

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. | Hackescher Markt 4 | 10178 Berlin

European Commission  
BERL/Commissioner  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1040 Brussels  
BELGIUM

BUNDESGESCHÄFTSSTELLE  
BERLIN

Hackescher Markt 4  
Eingang: Neue Promenade 3  
10178 Berlin

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Jürgen Resch  
Tel. +49 (0) 30 2400867-10  
Fax +49 (0) 30 2400867-19  
resch@duh.de  
www.duh.de

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## Working together for Climate and Clean Air

Dear Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra,

The members of the Methane Matters Coalition - a coalition of non-profit organisations working on methane mitigation – would like to express our sincere congratulations on your appointment as EU Commissioner. We are convinced that you will make a valuable contribution to shaping European climate policy with your commitment and expertise.

One issue that is particularly urgent and should characterise your mandate is anthropogenic methane emissions. As a climate super pollutant, methane warms the planet over 80 times more than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year period. More than half of global methane emissions are caused by humans and have already contributed to a gross temperature increase of 0.5°C. In addition, methane is a precursor of tropospheric ozone harming human health and the environment. Latest report from the European Environmental Agency EEA states 70,000 deaths (95% CI: 0-137,000) attributable to exposure to ozone concentrations above the WHO guideline level of 60µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Main sources of anthropogenic emissions are agriculture, energy and waste.

Agriculture is responsible for over half of the EU's emissions of anthropogenic methane. At the same time, the sector offers enormous potential for reducing these emissions. The recently agreed Strategic Dialogue states clearly that the 'time to change is now' and the Commission must take urgent action to set binding reduction targets for agricultural methane, shifting subsidies to sustainable practices and a just transition in the food system. Technical fixes alone will not be sufficient to meet the Global Methane Pledge.

While the EU's methane regulation in the energy sector has progressed, it is far from adequate. The measures adopted are not reasonable to address the methane emissions linked to EU fossil fuel imports with the urgency required. It is crucial that EU member states receive the necessary guidance to implement the regulation and that delegated and implementing acts are designed in a way that ensure that rules for importers lead to meaningful methane reductions in the supply chain. The regulation does not cover the petrochemical or biogas sectors, highlighting gaps in the

EU's approach to mitigating methane emissions in the energy sector. At the same time as advancing technical methane abatement, the EU needs to steer towards phasing out fossil fuels to address the root cause of energy methane.

In addition, the existing regulations currently focus on the energy sector only, leaving aside large potential for reductions in other sectors. We need solutions to reduce methane emissions in *all* relevant sectors, especially agriculture, which is a major contributor to these emissions.

Extending effective legal instruments to all relevant sectors is a crucial step towards achieving the EU's climate change objectives while promoting sustainable, future-oriented agriculture and waste management. The EU's ambition to reduce methane emissions across sectors must also be reflected in the legislative proposal for the 2040 climate target as well as in the European NDC to be submitted in 2025.

Internationally, the EU must spearhead the mobilisation of public finance, particularly in the form of grants, to support developing countries. Of the 159 Global Methane Pledge signatories, 111 are official development assistance (ODA) recipients. The Methane Abatement Partnership Roadmap, launched by the EU at COP29 with our support, holds the potential to be an important tool to channel funds to methane abatement projects. This Roadmap now needs to be filled with life and supplemented by frameworks to push finance for methane emissions reductions in the agricultural and waste sectors.

Together with our partners across Europe, we are engaged to support the full implementation of the Global Methane Pledge. We would be very pleased to have the opportunity to present our concrete ideas and to jointly discuss effective instruments that can tackle the challenges of methane emissions.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Resch CEO

On behalf of the Methane Matters Coalition

Changing Market Foundation, Caitlin Smith, Senior Campaigner



Environmental Investigation Agency, Jack Corcadden, Climate Campaigner



European Environmental Bureau, Patrick Ten Brink, Secretary General



Zero Waste Europe Janek Vahk, Zero Pollution Policy Manger

