

Press release 12 December 2023

Victory on the 35bcm biomethane target dropped in final EU Gas and hydrogen markets Regulation

In a final negotiation session on 8th December, Member States did not bow to pressure from the European Parliament and rejected the introduction of a binding 35 billion cubic meter (bcm) biomethane target by 2030 in the Gas and hydrogen markets Regulation

This is a huge victory for the coalition of independent not-for-profit organisations who have been actively campaigning for the target to be dropped based on evidence of major environmental risks associated with the high biomethane target.

Among recent studies, Feedback EU's latest research highlighted the risks of encouraging more livestock production and food-feed-fuel competition and concluded that at best the 35bcm biomethane target will be unachievable, at worst it will lock in dangerously unsustainable agricultural, land use and energy practices.

The call to reject the industry-backed introduction of a 35bcm biomethane target was made in a joint letter to Member States by a mounting coalition of not-for-profits active in the fields of food security, sustainable land use, clean transportation and climate change mitigation. It is a big success and relief that the call has been heard.

The coalition now requests that the Commission heeds to its other demand echoed by participants of the recent Feedback webinar on biomethane requesting that a scientific target-setting process be conducted in conjunction with independent food system experts to set an EU biomethane target that is fit for food and the climate.

Frank Mechielsen, Director of Feedback EU said "Whilst we celebrate this significant victory, we are aware of ongoing risks, in particular in relation to the inclusion in the Regulation of a 100% tariff discount for the injection of biomethane into networks which will create perverse incentives in favour of biomethane. In the face of intensive industry lobby, the campaigning effort to secure a biomethane target that allows it to play its important but niche role in a truly decarbonized future, within a sustainable, healthy and just food system will continue".

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