

2nd GRID READY FORUM

8 April 2026, Brussels

CONCLUSIONS

The Forum acknowledges that different gas quality standards across and within EU countries still stand as a significant barrier to achieving cost-efficient biomethane injection and a Single Biomethane Market.

The Forum therefore encourages grid operators, the European Commission, national competent authorities and market players, to address them.

While safety for gas users and underground storage facilities is of paramount importance, oxygen content limits in national standards should be reviewed upwards based on the latest evidence and CEN and EU-funded projects carried out by GERG. Furthermore, a potential revision of EN Standard 16726 could be considered by the European Commission.

The Forum invites the grid operators and national competent authorities to explore and implement economical solutions to handle variations of the Gross Calorific Value, in contrast to costly technical solutions. The Forum encourages strong participation of market participants in the upcoming consultation of ACER on the revision of the Network Code 'Interoperability and Data' (NC INT).

The Forum takes note that diverging national requirements and standards impact negatively on the cost of injection instruments and prevent economies of scale to be achieved.

In order to decrease investment and operational costs for producers, an industry standard for grid injection devices should be defined as soon as possible. The Forum will explore the setup of a dedicated working group to feed into the identification of best practices by ENTSO-G and the EU DSO Entity, as representative institutions of gas TSOs and DSOs.

The Forum recognises regulatory progress achieved in some EU Member States to enable grid access for biomethane producers. The Forum urges other Member States to implement the right to injection provided for in the Gas Directive by the transposition deadline of August 2026. In doing so, utmost certainty should be guaranteed for renewable gas producers and sunset clauses should be avoided.

The Forum invites ACER and CEER to provide a regular EU overview of the regulatory framework for biomethane injection under the Gas Package.

Master planning based on zoning and mapping tools (covering available feedstock, gas grids, biomethane projects) in some EU countries is proving instrumental to plan increasing injection of biomethane in the most efficient way.

The Forum notes that implementation of such master planning in other EU countries would support sector development and the planning of shared grid assets (such as reverse flow facilities, shared pipeline and centralised injection points). In this regard, the Forum suggests that the European Commission could facilitate the application of this approach to all EU countries.

The Forum strongly encourages EU institutions to align the Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance and the TEN-E Regulation with the EU renewable gas ambition by including gas grid adaptation in these initiatives.

The Forum also recommends that National Regulatory Authorities enable anticipatory investments in shared grid assets. This would fast-track biomethane deployment where specific grid development is necessary and allow more biomethane injection to develop over time in high-potential areas.

In light of the energy security urgency, climate objectives and the competitiveness agenda, the Forum highlights the need to improve the utilisation of the available sustainable biomass for renewable gas production. Thus, virtual pipelines (also called mobile pipelines) can be a significant complementary pathway to get biomethane production from off-grid areas to the market.

Good investment conditions for their development must therefore be established. In this regard, the Forum calls on national competent authorities to include such projects in all relevant support schemes in relevant countries. Investment cost-sharing measures applied to connection pipelines can be considered to be extended to centralised injection points.

The European Commission, along with national and voluntary certification schemes, should also ensure that the certification process under the RED framework is extended to these projects.

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 selected infrastructure companies, national energy regulators, member state representatives and stakeholders of the sector and is initiated by the European Biogas Association. Through expert discussion, 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.