



PRESS RELEASE

Industry coalition urges EU to fix hydrogen framework or risk stalling industrial decarbonisation

- A coalition representing the European hydrogen value chain including **Eurogas, Ammonia Europe, GIE** and the **Carbon Capture and Storage Association**, warns that without urgent adjustments to the EU hydrogen framework, Europe risks missing its climate targets and holding back industrial decarbonisation and economic competitiveness.
- Despite the EU's 2030 goal to produce 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen, unclear and complex rules coupled with high production costs are delaying projects and discouraging investment on both the demand and supply side.
- The coalition is calling on the European Commission to simplify rules, reward low-emission products based on their GHG emissions performance, streamline the roll out of hydrogen, derivatives and CO₂ infrastructure, and strengthen financing.
- The co-signatories also call for the revised European Hydrogen Strategy to facilitate cross-border trade and enable the role of both renewable and low-carbon hydrogen (including imports) in delivering the EU's decarbonisation objectives.

Brussels, Belgium, 17 March 2026 – A coalition representing the European hydrogen value chain including **Eurogas, Ammonia Europe, GIE**, and the **Carbon Capture and Storage Association**, is warning that without urgent adjustments to the EU's hydrogen framework, Europe will not be able to scale up hydrogen and derivatives sufficiently to make a difference to industrial emissions.

The statement comes **ahead of the first European Hydrogen Regulatory Forum** and the **revision of the European Hydrogen Strategy** later this year, which the coalition describes as a **decisive moment for building a viable hydrogen market and derivatives**. Scaling up domestic renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production is not only key to achieving Europe's climate goals but can also strengthen its energy resilience.

The EU has set a 2030 goal to produce 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen, but only around 29,000 tonnes were produced in 2024, and the EU is unlikely to meet its target, according to the [Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators \(ACER\)](#). The high cost of renewable hydrogen, which remains around four times more expensive to produce than conventional hydrogen and 2-3 times more expensive than low-carbon hydrogen. The industry coalition says the strict production rules add further costs and complexity, making projects difficult to finance and limiting demand.

The coalition argues that **recent EU legislation, including the RFNBO and Low-Carbon Fuels Delegated Acts, is too rigid and complex, increasing costs and delaying investment decisions and projects**. Industry also warns that binding RFNBO consumption targets have been introduced before sufficient affordable supply, infrastructure or financial support were in place, exposing industrial users to high costs and uncertainty.

As a result, **companies are struggling to sign long-term supply contracts, which are essential to unlock investment on both the production and demand sides**. This is undermining the emergence of a competitive, liquid European hydrogen market including derivatives.



Andreas Guth, Secretary General of Eurogas, said: *"The Hydrogen Forum is the EU's chance to show it's serious about scaling this industry. Only by making producing and using clean hydrogen economically viable can we realistically expect industry to invest, scale up projects, and accelerate the transition to a competitive low-carbon economy."*

Stephen Jackson, CEO of Ammonia Europe, said: *"The EU's hydrogen strategy should be revised to be simpler and truly fit for purpose. It must take a technology-neutral approach that recognises the role of both low-carbon and renewable hydrogen in delivering decarbonisation, while reflecting the specific realities of the ammonia sector in Europe."*

Lucie Boost, Secretary General of GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe), said: *"Hydrogen infrastructure is the backbone of a functioning hydrogen market. To connect producers with industrial users at scale, Europe must enable timely investments in hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure, including the repurposing of existing gas assets. A clear and pragmatic regulatory and financial framework is essential to support market development. "*

Thierry Grauwels, EU Director of CCSA (Carbon Capture and Storage Association), said: *"Low-carbon hydrogen produced with CCS technologies will be essential to scale up Europe's hydrogen economy quickly and cost-effectively. CCUS enables large-scale hydrogen production with significantly lower emissions while supporting industrial competitiveness. Achieving this will require alignment across the full value chain, including support for the development of CO₂ transport infrastructure, and recognising its strategic role for the hydrogen value chain. The Hydrogen Forum is Europe's chance to prove it is serious about building a competitive hydrogen market."*

The coalition is calling on the European Commission to ensure the revised European Hydrogen Strategy, expected by end of 2026, creates the necessary conditions for Europe to realistically develop a thriving hydrogen market including derivatives by:

- Simplifying hydrogen production rules to provide flexibility and ensure technology-neutrality, linking support eligibility to verified lifecycle GHG intensity of the fuel.
- Rewarding lower-emission products based on lifecycle CO₂ performance standards.
- Adopting a phased cluster-based approach to hydrogen infrastructure, complemented by blending, asset repurposing, bunkering and recognising CO₂ infrastructure's strategic role in the hydrogen value chain.
- Strengthening financing frameworks across the hydrogen value chain to address competitiveness gaps, de-risk infrastructure and enable timely final investment decisions.
- Enable both renewable and low-carbon hydrogen and its derivatives as well as imports, including import corridors and bunkering, and strategic partnerships to support EU's demand ambitions, effectively contribute to EU's decarbonisation objectives.

