

EN
P-002376/202
Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.12.2024)

The EU's energy policy is focused on reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and decarbonising the economy. At the same time, the EU is committed to ensuring a secure and reliable energy supply.

It is well understood that there are emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases linked to imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). Similarly, emissions are also associated with pipelines that are not properly maintained or traverse long distances.

To address these issues, the new EU Methane Regulation¹ has an international dimension with requirements for measurement, reporting, and verification equivalence from 2027 and a methane intensity limit from 2030 onwards. A related reduction in emissions from EU imports in the future is therefore expected.

EU's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories follow the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) guidelines, which as a key principle are built on emissions taking place within the territory (and its offshore areas). Considering this principle, all relevant GHG emissions from the natural gas supply chain taking place on EU's territory are duly reported under the relevant categories of inventories covering the production, the transport or the consumption of natural gas.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/942.