

4 November 2025



Re: Uphold Methane Rules, Avoid Fossil Fuel Dependence

Dear President von der Leyen, Commissioner Šefčovič, and Commissioner Jørgensen,

We, Friends of the Earth US and Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND e.V.), urge you to vigorously protect the current EU climate and energy framework to ensure a safe and sustainable future in line with a 1.5°C pathway. The EU should not agree or comply with any demands to facilitate the import of methane gas from the Trump Administration.

Europe's gas demand is structurally declining—and this trend must continue. We urge you to protect the integrity of the Methane Regulation, a cornerstone of EU climate policy, and keep it further out of the “Energy Omnibus” in 2026. The successful implementation of the EU energy legal framework—including the Methane Regulation, the Energy Performance of Buildings, Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Energy Directives—is essential for achieving the 2030 climate targets and the 2050 carbon-neutrality goal. Any proposed simplification, such as through a suggested “Energy Omnibus” in 2026, must not weaken these laws, which safeguard the environment, public health, and social rights.

Cutting methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases, is among the fastest and most cost-effective ways to slow global warming and safeguard public health. Any roll-back of methane regulation would lock Europe into decades of carbon-intensive trade and send a dangerous signal to the global gas market, effectively rewarding negligent practices, particularly as the United States is already loosening its own methane emission laws.

We congratulate EU energy ministers on their recent decision to end all Russian gas imports. According to Eurostat data, the EU's natural gas import dependency rate was 86% in 2024. Germany also relies heavily on gas imports. While about half of Germany's gas imports originate from Norway, a growing percentage is from overseas LNG and gas re-exported via the Netherlands and Belgium, which themselves import substantial LNG from non-EU countries. About 90% of Germany's LNG imports originate from the US.

A growing reliance on U.S. gas extraction and LNG exports carries significant climate risks and environmental costs, including high methane leakage across the supply chain and serious local ecological and health impacts in exporting regions. The health and safety of vulnerable communities in the US living near the growing expansion of LNG terminals and other fossil fuel infrastructure are directly harmed, while many US low-income communities struggle with higher energy bills due to drastically higher energy prices.

The recently adopted EU–US Trade Deal commits the EU to purchase \$USD 750 billion in U.S. energy products over three years — roughly \$USD 250 billion annually mainly for American LNG, oil, and nuclear fuels. While details remain unclear, this deal risks deepening Europe's dependence on U.S. fossil fuels, undermining both the EU's climate objectives and its energy sovereignty, and increasing exposure to supply and security risks. The European

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Commission must take immediate action- through motions and other legislative tools- to re-evaluate the unrealistic energy purchase agreements of the deal.

True energy security and sovereignty lie in investment in renewable energy, efficiency, and demand reduction - not in extending fossil fuel dependence or dismantling climate policy under the guise of “simplification.” Instead of rewarding polluters, the EU should use its market power to demand higher environmental standards and protect communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further in a call with you. Thank you for your attention.

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