

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Global renewable gas industry renews calls for the European Commission to unlock exports to the EU**

- The European Commission's upcoming traceability tool, the Union Database (UDB), still does not plan to recognise imports of biomethane and their derivatives from third countries.
- According to **Eurogas**, this is threatening investor certainty, trade relations and the EU's ability to decarbonise.
- **Over 50** affected organisations from around the world including **Energy UK**, the **Green Gas Task Force (GGT)**, **electric Natural Gas coalition (eNG)**, the **World Shipping Council** and the **Coalition for Renewable National Gas (RNG)**, joined renewed calls by Eurogas to urgently remove these restrictions and unlock renewable gas exports to the EU.

**[Brussels, Belgium, 24 March 2025] - In a [joint statement](#), Eurogas, Europe's leading gaseous energy trade association, and 55 organisations from across the global renewable gas supply chain, have called on the European Commission to urgently address barriers preventing their full recognition in the Union Database (UDB).** Without immediate action, the industry coalition has warned that significant volumes of renewable energy risks exclusion from EU markets, jeopardising progress towards climate targets and trade relations.

The European Commission first introduced the UDB for transport fuels in 2018 to track sustainable gaseous and liquid fuels moving to and across the EU. Extended to all end uses in 2023, this tool's purpose is to enable policymakers to better trace the renewable gases and liquids circulating through the EU, improve market transparency and give a better understanding of how the sector is contributing towards decarbonisation targets.

Though the renewable gas sector supports the aims of the UDB, the grid mass balancing mechanism that this uses only applies to EU-integrated grids, according to the European Commission's interpretation. This means that third-country imports of sustainable biomethane, biomethane-based fuels, and other renewable gases—including from key partners such as the U.K., Ukraine, the U.S., Canada—cannot be recognised for compliance with the EU's renewable energy targets.

**Adam Berman, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Energy UK, the UK's leading energy trade association, said:** "Strengthening the UK and EU's energy cooperation will be critical to supporting the transition to a more resilient and sustainable system. As key suppliers of renewable gases like biomethane, UK companies have the potential to support Europe's decarbonisation and boost energy security in an increasingly volatile world. However, the current interpretation of the UDB creates unnecessary barriers for UK exports that complicate this relationship."

**Charles McAllister, Director of the Green Gas Task Force (GGT), said:** “The development of a renewable fuels market across Europe is very important and obstacles like the current interpretation of the UDB only make it more difficult to realise these goals.”

The UDB's current restriction threatens investment in renewable and low-carbon energy markets, disrupts supply chains, and creates uncertainty for industries reliant on sustainable gaseous fuels to meet EU climate goals. In particular, this could affect the maritime sector, as new FuelEU Maritime regulations will from this year require vessel owners to decrease their carbon emissions. It could also set a concerning precedent for hydrogen and its derivatives, which are expected to be integrated into the UDB framework.

**Geoffrey Dietz, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs at the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), representing over 400 companies across the North American RNG value chain, said:** “We support the European Commission’s desire for transparency and accountability in the certification of U.S. renewable natural gas (RNG) and bio-derivative fuel exports to the EU. Our organization and partners have made diligent efforts over the last 18 months to initiate and facilitate transatlantic engagement on this issue. The lack of clear and consistent guidance to address it is impeding the growing international trade of sustainable gaseous fuels that has significant commercial and decarbonization potential for key sectors. In particular, barriers to U.S.-derived bio-methanol and bio-LNG will prevent significant emissions reductions in transatlantic maritime transport. We stand ready to support the immediate implementation of a readily available solution that supports the intent of the UDB while ensuring that U.S. and other third-country imports can continue to assist the EU in reaching its sustainability targets.”

“Certification systems must verify not only a fuel’s carbon intensity but also its sustainability credentials and origin. A harmonised framework would allow shipowners and operators to demonstrate compliance with EU, and potentially IMO, rules regardless of where they bunker, thereby promoting global uptake of genuinely low-emission fuels,” **said Bryan Wood-Thomas, VP Environment & Climate for the World Shipping Council.**

Recent suggestions that the European Commission would be willing to permit biomethane imports from Ukraine under the UDB have been welcomed by industry.

**Andreas Guth, Secretary General of Eurogas, said:** “We fully back the aims of the UDB to improve transparency in the gas market, which is why Eurogas stands ready to support policymakers in improving it. The European Commission's recent indications that it may be willing to recognise Ukrainian imports under the UDB is certainly a step in the right direction. The UDB must be workable in practice to ensure that it does not block crucial imports of renewable gas from third countries, especially at a time when energy security and decarbonisation are so critical.”

**Rafik Ammar, Policy Director at electric Natural Gas coalition (eNG), said:** "We welcome the prospect of a more pragmatic approach from European policymakers. If the recognition of Ukrainian imports is confirmed, it should set a precedent for extending access to other third countries. Ensuring fair market access and regulatory certainty for all trade partners is crucial to fostering a global renewable gas market."

