Basic information

2021/2006(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
An EU strategy to reduce methane emissions **Subject** 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	SPYRAKI Maria (EPP)	11/02/2021
	Shadow rapporteur ROS SEMPERE Marcos (S&D) HOJSÍK Martin (Renew) PAULUS Jutta (Greens/EFA) ZALEWSKA Anna (ECR) LIMMER Sylvia (ID) WALLACE Mick (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)	BUŞOI Cristian-Silviu (EPP)	28/01/2021
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development (Associated committee)	CHRISTENSEN Asger (Renew)	05/02/2021

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Energy	TIMMERMANS Frans

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/02/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

11/02/2021	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
28/09/2021	Vote in committee		
04/10/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0277/2021	
20/10/2021	Debate in Parliament		
21/10/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0436/2021	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2006(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/05279

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE689.794	18/05/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE695.084	29/06/2021	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE691.267	14/07/2021	
Committee opinion	ITRE	PE692.623	16/07/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0277/2021	04/10/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0436/2021	21/10/2021	Summary

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
ROS SEMPERE Marcos	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	26/05/2021	EUROGAS
ROS SEMPERE Marcos	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/04/2021	MiQ
ROS SEMPERE Marcos	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	10/03/2021	Environmental Investigation Agency

An EU strategy to reduce methane emissions

2021/2006(INI) - 21/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 563 votes 122, with 11 abstentions, a resolution on an EU strategy to reduce methane emissions.

Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas contributing to about a quarter of today's global warming. It accounts for **10% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the EU**. More than half of global methane emissions are due to human activity in three sectors: fossil fuels (35%), waste (20%) and agriculture (40%).

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assessment, 'reducing humancaused methane emissions is **one of the most cost-effective strategies to rapidly reduce the rate of warming** and contribute significantly to global efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C'.

Binding methane reduction targets

Parliament called on the Commission to propose a **fair, comprehensive and clear legislative framework**, setting binding measures and methane reduction targets covering all sectors, leading to a significant reduction of methane emissions in the EU by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement.

Stressing that many of the emission reductions required by the Paris agreement could already be achieved through low-cost and technically feasible methane mitigation measures, the resolution called on the Commission and Member States to propose and negotiate a binding global agreement on methane emission reductions at COP26 in Glasgow.

Members underlined the importance of adopting mandatory monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) for all methane-emitting sectors, including through the adoption of rules, standards and methodologies. Mandatory leak detection and repair (LDAR) programmes covering the entire supply chain in the energy and petrochemical sectors should also be adopted. Upcoming regulatory measures on methane should strive to achieve significant **emissions reductions swiftly and as cost effectively** as possible and provide incentives and support for companies to achieve performance standards in an optimal manner, while fully respecting the polluter pays principle.

The Commission is invited to include methane in the zero pollution monitoring framework and to support the creation of an independent international methane emissions observatory, in partnership with UNEP, the Clean Air and Climate Coalition and the International Energy Agency.

Energy sector

Imports account for **more than 80%** of the oil and gas consumed in the EU and most of the methane emissions associated with oil and gas are generated outside the EU. Parliament therefore called on Member States to adopt national plans to phase out all fossil fuels as soon as possible with a view to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

Members called on the Commission to make all imports of fossil fuels into the EU subject to **compliance with EU rules** on monitoring, reporting and verification, leakage detection and repair, as well as rules on venting and flaring, applicable throughout the fossil fuel supply chain, up to and including production. To this end, the Commission should develop a robust independent methodology for assessing the compliance of imports with EU requirements.

The Commission is invited to create a specific programme to tackle methane emissions from **abandoned and closed coal mines**, by providing incentives to former coal mines to reduce their methane emissions.

Agriculture sector

Agriculture is the sector with the largest share of anthropogenic methane emissions in the EU, with methane emissions in agriculture mainly due to livestock, in particular ruminants.

Parliament called on Member States to **introduce effective and sustainable measures** against these emissions in their national strategy plans. It called on the Commission to thoroughly assess them before approving them. However, tightening the framework conditions for methane emissions in the agricultural sector, in particular the livestock sector, should not entail production being shifted abroad.

Recalling that a significant proportion of methane emissions from the agri-food sector is due to imports, the resolution called on the Commission to ensure a level playing field for EU producers by insisting that **imports from third countries** meet the same high standards as in the EU.

Members also called on the Commission to explore the development of a regulatory framework for the **certification of carbon removals** on the basis of robust and transparent carbon accounting that takes into account the differences between greenhouse gases, and to verify the authenticity of carbon removals and reward farmers for their mitigation efforts.

Technologies and practices to limit methane emissions from agriculture, including sustainable livestock management practices, should be promoted and deployed as soon as possible.

Waste sector

The resolution stressed that landfill is the most polluting waste management method in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants into the atmosphere, soil and water. The Commission is invited to:

- set binding EU targets for commercial and industrial waste;

- propose targets to cap the generation of residual waste in the planned review of the Waste Framework Directive and Landfill Directive in 2024;

- align the Landfill Directive with the EU’s overall climate change and greenhouse gas emissions reduction objectives, following an in-depth analysis to better address greenhouse gas-related issues;

- produce a best available techniques reference documents (BREFs) for landfill, including provisions on methane.