

Question for written answer E-003417/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Distortion of competition owing to ‘virtual liquefaction’ of biomethane under the RED Directive

Biomethane is increasingly being used in Germany as liquid fuel (known as bio-LNG) for heavy goods vehicles. The Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) has introduced incentives for this. Liquefaction plants have recently been built to process regionally produced biomethane into bio-LNG.

However, so-called ‘virtual liquefaction pathway models’, in which fossil LNG is declared as bio-LNG with biomethane certificates without actually liquefying biomethane are becoming standard practice in the EU. The RED Directive allows this form of purely accounting-based relabelling, even though it conceals emissions and acts as a disincentive for physically low-emission production pathways.

The delegated act under Article 31(5) of RED II provides for the possibility of closing this loophole by adjusting emission values or making clarifications to methodology. According to industry figures, investments of around EUR 300 million in innovative bio-LNG plants in Germany alone depend on this decision.

1. When does the Commission intend to publish the announced delegated act revising Annexes V and VI to Directive (EU) 2018/2001, and reviewing in particular ‘virtual liquefaction pathway models’?
2. Does the Commission agree that the virtual liquefaction of biomethane is does not capture enough international fossil emissions upstream and that this puts bio-LNG produced in Europe at a disadvantage?
3. How will the Commission ensure that low-emission production pathways are not disadvantaged vis-à-vis purely accounting-based constructions in future emissions strategies?

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