Eurogas and co-signatories have specifically [urged the European Commission to:](#)

1. **Ensure a viable solution for third-country exports** before the UDB becomes mandatory for gaseous fuels, avoiding unnecessary trade disruptions.
2. **Establish clear and transparent guidance** on the process for recognising imports in the UDB, facilitating cooperation between the Commission and third-country administrations.
3. **Implement an interim recognition mechanism** for sustainable gaseous fuels that meet EU sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction criteria while long-term solutions are developed.

Full statement [here](#).

\*\*\*NOTES TO EDITOR\*\*\*

#### Additional Information

- The European Commission first introduced the Union Database (UDB) for transport fuels under the recast Renewable Energy Directive, Directive (EU) 2018/2001, to track sustainable gaseous and liquid fuels moving to and across the EU. It was extended to all end uses in the RED III (EU) 2023/2413, with the aim of tracking all consignments of gaseous fuels compliant with the renewable and sustainable criteria set out in the RED III.
- The UDB is referenced explicitly or indirectly as relevant for multiple recent legislations such as the Gas Package, ETS, and FuelEU. Economic operators will be able to enter information on the transactions made and the sustainability characteristics of renewable fuels starting from their point of production to the fuel supplier that places them on the market.
- The RED initially entered into force in 2009 and aimed to set climate targets and regulatory frameworks to increase renewable energy use. It has been revised twice, including as part of the Commission's Fit For 55 package. The RED's Proof of Sustainability and Guarantees of Origin are tools from which the UDB will draw information.
- An increasing number of companies and countries are interested in resolving the lack of recognition of third-country imports of renewable fuels so that they can reach Europe. In order to reach our climate targets, which will require gaseous energies to complement electricity, it is imperative that we scale up renewable fuels like biomethane by improving the market for them.

#### About Eurogas

Eurogas is an association of over one hundred members representing gaseous energy in Europe. We lead the sector's transition to climate neutrality through dialogue with stakeholders and policymakers, so that gas can be effectively used for the decarbonisation of Europe's energy sector. We are active throughout the gas sector value chain, including renewable and low-carbon gases, their derivatives and carbon capture utilisation and storage. Our members cover wholesale and retail gas markets, the distribution of gaseous energies and the use of gas in transport. We also represent technology providers including companies active on value chain methane emissions management.

<https://www.eurogas.org>

### **About Energy UK**

Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry with over 100 members - from established FTSE 100 companies through to new, growing suppliers, generators and service providers across energy, transport, heat and technology. Their members deliver nearly 80% of the UK's power generation and over 95% of the energy supply for 28 million UK homes as well as businesses.

[Energy UK - The voice of the energy industry](#)

### **About the Green Gas Task Force (GGT)**

The Green Gas Taskforce is a collaboration between the UK's leading green gas companies and the five British gas networks. Together, our Partners believe that biomethane can play a much greater role in the UK's efforts to meet Net Zero emissions.

### **About the World Shipping Council**

The World Shipping Council is the united voice of liner shipping, working with policymakers and stakeholder groups to shape the future growth of a socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, safe, and secure shipping industry. We are a non-profit trade association with offices in Brussels, London, Singapore and Washington, D.C.

[www.worldshipping.org](http://www.worldshipping.org).

### **About the electric Natural Gas coalition (eNG)**

The e-NG Coalition is a collaborative alliance of pioneering companies that believe electric Natural Gas (e-NG) has a role to play to accelerate the energy transition towards a net-zero carbon future. The Coalition seeks to promote e-NG, build a global market with aligned emissions accounting and certification standards, and bolster cooperation between all stakeholders along the e-NG value chain. By aligning industry innovation with ambitious climate policies, the coalition aims to be a catalyst for meaningful progress in the energy landscape.

<https://www.eng-coalition.org/>

### **About the Coalition for Renewable National Gas (RNG)**

RNG Coalition is a 501 (c)(6) non-profit association of members advocating for the sustainable development, deployment and utilization of renewable natural gas so that present and future generations will have access to domestic, renewable, clean fuel and energy.

<https://www.rngcoalition.com/>

### **Full list of signatories:**

ACT	Barrow Green Gas	Blue Delta Energy
American Biogas Council	BDEW	Centrica
Ameresco	Bioledger	Ceres Energy

CLIA	IOGEN	RNG Coalition
Corpesucar	IOGP	SCS Global
eFuel Alliance	JGA	SeaLNG
Energy UK	Kinder Morgan	SKY RNG
e-NG Coalition	LF Bioenergy	StormFisher Hydrogen
Eurogas	Marquis	STX
Europex	Methanol Institute	SunGas Renewables
Foxley	Mitsubishi Corp	TES
GasTerra	Molecule Group	Uniper
GreenGas	Naftogaz of Ukraine	UPEI
Grissan	Oberon Fuels	U.S. Energy
GWW	OCI	Vanguard Renewables
Hapag Lloyd	Peaks	Verbio
Hydrogen Europe	Praj Industries Ltd	ViGo
Indian Federation of Green Energy	RAG Austria	WBA
	REA	World Shipping Concil

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