

57 INDUSTRY LEADERS CALL FOR ENHANCING GAS CONTRIBUTION TO DECARBONISATION



For the attention of:

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen,

Copies:

Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President Vestager, Commissioner McGuinness, Commissioner Simson, Commissioner Breton, Commissioner Vălean, Commissioner Sinkevičius

Brussels, 19 October 2020

Dear President von der Leyen,

In the coming months, the EU institutions and stakeholders represented in the Platform on Sustainable Finance will discuss the adoption of a **delegated act classifying environmentally sustainable investments to mitigate and adapt to climate change**. This will be a first step in the implementation of the EU sustainable finance taxonomy and a key one for gas to be recognised as an enabling/transitional activity contributing towards climate neutrality.

We call on you to support ambitious and pragmatic policy tools that will enable the scaling-up of all decarbonisation options which will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, including natural, renewable and decarbonised gases and CCUS technologies. Decades of investments have made gas and its infrastructure strategic assets for the EU's energy system security, stability and affordability. They will continue to play these key roles to help meet the EU 2050 climate neutrality objective while keeping European competitiveness.

The EU Hydrogen Strategy recognises that, alongside renewable hydrogen low-carbon hydrogen production from natural gas reforming in combination with CCUS or pyrolysis will play a fundamental role in providing the necessary volumes to develop an integrated hydrogen market.

Building a winning team requires nurturing talent. Thanks to the integrated know-how of its stakeholders, the gas value-chain is creating many opportunities in the short-, medium-, and long-term for European high-skilled jobs, economic growth and decarbonisation.

We, therefore, call for the upcoming Delegated Acts to include the transitional and enabling activities¹ and create a level playing field for commercially mature technologies and reap the

¹ as outlined in article 10(2) and in article 16 of the EU Taxonomy Regulation

full benefits of all European gas resources to decarbonise the EU economy in a fast and cost-effective way, on the path towards climate neutrality by:

- Deploying natural gas to continue displacing, wherever possible, coal in power generation and heating, while integrating growing variable renewable electricity to ensure system stability. The threshold for enabling/transitional activities such as natural gas should be carefully designed, taking into account existing EU legislation and propose a path towards progressive decarbonisation;
- Taking a level playing field approach to the development of hydrogen (from renewables, natural gas reforming with CCUS and methane pyrolysis);
- Building on the existing gas market and network as the backbone of the future EU energy system;
- Incentivising investments in hydrogen infrastructure (including retrofitting);
- Lifting legal and administrative barriers to the introduction of hydrogen into the gas grid;
- Supporting CCUS and the full range of low-carbon gas options in the EU's climate and energy policies, in particular in the future revision of gas market rules; Integrating CO2 storage and all modes of CO2 transport in overall infrastructure development.
- Supporting European electrolyser manufacturers and other renewable gas solutions, such as biomethane, to ensure that Europe remains the world leader in developing and manufacturing clean gas technologies;
- Developing and implementing policy and regulation that achieve efficient methane emission reductions along the value chain.
- The entire gas value chain looks forward to the fruitful collaboration to come, in particular under the Clean Hydrogen Alliance framework and the CCUS Forum.

Yours sincerely,

Signatory companies:

1. **Aker Solutions,** [REDACTED]
2. **BP,** [REDACTED]
3. **Cairn Energy,** [REDACTED]
4. **Chrysaor,** [REDACTED]
5. **Enagás,** [REDACTED]
6. **Equinor,** [REDACTED]
7. **Eustream a.s.,** [REDACTED]
8. **FGSZ Ltd.,** [REDACTED]
9. **Fluxys Belgium,** [REDACTED]
10. **GAS Connect Austria,** [REDACTED]
11. **GASCADE Gastransport GmbH,** [REDACTED]
12. **GasTerra,** [REDACTED]
13. **GAZ-SYSTEM,** [REDACTED]
14. **Hermann Sewerin GmbH,** [REDACTED]
15. **Kiwa,** [REDACTED]
16. **Magyar Földgázkereskedő Zrt (Hungarian Gas Trade Ltd),** [REDACTED]
17. **MFGT (Hungarian Gas Storage Ltd),** [REDACTED]
18. **MOL Group,** [REDACTED]
19. **NAFTA a.s.,** [REDACTED]
20. **Neptune Energy,** [REDACTED]
21. **Net4gas s.r.o.,** [REDACTED]
22. **Nortegas Energia Distribucion,** [REDACTED]

23. Open Grid Europe, [REDACTED]
24. Overgas Mrezhi AD, [REDACTED]
25. Petoro AS, [REDACTED]
26. PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna, [REDACTED]
27. PGNiG, [REDACTED]
28. Plinovodi, [REDACTED]
29. RAG Austria, [REDACTED]
30. RAG Energy Storage, [REDACTED]
31. Repsol, [REDACTED]
32. Total SE, [REDACTED]
33. TPS Baker Hughes, [REDACTED]
34. Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH, [REDACTED]
35. UNIPER, [REDACTED]
36. Wintershall Dea, [REDACTED]
37. Woodside Energy Ltd, [REDACTED]

Signatory associations:

38. BDEW (German Association of Energy and Water Industries), [REDACTED]
39. BVEG (Federal Association of Natural Gas, Crude Oil and Geothermal Energy), [REDACTED]
40. Croatian Gas Association, [REDACTED]
41. Czech Gas Association, [REDACTED]
42. Eurogas, [REDACTED]
43. Finnish Gas Association, [REDACTED]
44. GasNaturally, [REDACTED]
45. GERG (European Gas Research Group), [REDACTED]
46. GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe), [REDACTED]
47. IADC (International Association of Drilling Contractors), [REDACTED]
48. IGU (International Gas Union), [REDACTED]
49. IOGP (International Oil and Gas Producers), [REDACTED]
50. Liquid Gas Europe, [REDACTED]
51. Marcogaz, [REDACTED]
52. NGVA Europe, [REDACTED]
53. NOGEP (Netherlands Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Association), [REDACTED]
54. NOROG (Norwegian Oil and Gas Association), [REDACTED]
55. Oil Gas Denmark - [REDACTED]
56. Slovak Gas and Oil Association, [REDACTED]
57. Zukunft Erdgas, [REDACTED]

Signatory companies:





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