



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

## **SUMMARY NOTE OF THE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR 20 MARCH 2020**

### **1. OPENING REMARKS**

The European Commission welcomed the participants to the consultation, introduced the subject matter for the event and reiterated the agenda.

### **2. PRESENTATION OF THE STRATEGY**

The European Commission gave a presentation on a proposed mineral methane emission reduction strategy. The presentation informed stakeholders of the relevance of methane emissions to the objectives of the Green Deal, including crosscutting issues and the potential impact of reducing methane and black carbon emissions to curb temperature pathways to 2050.

The European Commission delineated a chronology of legislative and non-legislative methane strategies that have been implemented in the EU since 1996, and conveyed the significant and cost-effective opportunities to reduce methane emissions from the energy sector moving forward.

The European Commission presented a holistic strategy to address methane emissions, covering measurement, reporting, verification, integrity, and validation (MRV(IV)) across the oil, gas, and coal sectors and supply chains. As part of the strategy, a proposal was introduced for an independent body that can provide transparency and credibility to emissions reporting. The European Commission introduced different regulatory avenues and options that are available, in addition to potential strategies for international cooperation.

### **3. QUESTIONS AND INTERACTIONS**

The European Commission took questions from the participants and facilitated discussion between parties for the majority of the event. Most questions/ issues raised covered the following areas:

- What are the specifics surrounding the implementation MRV(IV) standards?
- What is the timeline for strategy and for implementation of MRV(IV) standards?
- What is the scope of the strategy? Within the energy sector? Including waste, agriculture?
- How will the independent monitoring institution be created? Financed? Which model?
- Global Warming Potential (GWP) criteria to be applied or Climate Change Potential (CCP) criteria? GWP 20 or 100?
- How will the strategy avoid perverse incentives?
- How can the Oil Gas and Methane Partnership (OGMP) be expanded?

The European Commission addressed as many questions as was feasible in the available time, and is in the process of preparing further written responses.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS AND OUTCOMES**

Moving forward, the European Commission expressed an interest in receiving further written input from stakeholders and outlined the intention to publish a more formal strategic plan describing the proposed actions and direction to reduce methane emissions, both domestically and externally (date to be confirmed). This plan will be informed in part by an upcoming study due in August. The European Commission drew attention to a further stakeholder event in June, focusing on the conclusions of the study, specifically regarding MRV(IV) methodology and policy recommendations. The intention is to follow-up the strategy with a legislative proposal in June 2021 (to be confirmed).

The stakeholder event brought together members of industry, the research community, NGO's, interest groups, and Member States, amongst others. There was prior registration of around 125 participants, in the end more than 200 attended. Over the course of the event, around 20 different stakeholders took the floor and more than 80 questions were posed. A functional mailbox has been made available until 1 April 2020 for additional follow-up questions and reactions (ENER-METHANE@ec.europa.eu).