

EBA statement. Roadmap on Climate Law – achieving climate neutrality by 2050

The European Biogas Association (EBA) welcomes the new initiative of the European Commission on a Climate Law that will provide for a long-term framework to EU climate policy and contribute to the implementation of Paris Agreement.

EBA supports the purpose of the upcoming initiative to ensure that all EU policies contribute to the climate objective and that all sectors play their part. Therefore, **EBA highlights that biogas and biomethane have positive knock-on effects across different sectors and are key assets to transitioning European economy towards climate neutrality.**

Renewable gases are a key enabler of sector integration:

- They can help cities and municipalities to establish **sustainable management of bio-waste**. Biomethane from bio-waste is the only fuel with a carbon negative intensity potential. Moreover, by turning bio-waste into compost and digestate, biowaste is prevented to being incinerated or landfilled and to being source of ghg emissions;
- They support improved farming practices – e.g. by carbon capture and sequestration in soils – and reward the investment with a diversified income. **Integrating cover crops on cultivated lands between two yearly food cultures** reduces the need of chemical fertilizers. Cover crops are subsequently methanized and returned to land as organic soil improvers;
- They support **job creation in rural areas**;
- They make **transport more sustainable** by utilising bio-CNG and bio-LNG which support emissions reduction also in those areas of the sector that are difficult to electrify, such as marine, heavy-duty and public transport;
- In the **heating sector**, they are compatible with existing gas boilers, and so can facilitate a transition of renewable heat without the need for extensive disruption or infrastructure;
- In the **power sector**, renewable gases have an important role to play as they provide flexibility to renewable electricity. Furthermore, they can be stored in large quantity for long duration and easily transported;
- They will also be needed in the **energy intensive industries**, particularly where processes which currently rely on fossil fuels cannot be electrified. These industries include, for example, refineries as well as the chemical, glass and steel industries.

According to [Eurostat](#), biogas production has doubled from 2010 to 2016. With the right legislative framework, and with fair incentives allowing to trade renewable gas in the Energy Single Market, **the European biomethane sector will ease implementation of agroecology and can commit to a gas supply which is 100 % renewable in 2050.**

What is needed is, on the one hand, energy prices which appraise the true value/cost (i.e. climate and environment externalities, CO2 emissions, air, water and soil pollution, land degradation, loss of biodiversity). On the other, EBA warmly invites the Commission to consider setting **a mandatory target for renewable gases** reflecting a clear commitment to increasingly turn the gas supply greener. The Commission should also consider setting a **mandatory target for growing cover crops** on % of current farmland.

EBA welcomes efforts to mobilise the financial sector in accelerating the move towards a prosperous and sustainable Europe in 2050. To achieve this, first and foremost, **a rapid phase-out of direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies** in the EU and in each Member State will be key. Moreover, EBA suggests to adapt the flow of financial support to renewable gases technologies and where necessary other transitional assets by 2030 which enable achievement of a zero-carbon economy based on the quickest and most cost-efficient CO2 reduction pathways.

As a matter of fact, careful is needed when planning interventions. The disruption of existing infrastructure will hamper European Countries capacity to harness the carbon neutral transition. A fair investment framework should provide predictability for all private and public actors.