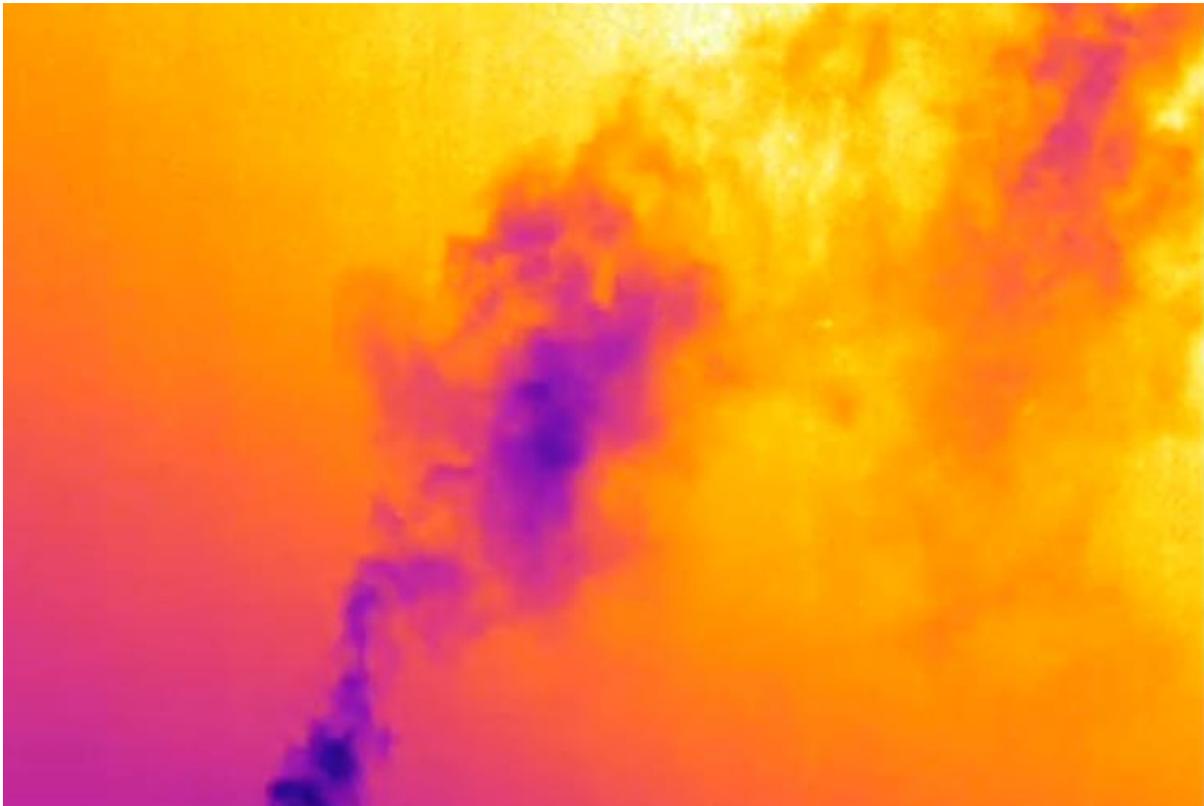


Press release

# **Methane concentrations in the atmosphere continue to rise: Environmental Action Germany (DUH) calls for an urgently needed methane strategy for Germany**

Wednesday, 13.03.2024



James Turrilo/CATF

Berlin, 13.3.2024: The International Energy Agency (IEA) today presented the latest data on methane emissions with the annual update of the "Global Methane Tracker". According to the data, the concentration of the second most dangerous greenhouse gas in the atmosphere continued to rise in 2023, although a reduction of 30 percent by 2030 would be necessary to keep the 1.5-degree limit within reach. According to calculations by the IEA, 40 percent of methane emissions from fossil fuels could be reduced in a cost-neutral way. Environmental Action Germany (DUH) is calling on the German government to

develop a comprehensive methane strategy in order to leverage this enormous potential.

Sascha Müller-Kraenner, Federal Managing Director of DUH, comments: "**The report by the International Energy Agency shows once again that politicians must finally prioritize the reduction of methane emissions.** Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas, has an extremely short-term effect and can be reduced in a largely cost-neutral way. **There is no lower hanging fruit in climate policy.** This has been known for years and yet methane emissions continue to rise. Even Germany, which officially presents itself as a "champion" of the Global Methane Pledge, must make much faster progress here. Ambitious implementation of the EU Methane Regulation is just the beginning. Gas procurement must be reassessed, as methane emissions are particularly high above the oil and gas fields in the USA, from which we import record quantities of fracked LNG. The German government must also finally take action in the area of agriculture, the sector with the highest methane emissions in Germany. **We are therefore calling on the Federal Government to draw up a comprehensive methane strategy covering all sectors as quickly as possible.** This must set clear reduction targets in line with Germany's promised contribution to the Global Methane Pledge."

### Background:

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is responsible for almost a quarter of the greenhouse effect, making it the second largest factor in global warming after CO<sub>2</sub>. Calculated over 20 years, the heating effect of methane is over 80 times as strong as that of CO<sub>2</sub>. Due to this particularly strong short-term climate impact of methane, the rapid reduction of methane emissions is crucial. Nevertheless, the German government has neither a reduction strategy nor a reduction target for methane emissions.

The oil and gas industry is the second largest source of man-made methane emissions in Germany after agriculture. Methane is the main component of natural gas. It escapes as a by-product of oil production and due to leaks at natural gas production sites and pipelines. The massive reduction of methane

emissions in the energy sector is technically possible and could in many cases be cost-neutral, as the escaping methane could be captured and marketed.

**Contact:**

Sascha Müller-Kraenner, Federal Managing Director  
0160 90354509, [sascha.mueller-kraenner@duh.de](mailto:sascha.mueller-kraenner@duh.de)

**DUH Newsroom:**

030 2400867-20, [presse@duh.de](mailto:presse@duh.de)