

**Priority question for written answer P-002376/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Climate impact of liquefied gas

The CO₂ equivalent emissions from the liquefied natural gas (LNG) transported from the United States to Europe are 28 % higher than those from carbon¹, since methane is released into the atmosphere throughout the entire LNG life cycle. To make matters worse, almost all² US LNG is shale gas.

The EU imports 14 056 PJ of gas³ (2022 data); US LNG accounts for 20 % of this⁴. As a result⁵, US LNG emits around 450 000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions more than would be produced using gas from elsewhere. These emissions elude greenhouse gas inventories.

The US case aside, the transport of LNG causes up to ten times⁶ the CO₂ emissions compared with pipeline gas. The EU is the world's largest importer of LNG⁷. The working document on REPowerEU⁸ argues the case for more LNG imports.

In light of the above:

1. In order to meet decarbonisation commitments, does the Commission believe it should make every effort so that the EU can abandon LNG (in particular shale gas), and so that emissions from already imported LNG are duly accounted for in the inventories?
2. If not, how does it intend to proceed so that decarbonisation commitments entail credible counting procedures?

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¹ <https://scijournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ese3.1934>

² <https://www.foodandwatereurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/LIQUEFIED-FRACKED-GAS-Unveiling-the-Toxic-Truth-Behind-Europes-LNG-Obsession-.pdf>;
<https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/natural-gas/where-our-natural-gas-comes-from.php>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Energy_statistics_-_an_overview&oldid=648311

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/eu-gas-supply>

⁵ The study puts the CO₂ equivalent emissions released over the entire life cycle of US LNG imported to Europe at 160 g/MJ; the IPCC estimates the emissions from gas used to generate electricity to be, on average, 56.1 t/TJ. This is reported, for example, here: <https://bit.ly/3AkaxkM>.

⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-63457377>

⁷

https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Publications_annex/ACER_2024_MMR_European_LNG_market_developments_PPT.pdf

⁸ <http://bit.ly/3YsAd6R>