

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003370/25
to the Commission
Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: EU-US energy pledge in the new trade deal: severe climate impacts of fracked liquefied natural gas imports and feasibility of energy purchases

In August 2025, the EU published a joint statement outlining the key parameters of the EU-US trade deal agreed upon in July 2025. It contains the promise of the EU to purchase USD 750 billion worth of US energy (natural gas, oil and nuclear energy products) over the next three years.

1. Is the Commission aware that almost all US oil and gas is extracted via fracking, a technique that was banned or heavily restricted in nearly all EU Member States due to its severe impacts on the environment, human rights and its significant contribution to global warming, making the carbon footprint of US liquefied natural gas worse than that of coal and its methane intensity higher than that of other EU trading partners, such as Norway ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾?

2. Is the Commission aware that US global oil and gas exports currently amount to only about USD 166 billion annually, meaning that an EU commitment to purchase USD 250 billion worth of US energy could not realistically be met, thus creating a possible trap ⁽³⁾?

3. Could the Commission explain what falls under 'non-tariff barriers that might restrict bilateral energy trade', mentioned in point 5 of the statement, and how these barriers will be addressed?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)**

The Commission is aware that extraction practices differ across jurisdictions from which it imports fossil fuels, including the United States (US).

The Commission is actively working to accelerate the clean energy transition in Europe and globally to reduce environmental impacts of energy production and use and driving global efforts to address emissions from fossil fuels.

In particular, the Commission continues to engage with the US on limiting methane emissions from the liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported to Europe.

The political agreement ⁽¹⁾ between the EU and the US includes the intention for private actors to procure US liquefied natural gas, oil, and nuclear energy products with an estimated expected offtake valued at USD 750 billion (ca. EUR 700 billion) through 2028.

This intentional figure includes, *inter alia*, LNG, oil, and nuclear items (such as fuels, conventional and new technologies, investments and services).

The reference in paragraph 5 of the EU-US Joint Statement to 'non-tariff barriers that might restrict bilateral energy trade' refers to existing or potential restrictions other than customs duties — such as quotas, licensing requirements, or technical standards — that may make it harder or costlier to import or export by the EU and/or US. The Commission is in close contact with the US government on potential issues.

¹ Howarth, R. W., 'The greenhouse gas footprint of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported from the United States', *Energy Science & Engineering*, Vol. 12, Issue 11, November 2024, <https://scijournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ese3.1934>.

² 'Global Methane Tracker 2024 — Key findings — Methane emissions from the energy sector remained near a record high in 2023', International Energy Agency website, 2024, <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-methane-tracker-2024/key-findings>.

³ Victor, J., 'The EU's "fantasy" USD 750B energy promise to Trump', *Politico*, 29 July 2025, <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-trade-war-donald-trump-us-oil-gas-energy/>.

¹ Further reflected in the 'Joint Statement on a US-EU framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade', issued on 21 August 2025: https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en.