



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With 200 member organisations active in 40 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

09/02/2026

## Joint Statement: Uphold the EU Methane Regulation for a Secure, Competitive and Affordable Europe

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**To: European Heads of State and Government**

Dear Heads of State and Government,

Ahead of the informal European Business Leaders Meeting in [Antwerp](#) and the [EU Leaders' retreat](#), the undersigned Civil Society Organisations call on you to **exclude the EU Methane Regulation (EUMR) from any tentative deregulation attempt, and ensure its full implementation to strengthen Europe's energy security, competitiveness and affordability.**

With recent unfounded attacks from [different industry sectors](#) on the EUMR's import framework, the current geopolitical tensions and the EU's growing dependence on the United States as its main supplier of LNG (liquefied natural gas), the European Commission and Member States will need to safeguard essential EU climate and energy policies from [continuous attempts](#) to dismantle the framework. Claims that the EUMR threatens Europe's energy security, competitiveness, or energy affordability are unfounded.

- **The EUMR does not endanger the EU's security of supply**

Global gas markets are shifting from a sellers' to a buyers' market, with [limited needs for new gas contracts](#) and projections for an EU [oversupplied gas market](#) from late 2027 onwards. This creates strong incentives for producers to comply with EU methane standards to maintain access to Europe's market. The EUMR has [not disrupted](#) signing of new LNG contracts or regasification bookings, demonstrating confidence among exporters and importers. Far from threatening energy security, the Regulation reduces gas waste on the supply chain, improves efficiency, and allows the EU to prioritise cleaner, reliable suppliers. The Regulation provides specific safeguarding clauses ensuring that security of supply will never be affected by its provisions. Furthermore, non-compliance leads to proportionate sanctions, not import bans, ensuring supply continuity, as evidence shows producers can absorb costs and invest to meet requirements without withdrawing from the EU market<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Clean Air Task Force and Rystad Energy's [analysis](#) referenced here models the average abatement costs for the EU's oil and gas trading partners. The data does project that costs can increase moderately for the EU's marginal supplier, which averaged at 0.10 EUR/MMBTu for natural gas. For more, see the full report, [available here](#).

- **The EUMR does not undermine EU competitiveness**

Clear methane rules ensure a level playing field and prevent unfair competition. Extending these requirements to non-EU suppliers from 2027 protects EU companies from being disadvantaged by higher standards while imports escape equivalent obligations. Weakening the Regulation would undermine competitiveness by creating stranded assets and inefficient infrastructures. By contrast, timely implementation provides regulatory certainty, attracts investment, supports innovation, and strengthens a resilient European industrial base. As key actors in regional markets such as Japan, South Korea or the United Kingdom seek to increase transparency and drive down methane emissions through collective standards<sup>2</sup>, the EUMR positions EU companies as leaders, shielding them from future trade risks and regulatory fragmentation.

- **The EUMR does not increase energy prices or reduce affordability**

Claims that the EUMR will raise energy prices are misleading. Compliance costs for exporters are [modest](#) and represent only a tiny fraction of projected [gas prices](#), even for higher-intensity imports.<sup>3</sup> Major producers can easily absorb these costs without passing them on to consumers. Any price changes would be commercial choices, not an inevitable consequence of the Regulation. Presenting the EUMR as a threat to affordability overlooks the low-cost, high-impact nature of methane mitigation, which ultimately stabilises supply and protects European consumers and industry.

Fully implementing the EUMR supports Europe's competitiveness, energy affordability and energy security, while implementing its climate goals. We urge you to ensure that the discussions in Antwerp and at the informal European Council strengthen - rather than undermine - the integrity of the EU Methane Regulation.

Sincerely,

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, EU

Amici della Terra, Italy

Andy Gheorghiu Consulting, Germany & international

BBL, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Belgium

CATF, Clean Air Task Force, EU and international

CCCA, Center for Climate Crime Analysis, Netherlands & international

CDE, Center for Transport and Energy, Czech Republik

Clean Air Action Group, Hungary

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<sup>2</sup> Several studies have already been published on the feasibility for methane import standards in [South Korea](#) or [Japan](#). Following the [COP30 statement](#), the UK is working with a panel of governments to develop a near zero methane intensity marketplace.

<sup>3</sup> Clean Air Task Force and Rystad Energy modelled average abatement costs for the EU's oil and gas trading partners. Costs averaged at 0.07 EUR/ MMBTu for natural gas and 1.33 EUR/ barrel for crude oil. For more, see the full report, [available here](#).

DUH, Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Germany  
 ECCO Think Tank, Italy  
 ECODES, Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo, Spain  
 EEB, European Environmental Bureau, Europe  
 EIA, Environmental Investigation Agency, UK and international  
 EKOenergy ecolabel, Finland and international  
 FWAE, Food & Water Action Europe, EU  
 Green Transition Denmark, Denmark  
 Greenpeace European Unit, EU  
 IGSD, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, US and international  
 National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary, Hungary  
 Za Zemiata - Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, Bulgaria  
 2Celsius, Romania

