



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 23 December 2002

### **20 years of supplying Algerian LNG to Distrigas**

At this year-end, Distrigas, subsidiary of Tractebel, and Sonatrach celebrate 20 years of Algerian liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries to Distrigas.

The long-term supply contract was signed between the Algerian company Sonatrach and the Belgian company Distrigas in 1975, initially for a period of 20 years and extended subsequently on various occasions. First deliveries occurred in November 1982, by the LNG carrier "Methania."

During the first five years the LNG was unloaded at the French terminal in Montoir-de-Bretagne. Since 1987 most of the Algerian LNG has been delivered to the Belgian terminal in Zeebrugge. Since 1982, Sonatrach has supplied a total of more than 70 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Distrigas.

The Algerian natural gas, which represents 30% of Belgian supplies, is carried by sea in two large tankers: the "Methania" and the "Mourad-Didouche," the latter being chartered by Distrigas from the Algerian company SNTM Hyproc, subsidiary of the Sonatrach Group.

This anniversary is celebrated at the occasion of the arrival of the thousandth cargo of LNG supplied to Distrigas, and shipped by the "Mourad-Didouche."

Sonatrach and Distrigas also took advantage of the occasion to announce the signing of a letter of intent for the supply of natural gas to Spain by the Medgaz project for a volume of at least 1 billion cubic metres per year by 2006.

Spain represents an important potential market for different operational entities of Tractebel, such as Electrabel that, amongst other projects, will construct a CCGT unit of 800 MW in Castelnou, or Tractebel Elyo that realised a cogeneration unit for the Solvay Group in Martorell near Barcelona.



### **Distrigas**

*Distrigas is a European natural gas merchant company. Benefiting from its strategic position at the heart of the European gas networks, the company is now active throughout Western Europe.*

*To meet the requirements of its customers, Distrigas carries out five activities:*

- ✓ *Natural gas trading and sales*
- ✓ *Natural gas supply*
- ✓ *Sale of international transit capacity (carrying gas from border to border)*
- ✓ *LNG trading and shipping*
- ✓ *Services to industry.*

*Distrigas is part of Tractebel, a global energy and services company, the energy division of SUEZ.*

### **Sonatrach**

*Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, is one of the pioneers in the gas industry. The strong potential of Algeria makes Sonatrach an important and reliable supplier of natural gas to Europe for almost four decades.*

*In view of the rising demand in the market, Sonatrach now develops a strategy to strengthen its position on its traditional markets in order to contribute to meet the future demand for natural gas in Europe.*

*It also expands internationally through the integration of downstream natural gas and electricity in its activity portfolio.*

*To realise its objectives, it executes an important development plan for its reserves and its production infrastructure as well via pipeline as under LNG form.*

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This press release is also available in French and Dutch. You can find it at the Distrigas website as well: [www.distrigas.be](http://www.distrigas.be)