



# The Biomethane Action Plan

*Published by the European Commission*

Anthony Lorin – Policy Officer – European Biogas Association  
[lorin@europeanbiogas.eu](mailto:lorin@europeanbiogas.eu)

Target Workshop – Warsaw, Poland – 22/06/2022



# The European Biogas Association represents the value chain industry association covering all Europe



42 national biogas associations  
152 companies, research institutes, financial institutions  
Scientific network



The EBA strives to maximise biogas and biomethane production and consumption across Europe in all end-uses modes



36 countries in Europe and beyond and over 7,000 stakeholders covering the whole value chain



Representing the biogas industry in Brussels since 2009

**01**  
—

The REPowerEU initiative

**02**  
—

The Biomethane Action Plan of  
the European Commission

**03**  
—

The next steps



# The REPowerEU initiative: A positive historic shift for biomethane

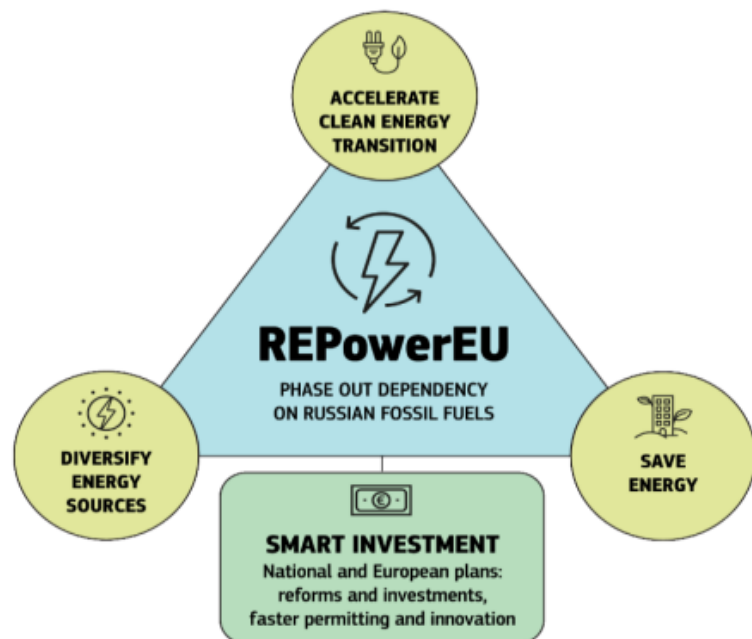
# Introduction to the REPowerEU Plan published 18 May 2022

## Purpose

“Rapidly reducing EU’s dependence on Russian fossil fuels” by fast forwarding the transition to renewable energies and energy efficiency

≠ not a contingency plan in case of full disruption

## 4 pillars



## Union Targets updated upwards



	Renewables in RePowerEU	Renewables in Fit-for-55
<b>Overall RES Target</b>		
EU binding	<b>45%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Heating &amp; Cooling</b>		
Average yearly increase for 2020-2030 at EU level	<b>2.3 percentage point</b>	<b>1.5 percentage point*</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
EU RES Share in Buildings in 2030 at EU level	<b>60%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Transport</b>		
RES-T share in 2030 / GHG intensity reduction in transport	<b>32% / 16%</b>	<b>28% / 13%</b>
<b>Industry</b>		
RES share in industry - Average	<b>1.9 percentage point</b>	<b>1.1 percentage points</b>

