

Unlocking Biomethane's growth in Europe with gas infrastructure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24/10/23, Brussels

[Download the position paper](#)

The European Commission's REPowerEU has identified Biomethane as a renewable lever for Europe's decarbonisation and security of supply. But how to kick-start its development in the most cost-effective and efficient way? GIE's position paper shed light on how natural gas and biomethane's synergies will help this renewable fuel to ramp up.

The paper is split into 3 focuses:

Infrastructure development,

Sector integration,

Barriers to development.

The paper delves into the pivotal role that biomethane plays in the transition to a sustainable and low-carbon energy system. As a renewable gas available in the European market, biomethane has the potential to replace a significant portion of natural gas supplies, contributing to a greener and more efficient energy landscape. It aligns with the goals set by the European Commission in the REPowerEU Plan, which aims to achieve an annual production target of 35 bcm of biomethane by 2030.

GIE, dedicated to supporting this transition, has established a specialised Working Group on Biomethane (WG) in 2022 after an Open Door Lab with central stakeholders. Aiming to enhance further the cooperation among its members on this crucial topic, the association will establish a dedicated area in 2024.

5 recommendations leading to success

1. Establishing a level playing field across renewable energy sources.
2. Creating an EU-wide certification scheme for cross-border trade in renewable gas.
3. Developing a fair regulatory framework for renewable gas technologies and connections.
4. Eliminating cross-border inhibitors by promoting quality and standards review.
5. Raising awareness of the necessity and benefits of renewable gas.

➤ [Delve into the details by reading the full position paper here.](#)

Paper's highlights

Sector coupling and synergies with other sectors:

The paper highlights how biomethane's unique characteristics enable the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into various sectors, such as residential, transport, industry, and commercial/trade. Biomethane's flexibility in production and consumption makes it a dependable energy source, contributing to the decarbonisation of various sectors.

Infrastructure development:

The paper emphasises that biomethane can be seamlessly injected into the existing gas grid, utilising the current infrastructure without significant new investments. It explores the challenges and solutions for adapting the gas infrastructure to accommodate higher biomethane volumes, ultimately supporting the ambitious production targets of REPowerEU.

Barriers to development:

The position paper identifies economic, technical, regulatory, and social barriers to biomethane development. It emphasises the importance of long-term regulatory frameworks, recognition of externalities, and the need for community engagement and education to overcome these challenges.

"As a proud representative of Denmark, where biomethane has already established itself as a significant contributor to our energy system, I am thrilled to see its potential for the entire European energy landscape. Biomethane is more than just a renewable gas; it's a cornerstone of a sustainable, low-carbon future. With the right policies and collective efforts, we can further integrate biomethane into our energy systems, ensuring a greener, more reliable, and cost-efficient energy future for Europe."

Torben Brabo, GIE President

"We are committed to supporting the REPowerEU 35 bcm biomethane target and will continue collaborating with relevant stakeholders, exploring new technologies and participating in developing regulatory frameworks and market conditions. This paper recognises biomethane's essential role in the energy transition and the potential to substitute, in some cases, natural gas. The challenges presented in this recommendation must be addressed to accelerate biomethane adoption."

Boyana Achovski, GIE Secretary General

**About the Gas Infrastructure Operators of Europe (GIE):**

The Gas Infrastructure Operators of Europe (GIE) is a leading association representing the collective interests of Europe's gas infrastructure operators. With a strong commitment to advancing the gas industry and the transition to renewable energy, GIE plays a vital role in shaping the future of Europe's energy landscape. For more information, please visit [URL].

For media inquiries and interviews, please contact:

Gabrielle Lelievre
Communication Advisor
gabrielle.lelievre@gie.eu
+32 478 78 34 83