

Friday, April 30, 2021

To:

*Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans  
Director General Mauro Petriccione  
HoU Tom Van Ierland, advisor Stefan Vergote*

*Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson  
Director General Ditte Juul Jorgensen  
HoU Catharina Sikow-Magny, HoU Alejandro Ulzurrun*

We write to you in the middle of a climate crisis with unprecedented scale and impact resulting in record temperatures beyond our imagination over the last decade. With precious few years left to limit global warming to 1.5°C, urgent action on methane is required. **Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon-dioxide over a 20-year period, making it the second most important greenhouse gas, contributing to a quarter of warming experienced today.**<sup>1</sup>

In the coming months, the **European Commission has the opportunity to take meaningful action to address methane emissions in the energy sector -- with global implications.** Methane emissions are inextricably linked to fossil-fuel extraction and use, and once exploited, unused and abandoned wells and mines continue to emit into the atmosphere. To date, methane emissions in the energy sector have been severely underestimated and recent satellite technologies have produced--to startling effect--dramatic images of unabated venting and leakage across the supply chain.<sup>2</sup>

We therefore call on the European Commission to **work toward a swift and ambitious phase-out of all fossil fuels.** To this end, Member States should be required to produce plans to **phase out fossil gas by 2035 with concrete steps and strategies.** Similarly, **all funding, support or permitting for further expansion of fossil-fuel infrastructure should cease immediately.**

In the interim, however, much can still be done. We therefore also call on the European Commission to submit a **robust legislative proposal on methane setting out a mandatory framework for measurement, reporting, verification (MRV) and leak detection and repair (LDAR) with a ban on routine venting and flaring (BRVF).** The

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Anthropogenic and Natural Radiative Forcing* (Chapter 8). Page 714.

<sup>2</sup> Hmiel, *et al.*, (2020). Preindustrial <sup>14</sup>CH<sub>4</sub> indicates greater anthropogenic fossil CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. Available [here](#). Scientific American Journal (2020). *Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas May Be Significantly Underestimated.* Available [here](#).

MRV-LDAR-BRVF framework **should apply across the supply chain to cover all oil, gas and coal consumed in the EU** (though provision may be required to allow importers to demonstrate compliance with measures comparable in effectiveness).

In addition, we also seek a **ban on placing fracked gas on the EU market alongside wet gas extracted via fracking** for use as a feedstock in the petrochemical sector. Studies show fracking is linked to spikes of methane in our atmosphere and the dense accumulation of fracking wells in shale basins make control and elimination of methane emissions very difficult, if not impossible.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, we urge a strong level of **caution when setting up the process and rules for tackling methane emissions and should not include the use of offsets as a tool for mitigating methane**. The decades-long push to use fossil gas as a bridge fuel has resulted in a fossil gas-dependent economy at odds with EU climate objectives. All methane mitigation measures must be **designed by independent experts, clear from any conflicts of interest, in order to avoid becoming a tool for greenwashing, justifying the continued use of fossil gas, locking in infrastructure and preventing the transition to a 100% renewables-based energy system**.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these topics with you further, and therefore request a joint e-meeting in the coming weeks to exchange views.

Kind regards,  
Frida Kieninger, Food & Water Action Europe  
Tim Grabel, Environmental Investigation Agency  
Esther Bollendorf, Climate Action Network Europe



environmental  
investigation  
agency



On behalf of:



<sup>3</sup> European Geosciences Union. *Fracking Prompts Global Spike in Atmospheric Methane, Study Suggests* (ScienceDaily, 14 August 2019). Available [here](#).

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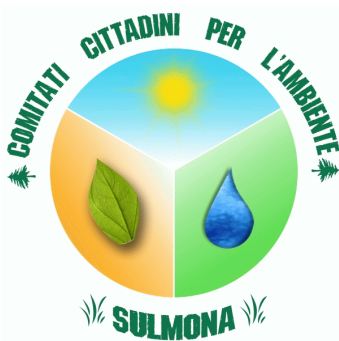


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NA RZECZ  
EKOROZWOJU





Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy



## Full list of signatories:

<i>Za Zemiata, Friends of the Earth Bulgaria</i>		Bulgaria
<i>New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance</i>		Canada
<i>Zelena akcija/Friends of the Earth Croatia</i>		Croatia
<i>Avli</i>		Cyprus
<i>Baltic Pipe Nejtak (Block Baltic Pipe)</i>		Denmark
<i>CAN Europe</i>		Europe
<i>ClientEarth</i>		Europe
<i>Corporate Europe Observatory</i>		Europe
<i>Environmental Investigation Agency</i>		Europe
<i>Food &amp; Water Action Europe</i>		Europe
<i>Global Witness</i>		Europe
<i>Transport &amp; Environment</i>		Europe
<i>Young Friends of the Earth Europe</i>		Europe
<i>Gas Free Pensions</i>		Europe
<i>CEE Bankwatch Network</i>		Europe
<i>Climate Action Network Europe</i>		Europe
<i>Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)</i>		Europe
<i>Andy Gheorghiu Consulting</i>		Germany
<i>Berliner Wassertisch</i>		Germany
<i>Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. / Environmental Action Germany</i>		Germany
<i>Solidarität International e.V., Regionallgruppe Franken</i>		Germany
<i>Urgewald</i>		Germany
<i>Fracking Free Clare</i>		Ireland
<i>Futureproof Clare</i>		Ireland
<i>Green Course</i>		Israel
<i>CagliarisocialForum</i>		Italy
<i>Campagna "Per il Clima, Fuori dal Fossile"</i>		Italy
<i>Comitati Cittadini per l'ambiente Sulmona</i>		Italy
<i>Comitato Cittadini e Lavoratori Liberi e Pensanti</i>		Italy
<i>Comitato Promotore Fuori Dal Fossile Ravenna</i>		Italy
<i>Coordinamento no gasdotto SNAM</i>		Italy
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<i>Movimento No TAP/SNAM Brindisi</i>		Italy
<i>ReCommon</i>		Italy
<i>Redazione emergenzaclimatica.it</i>		Italy
<i>TerraBlu</i>		Italy

<i>Trivelle Zero Marche. Italia</i>		Italy
<i>DocP - BDS Netherlands</i>		Netherlands
<i>Institute for sustainable Development Foundation</i>		Poland
<i>Polish Ecological Club Mazovian Branch</i>		Poland
<i>Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA, Poland</i>		Poland
<i>Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot /</i>		
<i>Association Workshop for All Beings</i>		Poland
<i>The Alliance of the Associations Polish Green Network</i>		Poland
<i>Climáximo</i>		Portugal
<i>South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis SAPACC</i>		South Asia
<i>Asociación de Cultura Popular Alborada -Gallur</i>		Spain
<i>Ecologistas en Acción</i>		Spain
<i>NoMás Gas</i>		Spain
<i>Plataforma Ciudadana Zaragoza sin Fractura</i>		Spain
<i>BankTrack</i>		The Netherlands
<i>Ember</i>		United Kingdom
<i>Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League</i>		USA
<i>Breathe Easy Susquehanna County</i>		USA
<i>Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy</i>		USA
<i>Defenders of the Earth Outreach Mission</i>		USA
<i>Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipeline</i>		USA
<i>Protect All Children's Environment</i>		USA
<i>SLO Clean Water</i>		USA