

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515



European Parliament

July 1, 2024

Fatih Birol, PhD
Executive Director
International Energy Agency
9 rue de la Fédération
75739 Paris Cedex 15, France

Dear Dr. Birol,

As elected representatives committed to addressing the pressing challenges of climate change and ensuring energy security for our constituents and future generations, we write to you with a shared concern regarding methane emissions from fossil fuels. We recognize the critical role that the International Energy Agency (IEA) plays in shaping global energy policy and promoting sustainable energy practices, in line with its mission to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for all. In particular, we acknowledge the reiterated call of the IEA for a 75% cut of global methane emissions from fossil fuels by 2030, in order to stay in line with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° C.

We are a group of lawmakers deeply convinced that methane, as a potent greenhouse gas, poses a significant threat to our climate. With greater than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year time horizon, methane emissions have contributed substantially to the rise in global temperatures since the industrial revolution. Rigorous estimates suggest that at least 25 percent of this increase in global temperatures can be attributed to methane emissions, underscoring the urgency of addressing this issue.

Despite the substantial impact of methane emissions, we recognize that cost-effective opportunities to mitigate these emissions within the oil and gas sector remain underutilized. According to the [IEA's own estimates](#), there exist significant possibilities for reducing methane emissions through readily available technologies and practices. Whereas the US, the EU, and the other participants in the [Global Methane Pledge](#) have committed to comprehensive domestic actions to reduce anthropogenic methane emissions, only 50% of methane from fossil fuel operations originates in these countries, far short of the 75% reduction needed by 2030. Therefore, we believe that global coordination, particularly among energy importing countries, is essential to incentivize oil and gas producers to adopt measures that mitigate methane emissions effectively. We acknowledge the potential of border measures, as well as import requirements like those set out in the EU's forthcoming regulation, to drive methane emission reductions, particularly if implemented by more countries.

Along with the urgency needed to address climate change, energy security is paramount to the livelihoods of our constituents. It is in our collective interest to promote policies that can mitigate climate change without jeopardizing the reliability and affordability of energy supplies.

In light of these considerations, and in line with the [Joint Declaration from Energy Importers and Exporters on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Fossil Fuels](#), we respectfully request that the IEA further build on its abundant methane portfolio and take specific actions to address methane emissions in the oil and gas sector:

1. Convene its members regularly, at least twice yearly, to:
 - a. Develop a common understanding of the steps necessary to enact domestic policies aimed at reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, including imports. Such steps could include the creation of international standards for measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) of methane emissions and a methane emissions intensity index.
 - b. Contribute to the development of international standards for MMRV, supporting the implementation of such domestic policies. These standards should include a flexible process for leveraging new technologies as they are developed that improve the accuracy of methane emissions measurement. We acknowledge and appreciate ongoing efforts, including at the [US Department of Energy](#) and the [International Methane Emissions Observatory](#), in this regard. We would kindly suggest issuing a report with your recommendations for these international standards and processes if possible by June 30, 2025.
 - c. Work collaboratively with oil and gas companies as well as bilateral development institutions, multilateral lenders, and other financial institutions to identify and address barriers to reducing methane emissions in low- and middle-income countries.
 - d. Provide technical assistance to countries in the process of enacting domestic policies that include requirements for imports.
2. Produce and/or summarize analyses of the potential impacts of such measures on global oil and gas markets, including prices and energy security.

By taking these actions, the IEA can fulfill its mission of promoting energy security while also advancing efforts to mitigate climate change. We appreciate your attention to this matter and stand ready to support your efforts in any way we can.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to addressing the challenges of our time.

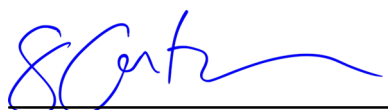
Sincerely,



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Summer Lee
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Jutta Paulus
Member of the European Parliament
The Greens/EFA

Bas Eickhout
Member of the European Parliament
The Greens/EFA

Pascal Canfin
Member of the European Parliament
Renaissance

Peter Liese
Member of the European Parliament
Christian Democratic Union of Germany

Jens Geier
Member of the European Parliament
Social Democratic Party of Germany

Ville Niinistö
Member of the European Parliament
The Greens/EFA

Martin Hojsík
Member of the European Parliament
Progressive Slovakia