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*** NOTES TO EDITOR ***

Full list of signatories

- Ammonia Europe
- CCSA
- CO2 Value Europe
- EIGA
- Energy Traders Europe
- ERGaR
- Eurogas
- Europex
- GD4S
- GIE
- IOGP
- Methanol Institute

Background Information

- The European Commission recognised the role of hydrogen in achieving 2030, 2040 targets and Net Zero by 2050, and notably its importance to decarbonise hard-to-abate industries, in its 2025 [European Steel and Metals Action Plan](#).
- The [2024 ACER Market Monitoring Report on Hydrogen Markets](#) highlights that the EU must intensify efforts if it is to meet its 2030 renewable hydrogen goals. With the current framework and development, the EU is unlikely to meet its targets.
- The upcoming [Hydrogen Regulatory Forum](#) will be the first platform bringing together regulators, policymakers and industry to assess how Europe's hydrogen rules are working in practice, offering a key opportunity to address regulatory barriers ahead of the revision of the EU Hydrogen Strategy.
- The revision of the [European Hydrogen Strategy](#), first adopted in 2020, is expected by the end of 2026 and will provide an opportunity to ensure that the EU regulatory framework supports the scale-up of both renewable and low-carbon hydrogen and enables a competitive European hydrogen market.

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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 Ammonia Europe

Ammonia Europe is the voice of the European ammonia industry and its value chain with the mission to advance the decarbonisation of the industry and its pivotal role in the transition towards a climate-neutral economy. Ammonia Europe envisages by 2050 a decarbonised ammonia industry and uptake of clean ammonia across various sectors of Europe's climate neutral and resilient economy.

About the CCSA

The CCSA is the trade association accelerating the commercial deployment of CCUS, with offices in Belgium and in the UK. We work with members, governments and other organisations to ensure CCUS is developed and deployed at the pace and scale necessary to meet net zero goals and deliver sustainable growth across regions and nations. The CCSA currently has over 120 member companies who are active in exploring and developing different applications of carbon capture and removals, CO2 transportation by pipeline and ship, utilisation, geological storage, and other permanent storage solutions, end-users in the power, industry, waste management, fuels, and hydrogen production sectors, plus supply chain, engineering, construction and management, legal and financial consulting sectors.

CO2 Value Europe

CO2 Value Europe is the European association dedicated to Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) and represents over 115 members along the CCU value chain, from CO2 producers, converters and users of CCU products to researchers and project developers. CCU refers to established and innovative industrial processes that aim at capturing carbon – either from industrial point sources, including from biogenic sources, or directly from the air – and transforming it into value-added products such as synthetic fuels, e-chemicals and building materials.

About the European Industrial Gases Association

Founded in 1923, the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) is a safety and technically oriented organisation representing the vast majority of European and also non-European companies producing and distributing industrial, medical and food gases. The member companies closely co-operate in technical and safety matters to achieve the highest level of safety and environmental care in the handling of gases. EIGA is in frequent touch with Standardisation and Regulatory Organisations and Authorities as well as trade and industrial organisations. EIGA's membership comprises European companies that produce or distribute industrial and/or medical gases.

www.eiga.eu

About ERGaR

The European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) is a Brussels-based association that facilitates the cross-border trade of renewable gas certificates in Europe. ERGaR brings together national registries and stakeholders from across the renewable gas value chain to support the development of a transparent and well-functioning European market for renewable gases. Through its cooperation framework and certificate exchange system, ERGaR enables the secure transfer of renewable gas certificates between national registries, contributing to the growth of renewable gases and supporting Europe's decarbonisation objectives.



<https://www.ergar.org/>

About Europex

Europex is a not-for-profit association of European energy exchanges with 36 members. It represents the interests of exchange-based wholesale electricity, gas and environmental markets, focuses on developments of the European regulatory framework for wholesale energy trading and provides a discussion platform at European level.

www.europex.org

About GIE

Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) is the association representing the interests of European gas infrastructure operators active in gas transmission, gas storage and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) regasification. GIE is a trusted partner of European institutions, regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders. It is based in Brussels, the heart of European policymaking. GIE currently represents 72 member companies from 25 countries. GIE's vision is that by 2050, the gas infrastructure will be the backbone of the new innovative energy system, allowing European citizens to benefit from a secure, efficient and sustainable energy supply.

<https://www.gie.eu/>

About the Methanol Institute

The Methanol Institute (MI) is the global trade association for the methanol industry, representing leading producers, distributors, technology companies, and end users. With offices in Washington, Brussels, Beijing, Delhi, and Singapore, MI connects the full methanol value chain and engages key markets worldwide. MI works with governments, international organizations, and industry partners to advance methanol's role in the energy transition. As a versatile chemical and a low-emission fuel when produced from renewable or low-carbon sources, methanol offers solutions for decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors, including shipping, aviation, chemicals, power, and road transport.

www.methanol.org

About IOGP Europe

IOGP Europe is the European advocacy arm of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), the leading voice of the global oil and gas industry, pioneering excellence in safe, efficient and sustainable energy. We represent around 30 energy companies accounting for 70% of EU oil & gas production, and many of Europe's energy suppliers. We support policymakers in crafting impactful and inclusive policies that drive prosperity for Europe's businesses and citizens.