



EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Joint Statement The Future of Gaseous Fuels in the EU Energy Market

Mission statement

The parties to this joint statement are committed to increasing the EU's energy independence and resilience through solutions-oriented exchange of information between policymakers, Member States' administrations, EU civil servants, and representatives of the industry.

Participating parties

GasNaturally is a partnership of seven associations from across the whole gas value chain. Our members are involved in gas exploration and production, transmission, distribution, wholesale and retail operations, as well as gas in transport and residential heating. Its members include Eurogas, the European Gas Research Group (GERG), Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), the International Associations of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), International Gas Union (IGU), Liquid Gas Europe, and NGVA Europe.

Joint strategic objective and measures

Signatories recognize the role of all gaseous solutions, on-the-grid and off-the-grid, as valuable enablers towards a net-zero future. Signatories also recognise the importance of increasing the EU's security of supply and decreasing energy dependence by promoting gas supply diversification, encouraging energy savings, and accelerating the deployment of renewable gases and hydrogen as well as their dedicated infrastructure for industrial appliances, transport, and buildings, also by means of repurposing existing gas infrastructure. In addition, all parties recognise that it is key to ensure a fair energy transition for all consumers across the EU, by considering affordability and choice, while at the same time working on meeting the carbon neutrality objectives by 2050.

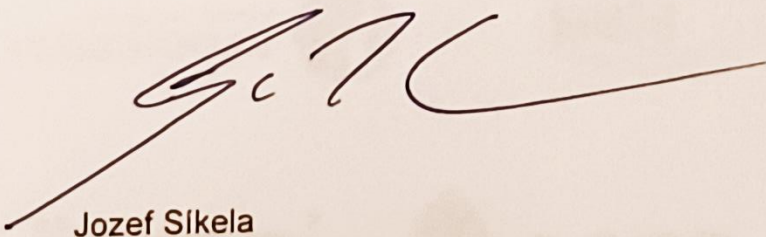
The parties identify the following measures to achieve this objective:

1. Support future-proof policies that protect consumers, and support workers and communities in the spirit of European solidarity and cooperation;
2. Ramp-up domestic production of renewable, low-carbon, and natural gas in Europe;
3. Accelerate domestic production of biomethane, bioLPG, rDME, bioLNG, bioCNG, and renewable hydrogen and support their uptake in the EU's energy mix, in line with the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market package;
4. Diversify and strengthen energy infrastructures across the EU by supporting investments in energy systems such as retrofitting and repurposing of existing infrastructure to accommodate renewable and low-carbon gases and build up hydrogen and LNG infrastructure, including for heavy duty commercial road transport and maritime as well as residential heating applications, in a cost- and time efficient way;

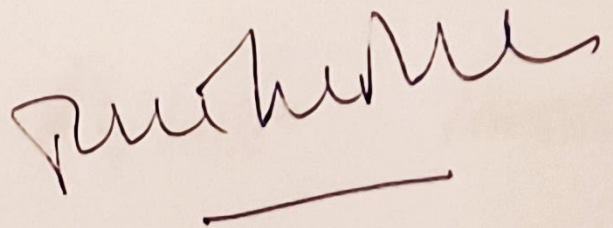
5. Encourage the establishment and joint use of new LNG and LPG terminals and transshipment facilities to ensure LNG and LPG (and also their renewable replacements) supply to shoreside and landlocked countries;
6. Encourage diversification of imports in the short to medium term to replace Russian gas in the aspired timeframe;
7. Encourage and support the deployment of CCS projects in Europe;
8. Encourage a balanced approach when it comes to the promotion of voluntary joint gas purchases, to avoid unintended consequences on an otherwise well-functioning market; and
9. Support the replenishment of appropriate gas storage levels ahead of annual winter periods, starting in 2022.

To ensure cost-efficient and secure energy supplies to EU consumers, it will be critical to retain a legislative framework that upholds the dynamic domestic energy market. In this regard, signatories of the joint statement are committed to maintain collaborative working methods, particularly on data gathering and elaboration on key areas, such as: EU energy market integration, social dialogue for a just transition, security of supplies, gas storage measures, voluntary common gas purchases, biomethane, bioLPG and rDME production. It is essential that new policy measures maintain the successful establishment of the integrated EU energy market.

Signatories have agreed that the utilisation of existing and new gas and hydrogen infrastructure can go hand in hand to improve market resilience and energy independence. It is specifically the intention of the liquid gas industry that 'drop-in' renewable liquid gases will be able to utilise existing infrastructure. To expedite a swift penetration of new gaseous fuels into the market, new regulatory frameworks should allow the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) and Distribution System Operators (DSOs) to plan, develop, maintain, and operate existing gas infrastructure together with hydrogen infrastructure in a coordinated manner, while pooling the resources and enabling synergies at the level of best practices, people power, and security of supply. In this context, signatories express their will to coordinate efforts while developing cross-border infrastructure.



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