

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003107/26
to the Commission
Sander Smit (ECR)
(23 July 2026)**

Subject: Methane Regulation and threat to the security of supply of oil and gas

In its original proposal for a methane regulation, the Commission provided for the prior assessment of binding import requirements ⁽¹⁾ — partly with a view to the implications for security of supply — but that safety valve appears to have been lost in the negotiations. However, since 4 August 2024, the adopted Regulation requires the Commission to actively engage with exporting third countries, initiate equivalence procedures and propose cooperation frameworks ⁽²⁾, which would have made it possible to remedy the lack of such a review.

1. With which third countries has the Commission engaged pursuant to Article 28(6) since 4 August 2024, what equivalence procedures have been initiated and what cooperation frameworks have been proposed or established?
2. Does the Commission share the concern that the absence of equivalence decisions as of 1 January 2027 may lead to a shift from gas to coal in electricity production, resulting in higher emissions, as pointed out in the market study ⁽³⁾ published by Concawe and IOGP Europe in March 2026?
3. Is the Commission therefore prepared to introduce a targeted amendment to make the application of Article 28 subject to the assessment provided for in its original proposal, so that import requirements apply only once that impact assessment has been completed and published?

Submitted: 23.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2026)**

Granting third country equivalence is a bilateral process: it requires an agreement between the third country wishing to be recognised as equivalent and the Commission to initiate the procedure, taking into account the quantity imported from that third country and the potential for reducing its methane emissions.

The Commission is currently engaged in an exploratory dialogue with Canada and in bilateral technical exchanges with other third countries, but no formal request for equivalence has been initiated to date.

In addition, Article 28.5 of the EU Methane Regulation ⁽¹⁾ provides two alternative pathways to demonstrate regulatory equivalence.

One is the country-level pathway, the other is the producer-level pathway which allows equivalence to be demonstrated for oil and gas by providing evidence of having achieved reporting equivalent to Level 5 of the voluntary Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP) framework, complemented by independent verification of the reports.

OGMP covers ca. 45% of worldwide oil and gas production. Based on their assessment, by 2027 close to 70% of OGMP production would reach Level 5.

The Commission has put forward two recommendations to guide companies and EU countries on compliance solutions and penalties regimes.

A pragmatic implementation of the EU legislation that has been agreed by the co-legislators provides legal certainty and clarity and protects both the environment and energy security. The Commission will also proceed with a review of the regulation as required, by January 2028.

¹ COM(2021) 805, Article 27(3).

² Article 28(6) and (8)

³ Wood Mackenzie, EU Methane Emissions Regulation — Analysis of Market Impacts, study commissioned by Concawe and IOGP Europe, March 2026.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1787/oj/eng>.