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## Working together for Climate and Clean Air

Dear Madam Vice-President Teresa Ribera,

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

Methane emissions are a key issue that urgently needs to be addressed in the EU. 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. Consequently, methane mitigation not only has a short term impact on reducing global warming but also provides several co-benefits for environmental and health policies. The Global Methane Pledge (GMP), launched at COP26 and initiated by the European Union, sets a framework for comprehensive initiatives. The Methane Matters Initiative supports the implementation.

The EU methane regulation for the energy sector represents progress. However, it falls far short of unlocking the full potential for methane emission reductions. The adopted measures are insufficient to address the methane emissions tied to EU fossil fuel imports with the urgency the climate crisis demands. Every leak or flaring event wastes a valuable resource and contributes to the warming of our planet. According to the International Energy Agency, exporters to the EU could increase gas exports by over 45 billion cubic metres (bcm) simply by implementing measures to reduce flaring—using existing infrastructure. This volume is equivalent to nearly a third of Russian gas exports to the EU in 2021. The current EU Methane Regulation proposes implementing an intensity standard by 2030. However, this timeline is far too late to realise the climate, economic, and public health benefits of tackling methane emissions from imports. We urge you to accelerate and strengthen these critical measures.

Moreover, 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.

Another blind spot of the regulation is that it does not cover fossil gas that is used as an input for (blue) hydrogen and derivatives produced outside and imported into the European Union. 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 sector methane emissions.

The EU will not achieve the goal of the GMP by addressing emissions from the energy sector only. The agriculture and waste sector together represent 79.8 percent of total EU methane emissions (2022). Tailored instruments are needed to address these sectors as well. An appropriate legislation to these sectors is of crucial importance and supports the way to transition.

The GMP refers to the period up to 2030. As co-creator of the Pledge, the EU has a duty to align its policies with the collective goal of reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030. Against the backdrop of the recent US election, the EU must show renewed leadership, by implementing ambitious methane reduction policies towards 2030 and beyond.

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:

Environmental Investigation Agency, Jack Corscadden, Climate Campaigner



Changing Market Foundation, Caitlin Smith, Senior Campaigner



European Environmental Bureau, Patrick Ten Brink, Secretary General



Zero Waste Europe, Janek Vahk, Zero Pollution Policy Manger

