

Gas Regulation trilogue: Industry call for binding EU target for biomethane

REPowerEU put forward an ambitious plan for renewable gases and it is the role of the Hydrogen & Gas Package to give legal status to those ambitions. The signatories acknowledge the efforts already undertaken by policymakers to reflect some of the REPowerEU ambitions into the Hydrogen & Gas Package. In particular, we welcome the ambition to address regulatory barriers, to define incentives for the deployment of biogas/biomethane and to reference the 35 bcm objective in the European supply adequacy outlook.

Nevertheless, the 35 bcm of biomethane would remain an objective in the Regulation's recitals and would therefore be non-binding. **The signatories urge policymakers to deliver an ambitious binding target for biomethane at the EU level.** The signatories of this letter rely on clear signals from policymakers to deliver the needed decarbonisation in the European gas sector. A critical pillar should be a binding 2030 EU-level target for biomethane.

The Hydrogen & Gas Package represents the last possible major avenue to introduce such a binding target in legislation. The recently adopted Renewable Energy Directive – while supporting the deployment of renewable gases, including hydrogen, and providing the necessary framework for sustainability certification – falls short of the REPowerEU ambitions on renewable gases.

In addition, the signatories also call for a wider binding EU-level target encompassing the development of all renewable gases. Such a target should be complemented by concrete measures to mandate the reduction of the GHG intensity of the EU gas mix by 2030. Not including such measures would represent a missed opportunity as the Package is the only policy encompassing all types of gases, including low carbon and renewable.

On this point, **the signatories call on policymakers to consider embedding a gas decarbonisation target** in the Package, at least as a recital to steer future discussions on GHG emissions reduction in the sector.

