

**Question for written answer E-000321/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fostering the biomethane economy

The Commission communication of 14 October 2020 on the EU's biomethane strategy stated that, on a molecular level, methane is an even more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Its reduction in the atmosphere was regarded as important. On 21 October 2021, the European Parliament showed strong support for the aim.

The war in Ukraine has demonstrated that the EU needs renewable, emission-free energy quickly and in ample supplies. According to REPowerEU, the EU should double its production of biogas, especially biomethane, from its current total of 18 billion cubic metres a year to 35 cubic metres by 2030.

The utilisation of methane from livestock production for biomethane/biogas, for example, would mean a reduction in emissions and greater availability of clean energy. Good quality fertiliser would also be a by-product of the process. Biogas could thus be seen as a means to boost energy self-sufficiency and food security.

Biomethane production is not at present sufficiently profitable, especially in small-scale production. Acquisition of the raw material, its refinement, and distribution of the finished product mean that the entire concept will need to be developed. It would be necessary to increase the market demand for biomethane in transport and industry.

In order to cut methane emissions and increase the production of biomethane, the EU should promptly draw up the necessary legislation to enable the set targets to be achieved. There is certainly an abundant supply of the raw material throughout the EU.

The EU should allocate co-financing from the huge green transition resources that the MMF and RRF have in order to expedite the matter. The Member States should be actively involved in fostering the biomethane economy. The new financial instruments made available by the green transition should also be fully exploited.

Does the Commission intend radically to speed up efforts to reduce methane emissions and produce biomethane/biogas, and is it also prepared to use EU funds to give a further boost to the biomethane economy?

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