

Question for written answer E-004017/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sander Smit (PPE)

Subject: Ensuring a level playing field for bio-LNG in the EU

In Germany, France, Italy and Spain, the mass balance system allows for large-scale deployment of biogenic liquefied natural gas (bio-LNG) in heavy-duty transport and shipping. In the Netherlands, however, the use of LNG terminals and imports via the European gas grid remains restricted. Despite earlier Commission intervention, grid imports were accepted only for heating and not for transport.

1. Can the Commission confirm that current EU law – notably Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III)¹ and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996² – provides a legal framework, including for sustainability and traceability requirements, that explicitly permits the use of the mass balance system for the liquefaction or virtual liquefaction of renewable gases through LNG terminals and the EU gas grid?
2. How does the Commission view the fact that the Netherlands still prohibits these routes, unlike other Member States, thereby creating distortions of competition within the internal market and potentially infringing Article 34 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?
3. What measures will the Commission take to ensure a harmonised, non-discriminatory application of the mass balance system for bio-LNG across the Union, enabling a rapid scale-up of renewable fuels in heavy-duty transport and maritime shipping?

Submitted: 13.10.2025

¹ OJ L, 2023/2413, 31.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2413/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2413/oj>).

² OJ L 168, 27.6.2022, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/996/oj (http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/996/oj).