

Vienna, 12 December 2017

**Incident at Baumgarten Natural Gas Station
International gas transport system restored**

An explosion occurred this morning before 9:00 a.m. on the grounds of the Baumgarten Natural Gas Station. The fire produced by the incident was then completely extinguished during the afternoon. It is with great sadness that we have to announce that an employee of TUV Austria lost his life in the accident. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and loved ones and will support them as much as possible during this difficult time. The exact circumstances of the accident are still unclear and are being investigated. The company is doing everything possible to help with these investigations. 21 people were injured. All of them received immediate medical attention and nearly all of them have already been able to leave the hospital.

The parts of the plant that were affected by the incident are currently non-operational. However, following extensive investigations by the fire brigade and the regional police, flows on the Trans Austria Gas pipeline towards Italy, the West Austria Gas pipeline to Germany and the Hungaria-Austria Gas pipeline will be restored over the next few hours.

The exact cause of the accident is unclear; the current assumption is that it was caused by a technical fault. The respective authorities and experts from Gas Connect Austria are intensively investigating the potential causes of the incident. Austria's natural gas supply was at no time at risk. With the restart of operation on the international pipeline systems, it will be possible to resume transit through Austria, thereby restoring security of supply for the affected countries.

Background information

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria maintains the operation of a modern, high-performance high-pressure gas pipeline network. As well as operating transmission pipelines, the company is also responsible for an important part of the Austrian distribution network. Its core business is marketing gas transportation capacity at cross-border interconnection points, and providing capacity for domestic natural gas supply in Austria. As a transmission system and distribution system operator, Gas Connect Austria plays an important part in the Austrian and European gas supply network. Existing gas infrastructure is regularly inspected, maintained and modernised in order to safeguard long-term security of supply. Gas Connect Austria offers a comprehensive range of logistics services tailored to the requirements of domestic and foreign market participants.

Contact

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Communications Department

Tel. +43 (0)1 27500 ext. 88052