



POLICY WORKSHOP

TOWARDS “NET ZERO” METHANE EMISSIONS IN THE GAS SECTOR - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Chairs:

Andris Piebalgs | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

Francisco De La Flor | Gas Infrastructure Europe

Scientific Organiser:

Maria Olczak | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

Sala Europa

Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

 @FSR_Energy #FSRPolicyWorkshop

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■ INTRODUCTION

In the decarbonisation efforts of the energy sector, particular attention has been paid to carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time, the energy sector is responsible also for the emission of another greenhouse gas - methane. IEA estimates that 42 million tonnes of methane have been emitted in gas operations. Methane is about 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It stays in the atmosphere for only 12 years, a very short time compared with 500 years for carbon dioxide. Because of these qualities, a reduction of methane emissions would have an immediate impact.

The release of methane in the gas sector happens across the entire supply chain - in the exploration and production, transport, distribution and final consumption. It is estimated that around 1.7% of total gas production escapes to the atmosphere during different stages of the supply chain. As more gas is expected to be used in the future, this issue needs to be addressed.

Compared with carbon dioxide, methane escaping in the gas value chain has considerable economic value. Up to 50% of these emissions can be mitigated at no net costs. Decreasing the emissions would allow more gas to be sold. Unfortunately, a lack of focus on methane emissions, the deficiencies of the existing infrastructure and regulatory environment haven't allowed tapping this resource on a significant scale.

In the last couple of years, the gas industry has recognised that the reduction of methane emissions is a core strategic challenge. Some companies have adopted quantitative methane reduction targets.

There are new technologies available to better monitor and quantify methane leaks. Still, these targets need to be reached, and so enhanced transparency is required to verify the results achieved and better understand the challenges ahead.

The Paris Agreement has created a new dynamic in the need to reduce methane emissions. European Commission is working on the European long-term strategy for GHG reduction, which will also address methane emissions. This policy workshop intends to focus on the dynamic of reduction of methane emissions in the gas sector. Particularly important is the issue of regulation. What type of measures are necessary in addition to the voluntary initiatives of the industry, is the key point in the discussions in the workshop.

■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

08.30 - 08.45 *Welcome coffee*

08.45 - 09.00 Welcome address

Maria Olczak | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

Francisco De La Flor | Gas Infrastructure Europe

09.00 - 09.10 Introduction to the Workshop

Andris Piebalgs | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

SESSION I IS THE REDUCTION OF METHANE EMISSIONS IN THE GAS SECTOR THE LOW HANGING FRUIT OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION?

Chair: **Francisco De La Flor** | Gas Infrastructure Europe

09.10 - 10.10 EU's long-term strategy towards GHG emissions

Stefan Moser | DG Energy, European Commission

Christophe McGlade | International Energy Agency

Paul Balcombe | Sustainable Gas Institute, Imperial College London

Q&A

10.10 - 10.30 *Coffee break*

10.30 - 11.45 Industry's voluntary actions and best practices

Rosanna Fusco | ENI

Jose Miguel Tudela | Enagas

Branko Milicevic | UNECE

Jos Dehaeseleer | MARCOGAZ

Konstantin Romanov | Gazprom

Menelaos Ydreos | International Gas Union

Q&A

11.45 - 12.45 Why is so much methane still escaping?

Roland Kupers | Environmental Defense Fund

Stéphanie Saunier | Carbon Limits

Q&A

12.45 - 14.00

Lunch

SESSION II IS THERE A NEED FOR MORE REGULATION?

Chair: **Andris Piebalgs** | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

14.00 - 15.00

Regulatory experiences

Boyko Nitzov | ACER

Monika Zsigri | DG Energy, European Commission

Jasmine Urisk | Canadian Energy Partnership for Environmental Innovation

Q&A

15.00 - 15.45

Discussion: Potential approaches to more stringent regulation

Moderator: **Andris Piebalgs** | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

Simon Blakey | IHS Markit

Eise Spijker | JIN Climate and Sustainability

Manfredi Caltagirone | UN Environment

Q&A

15.45 - 16.00

Concluding remarks

Andris Piebalgs | Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI

Francisco De La Flor | Gas Infrastructure Europe

■ SPEAKERS

Paul Balcombe	Research Fellow, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
Simon Blakey	Senior Advisor, IHS Markit, United Kingdom
Manfredi Caltagirone	Programme Management Officer, UN Environment, France
Francisco De La Flor	Director, ENAGAS, Spain
Jos Dehaeseleer	Secretary General, MARCOGAZ, Belgium
Rosanna Fusco	Climate Senior Vice President, Eni, Italy
Roland Kupers	Advisor International Methane, Environmental Defense Fund, Netherlands
Christophe McGlade	Oil and Gas Analyst, International Energy Agency, France
Branko Milicevic	Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Energy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland
Stefan Moser	Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Energy, Belgium
Boyko Nitzov	TSO Cooperation Officer - Team Leader, Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, Slovenia
Maria Olczak	Research Assistant, Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI, Italy
Andris Piebalgs	Part-time Professor, Energy & Climate, Florence School of Regulation / RSCAS / EUI, Latvia
Konstantin Romanov	Head of Division, Public Joint Stock Company Gazprom, Russian Federation
Stéphanie Saunier	Managing Director, Carbon Limits, Norway
Eise Spijker	Senior researcher, JIN Climate & Sustainability, Netherlands
José Miguel Tudela	Director, ENAGAS, Spain
Jasmine Urisk	Executive Director, Canadian Energy Partnership for Environmental Innovation, Canada
Monika Zsigri	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Energy, Belgium