



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 Directorate B – Sustainability
 B.2 – Environmental Sustainability

Brussels
 Agri.b.2/HR/(2022)4143101

NOTE FOR THE FILE

Minute of the Meeting with Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S) on bio-energy issues and RePower Europe

When: 19.4.2022

Where: Office of Deputy Head of Cabinet J. Antunes

Participants:

- Commission: DHoC Antunes, [redacted] (B2)
- GD4S: [redacted] representative of the French member of the association
 [redacted] representative of the Greek member of the association
 [redacted] representative of the Spanish member of the association
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]

Summary of the Meeting:

GD4S represent the gas grid managers of France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Romania. Together, they represent 27.7 million customers in Europe (around 30% of the European market). In their interventions they insisted on the importance of replacing fossil energy with biomethane and asserted that it is perfectly exchangeable with natural gas. They stressed the need for a regulatory framework with imposed targets for bioenergy to ensure legal certainty for providers. They also argued that the 35bcm (billion cubic meters) target for biomethane is not enough and that the EU should do more.

The French delegate specifically mentioned the need to incentivize network operators to take part in the effort to move towards biomethane and the need for basic knowledge exchange to ensure implementation in all countries, including making the needed connection to the last mile of the network, connecting all potential producers of biomethane. GD4S also stated the increased consumer demand for renewable energy and related certification of origin.

They also enquired about the availability of Next Generation funds for improving the distribution of biomethane.

The Commission took note of GD4S interventions and ensured the GD4S representatives that bioenergy is very high on the agenda of the current commission and explained that the 35bcm target for biomethane is based on estimates stemming from the impact assessment of the gas package, which estimates that the biogas production figure, which is reachable by 2030, is equal to the proposed amount in RePower Europe.

The Commission also informed participants that it has started development of its bio-methane action plan.

Pers. data redacted

