MINUTES
MEETING WITH LIQUID GAS EUROPE
26 OCTOBER 2023

Participants: Liquid Gas Europe, Liquid Gas Europe, AGRI CAB, AGRI B.2

CAB AGRI (Mr Pinto Antunes) met with ‘Liquid Gas Europe’ to discuss the impact of the ‘Fit for 55’ package on off-grid/rural areas in the EU. The meeting mainly focussed on the European Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR).

- Liquid Gas Europe highlighted that a significant part of the EU consists of rural areas (80%) and that a large part of the EU population (30%) lives in those areas. Having said this, Liquid Gas Europe expressed that the difficulties in these areas are not always considered enough in EU legislative objectives (Fit for 55/Green Deal).
- In order for rural areas to contribute to the goals and objectives of FF55 and the Green Deal citizens should have access to different options, that are less expensive and more practical, but that still contribute to the common EU goals and objectives.
- For example: Liquid Gas Europe mentions that existing technologies (e.g. fossil fuel boilers) do not necessarily have to be replaced by heat pumps when a different approach towards these technologies (e.g. change fuel, combination with solar panels) also contributes to the energy and climatic targets.
- However, according to Liquid Gas Europe the implementation of the EPBD and ESPR limits this flexibility and leads to difficulties in rural areas, both from a technical (off-grid areas) and economic perspective.
- The Commission takes note and thanks Liquid Gas Europe for sharing their views and thoughts.