



# EU Informal Workshop on Methane in the context of the GP Revision

TFIAM 54

3-4 April 2025

*DG-ENV*

# Main negotiation items for GP revision

- (a) New **emission reduction commitments** (for current GP pollutants)
- (b) **Technical Annexes** (scope and level of ambition)
- (c) further **black carbon** emission reductions
- (d) whether and how to address methane emissions**
- (e) additional **ammonia** emission reductions
- (f) new **flexibilities** etc. to facilitate ratification & implementation by non-Parties
- (g) overarching, collective **risk-based target(s)** (health and ecosystems/biodiversity)
- (h) integrated approaches** among climate, energy and air policies

**No ad hoc group on CH<sub>4</sub> was decided during December EB meeting**

# Methane Workshop in the context of the GP revision

- 10-11 March 2025 upon the request of MS since no ad hoc group was set up
- More than 50 participants
- 13 presentations on first day (EEA, JRC, CAMS, CCAC, various convention bodies and CLIMA, ENER, AGRI, ENV)
- Discussions with MS on GP revision on second day

# Agenda-1

	Science and Policy	
13:10 - 13:25	The role of methane in climate change and air quality in Europe	Siiri Latvala (EEA)
13:25 -13:40	Methane as part of a basket of ozone precursors	Tim Butler (TFHTAP)
13:40 - 13:55	CAMS observation-based emissions: an update on methane	Laurence Rouil (ECMWF)
13:55 - 14:15	Trends of methane emissions and impact on ozone at EU and globally	Claudio Belis (JRC)

	Global and EU initiatives on methane	
14:15- 14:20	Methane within the Climate Policy Architecture	Phillip Lugmayer (DG CLIMA)
14:20 - 14:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International action on methane</li> <li>- Global methane pledge</li> <li>- EU Methane Regulation</li> </ul>	Henry Winckle (DG ENER)
14:35 - 14:50	Mitigating methane emissions from EU agriculture	Andreas Pilzecker (DG AGRI)
14:50 - 15:05	The Industrial Emissions Directive: a tool to reduce methane emissions in the EU	Toon Smets (DG ENV)
15:05 - 15:20	CCAC's global methane mitigation portfolio	Scarlett Quinn-Savory (CCAC)

# Agenda -2

	<b>Gothenburg Protocol revision</b>	
<b>15:35 - 16:00</b>	State of play in GP revision process with respect to methane: overview of suggested options	Till Spranger (WGSR)
<b>16:00 - 16:15</b>	Methane mitigation opportunities and potential in the UNECE	Zig Klimont (CIAM)
<b>16:15 - 16:45</b>	How much can ozone be mitigated by UNECE actions and what is the role of methane	Hilde Fagerli (EMEP MSC-W)
<b>16:45 - 17:00</b>	Overview of related Convention's documents (including recent guidance documents on CH <sub>4</sub> )	Diana Temnov, Nadine Allemand (TFTEI)
	Next Steps	
<b>17:00 - 18:00</b>	Discussion and AOB	All

# Key take aways from Workshop

- 94% of EU urban populations lives in areas with ozone exceedance and crop losses may exceed 2 bEuro in 2022
- Action is needed on reducing methane to curb ozone, but where?
- Emissions in the EU decrease, but not world-wide
- Reduction potential linked to avoiding hotspots mainly in eastern part of the Convention
- Guidance on the mitigation potential from natural emissions is needed
- Further info is needed on mitigation potential from agricultural sources (methodology based on the TFTEI guidance doc and co-mitigation measures of CH<sub>4</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>)

# Key take aways from 1<sup>st</sup> day

- Very difficult to have concrete scientific evidence on the swapping potential between pollutants to reduce adverse effects.
- Improvements on CH<sub>4</sub> emission inventories can come from combination of inverse modelling and satellite observations (+methane hotspot explorer)
- Diffuse sources such as agriculture pose an extra problem for emission inventory compilation
- Source legislation very important to promote reductions

# Questions to MS

- Should we address methane in the revised GP?
  - If not, why?
  - If yes, how: type and nature of measure (mandatory?), timing (short, long term), ambition level (beyond current EU acquis?), scale?
- Sectors to address?
- How does this affect EU legislation (EU methane regulation, NECD, ...)?

# Options to address methane

- Revisions to the Gothenburg Protocol text (CH<sub>4</sub> as pollutant and/or Emission Reduction Commitments)
- Revisions to the technical annexes (to include measures and limits on CH<sub>4</sub>)
- EB decision (in line with the GMP)
- Guidance Documents (where needed to accompany changes in technical annexes)
- Voluntary commitments by individual Parties

# Next Steps

- **No decision yet on any of the options at EU level**
- MS are working hard to define their national positions
- Two preparatory meetings yet to come in late April and May to define EU common position
- Hope to have a defined position by WGSR

Thank you

