

## **Joint statement of GASPOOL and its shareholders regarding the Federal Councils decision on the amendment of the Regulation on Access to Gas Supply Networks (GasNZV)**

07 July 2017

GASPOOL and its shareholders acknowledge the political will for the redesign of the third party access in Germany. They express their will to cooperate and help to develop further the German gas market areas in a constructive manner. In this context, the current high level of the security of supply has to be preserved. GASPOOL and its shareholders are convinced that the merger can be achieved successfully. For keeping the integrity of the gas market, functioning processes under consideration of the costs for the economy as well as competition and liquidity shall be the highest goal for all stakeholders.

GASPOOL and its shareholders will use their experience from the successful merger of the Aequamus- and the GASPOOL-market areas. This experience will be used in order to ensure a successful and efficient progress of the upcoming challenges. The concept for the merger that leads to an optimal implementation path has to consider the economic aspects.

The merger of the market areas has to be accompanied by the legislator. The integrity of the balancing energy actions and the provision of transport capacity has to be ensured at each point of this process.

GASPOOL and its shareholders are calling for the coverage of the cost of the market merger by the market participants. Only the recognition of the cost of a market merger in the revenue caps of the TSOs grants a fair allocation of costs and a provision of funds for the upcoming steps. This is a prerequisite for a successful merger by 2022 without interfering with the security of supply.

To define an optimal implementation path, we will evaluate the necessary funds under consideration of relevant economic aspects.