

1st GRID READY FORUM

10 April 2025, Brussels

CONCLUSIONS

ENABLING BIOMETHANE INJECTION

The Forum highlights that access to gas grids is still not secured in many EU countries, preventing project development, and therefore hindering the achievement of the full European biomethane potential towards 2050. The Forum takes note that gas quality may be an issue for sensitive users and that should be investigated to find the most economically sensible solutions.

The Forum recognises the proactive role that grid operators (both DSOs and TSOs) can play in connecting efficiently biomethane plants and avoiding local grid congestion through a range of technical solutions – shared grid connection, network meshing, local buffer storage, reverse flow and digitalisation of the grids. The Forum welcomes the potential of virtual pipelines as a complementary pathway to get biomethane production from off-grid areas to the market.

The Forum calls on national governments and regulators to implement swiftly the right to inject as set in the 2024 Gas Package. It also invites relevant stakeholders to develop guidelines with regard to “reasonable time limits” for connection delivery, as required by Articles 41 and 45 of the Gas Directive. The Forum encourages frontrunner grid operators to engage in experience-sharing and technical training to support their peers in emerging European markets.

CRITICAL ENERGY PLANNING NEEDS

The Forum acknowledges that grid planning should be combined with local mapping of long term biomethane production potential (“zoning approach”), as a sound basis for the integration of additional biomethane in a cost-effective way, supporting EU and national climate and energy objectives. The Forum supports that grid planning should be informed by open data and tools.

On this basis, the Forum urges the European Commission to take the lead in the roll-out of Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAA) applied to biomethane by (1) developing a Guidance that includes the zoning approach to streamline biomethane project development; and by (2) supporting Member States by organising peer-exchange.

The Forum acknowledges that anticipatory investments may be a necessary tool to streamline investment in future-proof grid infrastructure, provided they are underpinned with appropriate data.

ECONOMICS

The Forum recognises that connection to gas grids is often an expensive investment weighing on the viability or profitability of biomethane production projects. The Forum stresses that cost-sharing and prefinancing mechanisms have been implemented successfully. It recognises the potential for greater efficiency through EU-wide technical standards for grid injection.

The Forum establishes the need for national authorities, in dialogue with grid operators, to implement “enabling regulatory frameworks” with regard to grid connection costs, as required by Article 58 of the Gas Directive, including cost-sharing mechanisms with due regard to technical and economic efficiency.

The Forum recognises the value of continued dialogue among policymakers and industry stakeholders to make progress on effective regulations. The Forum encourages the European Commission to take note of these Conclusions and to discuss them in the upcoming Energy Infrastructure Forum.

The Forum also encourages the organiser to continue this dedicated exchange within this format on a regular basis.

About the Grid Ready Forum

The Grid Read Forum has been conceived as a high-level platform to advance biomethane injection and support the rollout of renewable gas in Europe. The Forum brings together infrastructure companies, regulators, member state representatives and stakeholders of the sector and is initiated by the European Biogas Association. Through collaboration and the sharing of best practices, the Forum aims to support the transition to a sustainable and integrated energy system in line with EU climate goals.