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PRESS RELEASE

Current interpretation of EU renewable gas rules is fragmenting internal energy market, renewable gas industry warns

- Ireland's gas grid connects to continental Europe through the UK. Following Brexit, the UK is treated as a third country under EU rules, meaning renewable gas flows into Ireland transit through non-EU territory.
- Companies across the renewable gas value chain warn that current EU rules bar renewable gas, such as biomethane, imported into Ireland from counting towards its EU climate targets.
- **Eurogas** and 10 co-signatories **raise that this fragments the internal energy market**. They call on the European Commission to recognise Ireland as part of the EU interconnected gas grid and to **integrate third countries, including the UK, into the EU's renewable fuel tracking system, the Union Database (UDB)**.

[Brussels, Belgium, 28 May 2025] - A coalition representing the renewable gas value chain including Eurogas, ENTSOG, Anew Climate, and Grissan, are calling on the European Commission to urgently fix a regulatory barrier that is effectively excluding Ireland from cross-border renewable gas trade - a consequence of the country's indirect connection to continental networks running through the UK.

The co-signatories are urging the European Commission to recognise Ireland as part of the EU interconnected gas grid and enable imports of sustainable renewable gases from third countries, including the United Kingdom, within the Union Database (UDB).

The call follows the European Commission's detailed opinion on Ireland's proposed Renewable Heat Obligation (RHO) scheme under the Renewable Heat Obligation Act (2025). In its assessment, the Commission stated that pipeline-based biomethane from the UK or continental Europe cannot currently count towards Ireland's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) targets for as long as the United Kingdom remains outside the UDB or does not fulfil the sustainability requirements for renewable gaseous fuels.

The co-signatories support robust traceability, certification and fraud prevention requirements. However, the current approach creates new barriers to renewable gas trade within the EU.

Unlike island Member States without pipeline links to the continent, such as Cyprus and Malta, Ireland does have a physical route to continental gas networks. The industry alliance argues this indirect connection should be treated as part of the EU interconnected gas grid, which the European Commission currently does not recognise.

With the current interpretation, Ireland cannot access the same renewable gas market opportunities available to other Member States. The co-signatories warn that the current situation risks fragmenting the EU internal energy market and undermining Europe's efforts to reduce energy-related emissions. They argue that third countries should be integrated into the Union Database before its application becomes mandatory. Pending this integration, they are urging the European Commission to establish an interim solution enabling Ireland to participate fully in cross-border renewable gas trade.



Andreas Guth, Secretary General of Eurogas, said: *“The EU’s internal gas market is one of its greatest strengths. We are calling on the Commission to enable cross-border trade of sustainable renewable gases from third countries and solve the barrier blocking Ireland, which is fragmenting the internal energy market and leaving Ireland on unequal footing with other Member States. Fixing this serves both decarbonisation and energy security.”*

John Cosmo Dwelle, Managing Director at Anew Climate Europe, said: *“A pragmatic regulatory framework is essential to scaling renewable gas markets in Europe. Biomethane traders need clear rules that provide market certainty, enable long-term investment and allow renewable gases to flow freely across borders.”*

Davide Rubini, Head of Regulatory Affairs at ViGo, said: *“Renewable gases are already helping to decarbonise transport and other hard-to-abate sectors across Europe. A seamless and well-integrated internal market extended to all interconnected EU neighbours should support the growth of these solutions and ensure that renewable gases can contribute fully to Europe’s climate ambitions without unnecessary barriers to trade.”*

Eurogas and the other co-signatories of this joint statement urge the European Commission to take immediate action to:

- Recognise Ireland as an integral part of the EU interconnected gas grid and associated mass balancing system.
- Enable cross-border trade of sustainable renewable gases from third countries, including the United Kingdom, within the Union Database (UDB).

ENDS

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

Full list of signatories

- Anew Climate
- Centrica
- Energy Traders Europe
- e-NG Coalition
- Entsog
- Ergar
- Eurogas
- Europex
- Grissan
- RECS
- ViGo



Background Information

- The European Commission introduced the [Union Database \(UDB\)](#) under the recast Renewable Energy Directive, Directive (EU) 2018/2001, to track sustainable gaseous and liquid fuels moving to and across the EU.
- 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.
- Ireland's proposed national Renewable Heat Obligation (RHO) scheme was notified to the European Commission on 23 December 2025 pursuant to Directive (EU) 2015/1535 (1) under the [Renewable Heat Obligation Act \(2025\)](#).

About

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.

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