

**THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN GAS REGULATORY FORUM  
11-12 May 2022**

**CONCLUSIONS**

**Proposal on a regulation to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector**

The Forum supports the achievement of an ambitious EU regulation on methane emissions in the energy sector which should deliver comprehensive and representative data on methane emissions as well as the highest possible abatement of methane emissions from the energy sector. This would be achieved by including in the Regulation effective, tried and tested, cost efficient best practice approaches to: detection and repair of methane emission leaks and unintentional venting of methane; limitation of venting and flaring of methane and; flaring efficiency. The Regulation should provide for relevant technology developments, i.e. technology open.

The Forum will contribute to the implementation of the EU regulation on methane emissions, once adopted by the co-legislators, in particular as regards efficiently incurred costs linked to measurement, reporting and abatement of methane emissions for regulated entities. The Forum further supports CEN standardization of certain aspects of the proposal, notably on monitoring, reporting and verification and leak detection and repair, and calls on CEN to begin work right away.

**Enhancing gas security of supply: regulatory approaches in the internal energy market for gas**

The Forum underlines the importance of security of energy supply in the current geopolitical environment. It notes the relevance of on-going work by the European Union and the Commission to review and reinforce preparedness and resilience.

In addition to proven coordination procedures and solidarity mechanisms, Member States, the Commission, regulators, transmission system operators and gas undertakings (including storage and LNG operators) should continue to work in a coordinated way and with the utmost determination to ensure the security of energy supply of all Member States at all times, including by reaching the best possible storage levels across the EU and addressing sufficient transmission capacity and access to alternative supply sources, notably via maximized use of LNG terminals.

**Hydrogen regulatory framework**

The Forum underlines the need for a flexible regulatory framework for hydrogen during the market ramp-up phase to accommodate different hydrogen pathways, whilst ensuring clarity about the long-term framework to create investor certainty. In view of the increased ambitions under REPowerEU, the Forum stresses the importance of a rapid adoption of the hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package in order to accelerate the development of a hydrogen value chain.

In this context, the Forum stresses the importance of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen imports through adequate infrastructure, including in the form of hydrogen derivatives. The Commission has taken note of the Forum discussion on the importance of accelerated permitting procedures and proper certification. The Forum underlines the importance of defining quality standards for hydrogen and supports the Commission to mandate CEN to develop standards for the quality of hydrogen in the hydrogen network and at end-users with the involvement of all relevant market participants.

### **Integration of renewable and low-carbon gases in the gas system**

The Forum stresses the importance of enabling the cost-efficient integration of renewable and low-carbon gases in the existing gas system. It is key to ensure that these gases have full access to wholesale and retail markets, infrastructure and cross-border trade. The Forum emphasizes that it is essential that measures are designed in a way that helps reach desired outcomes in an effective manner and discussed concrete implications of various proposals on market players, regulatory authorities and network operators. The Forum outlines the importance of a robust certification system able to integrate renewable and low-carbon gases by facilitating their trade across the EU.

The Forum supports the increased ambition for biomethane of the REPowerEU communication of 8 March. It recognizes that additional measures may be required in order to attain these ambitions and various proposals in this regard were discussed.

### **Infrastructure and integrated network planning**

The Forum underlines the importance of the improvements made towards a more integrated (both vertically and horizontally) infrastructure planning at national level including the future hydrogen sector and an alignment between the network planning procedures at European and national levels as proposed by the Commission in December 2021. The Forum notes that reasonable and common assumptions for the evolution of production, consumption, and trade are required for scenario building and underlines the importance to bring network planning in line with the European Union climate, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets. The Forum also notes the importance of using existing infrastructure by identifying and repurposing existing suitable networks for the transport of hydrogen.

The Forum takes note of a joint action to be undertaken by gas infrastructure industry (ENTSOG, EHB, GIE, CEDEC, Eurogas, GEODE, GD4S) to visualize all hydrogen infrastructure projects collected under different existing processes in a form of a map. The Forum underlined the importance to assess the costs and benefits of such projects and to consult all stakeholders in this process.