



Brussels, 9 February – *GEODE welcomes the ITRE Committee’s vote on the Gas and Hydrogen package. Its acknowledgement on the key role of Gas distribution system operators (DSOs) in hydrogen development emphasizes their readiness to contribute to the decarbonization of the EU energy system.*

“The text agreed by the Parliament goes in the right direction for the creation of a predictable regulatory framework for hydrogen” highlights Carmen Gimeno, GEODE Secretary General. *“Extremely positive is the introduction of clear definitions of hydrogen distribution and hydrogen distribution network operator as well as more feasible unbundling regime”* she concludes.

Today’s vote also reinforces the principles of the REPowerEU strategy, which considers hydrogen as a crucial pillar to achieve the EU’s decarbonization and security of supply objectives. Existing gas network infrastructure across the EU enables DSOs to transport large quantities of energy across 2 million km of distribution pipelines, with 1 million km repurposed and ready to deliver hydrogen. It should also be noted that 100% of residential consumers and 99% of industrial and commercial gas end users are connected to local gas distribution grids.

These facts and figures showcase that European DSOs stand ready in their capacity to capitalize on these favorable starting conditions, and ensure that we meet our common energy transition targets.

GEODE now calls on the Council of the EU to support the principles agreed by the Parliament in the next steps of the legislative process.