

## New edition of EBA Statistical Report shows sharp 20% increase in European biomethane production in 2021

Brussels 07/12/22 – “The 2022 edition of the EBA Statistical Report published today shows that the biogas and biomethane sector is already providing 18.4 bcm of renewable gas to Europe. In the mid-term, our sector is a key pillar of the REPowerEU strategy, including the deployment of 35 bcm of sustainable biomethane a year by 2030 to mitigate climate change and strengthen the EU’s strategic autonomy. By 2050, it could provide up to 167 bcm and cover 62% of the gas demand<sup>1</sup>.” Explains Harmen Dekker, CEO of the EBA.

The demand for biomethane for all final uses is strong: last year, the growth of the sector was unprecedented, with a 20% increase in biomethane production and a total of 3.5 bcm produced in 2021. An even greater expansion is expected in 2022, as a record number of new biomethane plants (184) started production last year and will become operational within 2022.

The deployment of renewable gases entails a substantial contribution to climate targets, but also to the EU’s independence from natural gas imports. 82% of the natural gas consumed in 2021 came from external supplies (338 bcm), with 15 Member States importing over 90% of their gas. Russia was the main source of supply and represented 33% (137 bcm) of the EU’s natural gas consumption in 2021.

The need for higher energy independence is combined with falling biomethane production costs, which are already significantly below the expected average TTF gas price<sup>2</sup> for 2022 (80 €/MWh as opposed to 134 €/MWh). It is thus clear that speeding up biomethane production and accelerating the clean energy transition are of high importance to stabilize gas prices and ensure energy security.

The deployment of biomethane can also increase the availability and affordability of organic fertilisers for food production<sup>3</sup>. Natural gas is at the moment the main feedstock and energy source to produce synthetic fertilisers. According to the EBA Statistical Report 2022, Europe could already save today 0.6 bcm of natural gas consumption by replacing 5 – 6% of synthetic nitrogen fertilisers with digestate. This could have already avoided 1,096 ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2021, as the production of mineral fertilisers is highly energy-intensive.

The overall expansion of the sector will also boost the deployment of a resilient European bioeconomy. The biogas industry in EU-27 had a turnover of € 5.75 billion in 2020, relatively higher to the hydropower industry (€ 4.65 billion).

More information:

- [Go to interactive version](#)
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<sup>1</sup> Assuming a reduced gas demand of 271 bcm.

<sup>2</sup> TTF has become one of the favoured pricing reference for natural gas trading.

<sup>3</sup> The production of biogas and biomethane generates digestate as a co-product, which is an organic fertiliser.

### About the European Biogas Association (EBA)

*The EBA is the voice of renewable gas in Europe. Founded in February 2009, the association is committed to the active promotion of the deployment of sustainable biogas and biomethane production and use throughout the continent. The association counts today on a well-established network representing the whole biogas and biomethane value chain.*

### About the EBA Statistical Report

*The EBA Statistical Report is the only detailed publication tracking the state of play of biogas and biomethane production and use across Europe every year, and covering the latest updates in multiple national markets. The 12th edition includes a specific chapter dedicated to digestate use, brand-new country profiles, fresh analysis on the evolution of Europe's energy mix, as well as updates on the sector's production costs and contribution to green jobs, among other relevant highlights. The report covers the EU-27 Member States as well as Iceland, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.*

### About biogas and biomethane

*Biogas is produced from the decomposition of organic materials. These residues are placed in a biogas digester in the absence of oxygen. With the help of a range of bacteria, organic matter breaks down, releasing a blend of gases: 45 – 85 vol% methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and 25 – 50 vol% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The output is a renewable gas which can be used for multiple applications.*

*Biomethane – purified biogas – is a renewable alternative to natural gas. Its multiple applications include heat and power supply for our buildings and industries, and renewable fuel production for the transport sector.*