

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001980/26
to the Commission
Nora Mebarek (S&D)
(13 May 2026)**

Subject: Implementation of EU law on methane emissions and air quality in France

According to a *Le Monde* article of 4 May 2026, independent bodies have recently recorded ongoing methane leaks at several oil and gas sites in southern France, particularly around Fos-sur-Mer.

These findings raise questions as to whether the EU Regulation on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector has been fully applied, especially with regard to the publication of emission inventories, the effective implementation of leak detection and repair obligations, and the penalties to be imposed on operators in the event of infringements.

In addition, local stakeholders are warning that the air quality monitoring systems may no longer be fit for purpose given the ongoing industrial developments.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission know if the French authorities have failed to fulfil any of these obligations?
2. Has it taken any steps in this regard or does it intend to do so?
3. How will it support the improvement of air quality monitoring systems in highly industrialised regions?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2026)**

The Commission has been consistently engaging with representatives of Member State competent authorities via regular meetings in the dedicated EU Methane Regulation network of Competent Authorities to ensure that the EU Methane Regulation ⁽¹⁾ is applied correctly and completely across the EU, providing implementation Questions and Answers which are also posted online ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is committed to monitoring the implementation of the EU Methane Regulation. Considering that the regulation entered into force in August 2024 and several of its provisions shall only apply at a later date, the Commission is not in a position to comment on the overall implementation of the regulation across Member States.

The revised Ambient Air Quality Directive (EU) 2024/2881 ⁽³⁾ introduces a new obligation to monitor methane concentrations in ambient air, as appropriate, as an ozone precursor.

This directive must be transposed into national law by 11 December 2026. The Commission is ready to support implementation, including through funding opportunities ⁽⁴⁾.

This requirement forms part of a broader refinement of the approach to air quality assessment, which includes a stronger role for modelling, additional requirements to ensure monitoring continuity, and the monitoring of pollutants of emerging concern. The directive also requires Member States to provide further information on the spatial representativeness of sampling points.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401787&pk_campaign=todays_OJ&pk_source=EURLEX&pk_medium=X&pk_keyword=energy_sector&pk_content=Regulation&pk_cid=EURLEX_todaysOJ.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b545c5a6-03c9-4cfa-805a-0411de927ce6_en?filename=Methane%20regulation%20import%20requirements%20Q%26A.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2881/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/funding-clean-air_en.