



13 December 2022
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Executive Vice President Franz Timmermans
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Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy
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1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Executive Vice President Timmermans, Dear Commissioner Simson,

I am reaching out to you in my capacity as co-rapporteur of the Methane Regulation. I understand these are busy times. However, since the Energy Council will already adopt its general approach for this Regulation on 19th of December, your urgent support is needed.

In accommodating each Member State, the Presidency of the Council changed the Commission proposal to an extent that the effectiveness of this Regulation to abate methane emissions is highly questionable and from a climate and industrial point of view, no progress on methane emissions would be made. All mitigation measures proposed by the Commission, on venting and flaring, on leakage detection and measures, and on controlling methane emissions from abandoned coalmines and inactive wells, will no longer have the expected effect on our climate. They are now full of weakened obligations and exemptions or delayed in time. In this context, from the point of view of industrial leadership, the technological innovations that should have resulted from the Commission's proposal could now at best be postponed.

Negotiations at the European Parliament are still ongoing and we are currently working to support and strengthen the Commission's proposal, especially with regard to climate protection and industrial development. When the Council's General Approach will be adopted, some political groups in the European Parliament might want to use it to reduce our current ambition. To avoid this outcome, we need unwavering support from the European Commission. I would highly appreciate it, if this support could be expressed unambiguously by the Commission at the Council of Energy Ministers on 19 December, and also to come out clearly in defence of your own proposal, i.e. the Commission's proposal

I am happy to have a timely follow-up meeting on this topic with you or one of your staff members.

I wish you a festive season.

Best regards

MEP Jutta Paulus

Co-Rapporteur of the Methane Regulation in the European Parliament