

## OPEN LETTER TO POLICY-MAKERS

### **35 bcm of biomethane cannot be produced sustainably in the EU**

30<sup>th</sup> of April 2024

The co-signatories represent a mounting coalition of independent not-for-profit organisations active in the fields of food security, sustainable land use, clean transportation, animal welfare, and climate change mitigation, who are concerned about the major environmental risks associated with the plan to ramp up EU biomethane production to 35 billion cubic meters (bcm) by 2030.

Whilst we are satisfied that a binding 35 bcm biomethane target was rejected by Member States in the Gas and hydrogen markets Regulation, we are **alarmed by the ongoing rush to massively increase biomethane production in the EU** from its current level of 4.2 bcm<sup>1</sup> to reach the 35 bcm target put forward in the European Commission's RePowerEU action plan<sup>2</sup>.

**No impact assessment has been carried out on the target** and independent research<sup>3</sup> confirms that the **volumes of biomethane produced will need to be much smaller to avoid negative impacts on food security, the environment, animal welfare, and the climate.**

We support the aim of increasing EU energy independence and acknowledge that there is a niche role for biomethane production from unavoidable organic waste streams. However, **35 bcm of biomethane cannot be produced sustainably in the EU.**<sup>4</sup>

In light of the coming European elections and thus a new EU Parliament as well as a new cabinet of EU Commissioners, we urge policy-makers to review high biomethane targets in conjunction with sustainable food and land use experts to ensure that EU biomethane production helps rather than hinders climate and sustainability goals.

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<sup>1</sup> EBA Secretariat. (2024). Activity report 2023. [EBA-ACTIVITY-REPORT-2023.pdf \(europeanbiogas.eu\)](https://europeanbiogas.eu/EBA-ACTIVITY-REPORT-2023.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> European Commission. (2022). REPowerEU Plan, p.8. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:fc930f14-d7ae-11ec-a95f-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:fc930f14-d7ae-11ec-a95f-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>3</sup> Amongst others: European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy, Joint Research Centre, Bossmann, T., Cornaglia, L., Vautrin, A. (2021). *Assistance to assessing options improving market conditions for bio-methane and gas market rules : final report*, Publications Office. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2833/912333> ; Agora Energiewende. (2023). *Breaking free from fossil gas. A new path to a climate-neutral Europe.* [https://static.agora-energiewende.de/fileadmin/Projekte/2021/2021\\_07\\_EU\\_GEXIT/A-EW\\_292\\_Breaking\\_free\\_WEB.pdf](https://static.agora-energiewende.de/fileadmin/Projekte/2021/2021_07_EU_GEXIT/A-EW_292_Breaking_free_WEB.pdf) ; Zhou, Y., Swidler, D., Searle, S., & Baldino, C. (2021). Life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of biomethane and hydrogen pathways in the European Union. <https://theicct.org/publication/life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-biomethane-and-hydrogen-pathways-in-the-european-union/>

<sup>4</sup> Feedback EU. (2023). Biomethane. *Setting a target that is fit for food and the climate.* <https://feedbackeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/FeedbackEU-Biomethane-Report-Setting-A-Target-That-Is-Fit-For-Food-And-The-Climate.pdf>

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