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## Ireland: a radical approach to power

IRELAND'S TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR, EIRGRID, WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED THE LEADER OF EU-SYSFLEX – A CONSORTIUM WORKING TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO EUROPE'S POWER SYSTEMS. AND WITH GOOD REASON. THE EMERALD ISLE IS IN THE THROES OF ENERGY REFORMS THAT WILL SEE IT BECOME A WORLD LEADER IN THE INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLES INTO AN ISOLATED ELECTRICITY GRID. NATURAL GAS, WHICH IN 2016 SUPPLIED HALF OF IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL SUPPORTING ROLE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE – ESPECIALLY AS COAL, PEAT AND OTHER FOSSIL FUELS THAT PROVIDE SYNCHRONOUS AND DISPATCHABLE GENERATION CAPACITY ARE DUE TO BE PHASED OUT. GAS MATTERS LOOKS AT THE ENERGY REFORMS UNDER WAY AND ASKS: WHAT LESSONS CAN OTHER COUNTRIES LEARN FROM IRELAND'S EXPERIENCE?

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