EBC Secretariat.

The committee members were guided in their activities by the understanding that at present solutions must be found to the most acute problems of environmental and energy security, which are justly regarded as mainstays of the sustainable development of civilization. We realize that the environmental and energy imperatives require a moral imperative and we fully share the view of Academician Nikita Moiseev that only a highly intellectual society, where each member is able to understand and feel a responsibility for the destiny of society as a whole and behaves in conformity with this responsibility, would be capable of entering the noosphere age. Therefore our activity was also based on the ambition to obtain more information, to use it in our companies, to exchange experience on environmental protection issues, on expanding the usage of natural gas as an environmentally friendly type of fuel, on issues of health and prevention and on the upbringing of our children.

No doubt all those issues had an impact on our lively discussions.

To be more specific: We received up-to-date information on the development of the market of natural gas motor fuel in Russia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. The contribution of software support to the decarbonization of the transport sector was also discussed. Alarmingly, more than 3.7 million lives were lost in 2012 due to causes, related to ambient air pollution. Anywhere from 21% to 58% of the emissions of various hazardous substances into the ambient air were attributable to the transport sector. Usage of natural gas instead of petrol and diesel fuel would lead to a substantial reduction of such emissions – by nearly 90%. The toxic footprint of CNG is about 60 times less intense than the toxic footprint of petrol.

We are confident that a company's environmental policy is not just an aggregation of methods to achieve the goals and objectives, set by its environmental strategy. It also includes care to ensure that the present-day younger generation would demonstrate tomorrow the responsibility required for the conservation of the environment. Therefore we are very grateful to the EBC Secretariat, Gazprom and Overgas companies, who were instrumental in the conclusion of the agreement among three schools: the European School in Berlin, the Training Centre of Gazprom and the Bulgarian School in Sofia. Our committee will assist them in the implementation of joint initiatives, aimed at the development of an environment-friendly manner of thinking. This year children gladly took part in the competition for elaboration of a logo under the White Stork – Conservation of Biodiversity project....

In the field of healthcare we discussed **modern rehabilitation and recovery technologies**. It was noted that the optimization of sanatorium therapy and the new mechanisms of therapeutic intervention of physical factors increase the effectiveness and quality of therapy. We familiarized ourselves with the ongoing work for standardization of the medical activities in the sanatoria of Gazprom. 49 approved standards for therapeutic resort medical assistance exist in Russia. And the software solutions of SAP in the healthcare sector would enable improvements in the effectiveness of the activity and cost control, for the reduction of risks and implementation of innovations.

The committee also reviewed the status of the projects in the implementation phase. We appreciate the cooperation of the other committees of EBC. As to the projects, implemented by our committee, it must be noted that all activities planned for 2014 under the 'Bicycle – Ecology and Health' environmental and social project have been successfully finalized. The 'White Stork' project is also on schedule. The committee undertook to work on the new project 'Save the City' which is aimed at promoting the usage of natural gas by means of a serious computer game. And I must certainly note that we highly appreciate the support of the EBC managing bodies, who took a positive decision regarding the funding of our projects.

We appreciate also the support of a number of companies and organizations – EBC members – that helped us carry out some very useful work during the second half of the year. I would not be able to mention each of them now, but I must certainly recognise the invaluable support of Gazprom, Overgas, E. ON, Frecom and Vemex and on the slide here you can see everybody else, to whom the committee expresses appreciation.

Over the next year the main topic of the committee's work will be **Impact of the energy sector structure on European eco-systems and on public health**.

This is where I wish to end my brief report. May I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!