

GIE and MARCOGAZ,
together with representatives
from the entire gas chain, are
committed to building a culture
towards net zero methane
emission.

Methane emissions management and reduction is among the top priorities of the European gas industry.

## Why focus on methane?

**Methane** (CH<sub>4</sub>) is the second most abundant greenhouse gas (GHG) after carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Its GHG effect is significantly stronger in the short term, making it **more potent** than the CO<sub>2</sub> effect. However, it has a shorter atmospheric lifespan - on average 8-12 years - compared to CO<sub>2</sub> which persists in the atmosphere for centuries.

The following figures show the EU GHG emissions and the EU CH<sub>4</sub> emissions per source.

CH<sub>4</sub> emissions per source

CH4-remaining emissions
13%
Other Sectors
4%
Enteric Fermentation
-Cattle
35%

CH<sub>4</sub>
Gas sector
4%

Coal Mining and Handling - Operation
6%
Natural Gas - Operation
6%
Emissions - Farming
9%

Anaerobic Waste
19%

Source: Elaborated by the authors based on European Environment Agency GHG report

The gas industry considers minimisation of methane emissions as an opportunity to actively contribute to short-term mitigation of climate change, accelerate environmental commitments and further enhance the environmental value of natural gas.

## Methane emissions management is not a new topic for the gas industry

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the EU requires the European Commission (EC) to propose an EU strategic plan for methane, which will become an integral part of an EU long-term climate strategy to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement.

GIE and MARCOGAZ conducted an industry-wide report on the potential ways that the gas industry can contribute to the reduction of methane emissions, with contributions from representatives of entire gas value chain, from production to utilisation, including biomethane plants.

The report contains a set of recommendations, based on the identified list of challenges and gaps to reduce methane emissions along the EU gas value chain.

The gas industry has established a systematic approach to identify, detect, quantify, report, verify and reduce its methane emissions.

This enables prioritisation and efficient allocation of capital and human resources to target and mitigate methane emissions at the lowest abatement cost.

Identification

Detection

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Reporting

Verifica

Mitigati



The gas industry has different tools and technologies to detect and quantify methane emissions.

There is **continuous progress** in both science and technology to improve the accuracy of the methane emissions data.

A large number of best available techniques (**BAT**) to reduce methane emissions have been developed and the gas industry is already implementing them on a voluntary basis.

Innovation on technologies (such as drones, satellites and digitalisation) and methodologies is key to the further detection and reduction of methane emissions.

## The gas sector is committed and taking actions

Many gas operators have voluntarily set emission reduction targets for the next years.

In addition to individual company efforts there are several collaborative initiatives to improve understanding the scale of methane emissions, potential sources and opportunities for reductions. In some cases these initiatives also involve governments / authorities, NGOs and academia. Some examples:



Methane
Guiding Principles









## What is next?

GIE and MARCOGAZ focus the next steps on the development of an industry-wide action plan and on sharing the report findings via a series of dissemination activities and training programmes.

The EU gas industry is committed to work with the regulators and other sector stakeholders to ensure the development of effective policies toward net zero methane emissions in the EU.

GIE and MARCOGAZ encourage the gas industry to support the next steps and to join the action!







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