# A positive historic shift for biomethane (1/2): Overview



A political target  
35 bcm of biomethane  
production



Biomethane Action  
Plan



Biomethane Industrial  
Partnership



Revised renewable energy  
targets

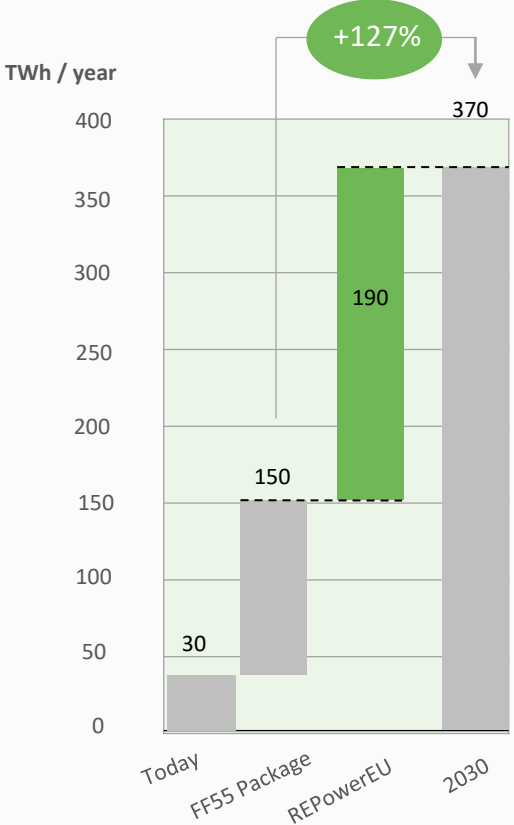


Permitting

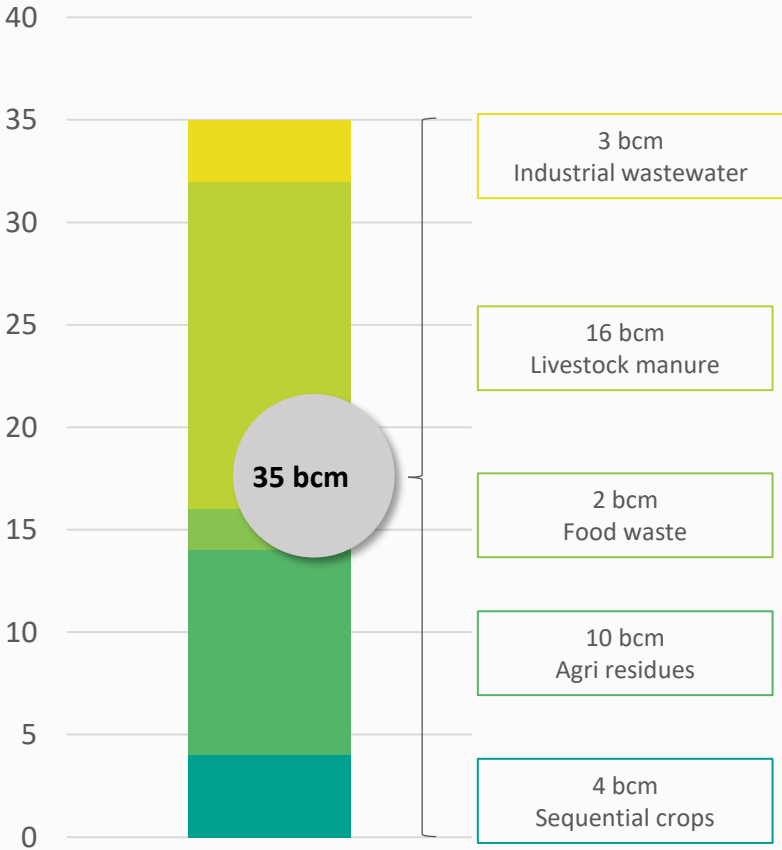
- Recommendation Member States
- Targeted legislative proposal in RED III

# A positive historic shift for biomethane (2/2): What does 35 bcm of biomethane means?

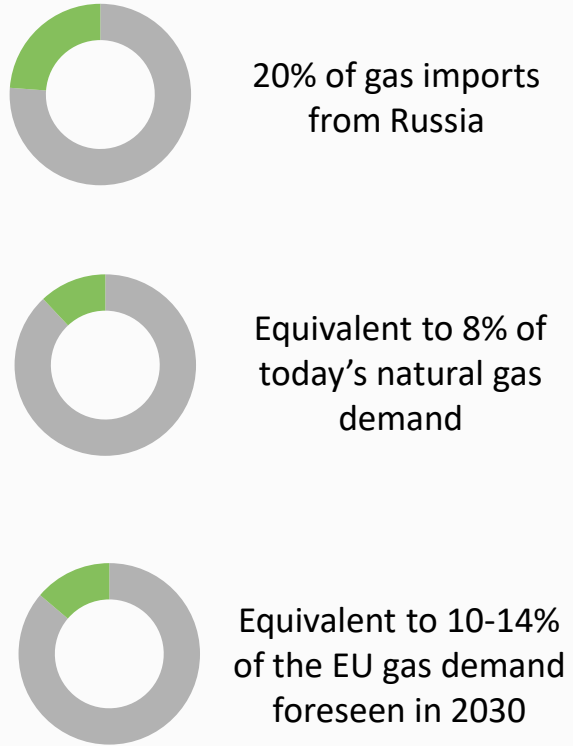
## Multiplying 12-fold the existing production



## This scale-up can be done using only sustainable feedstocks



## A lever to strategic energy autonomy

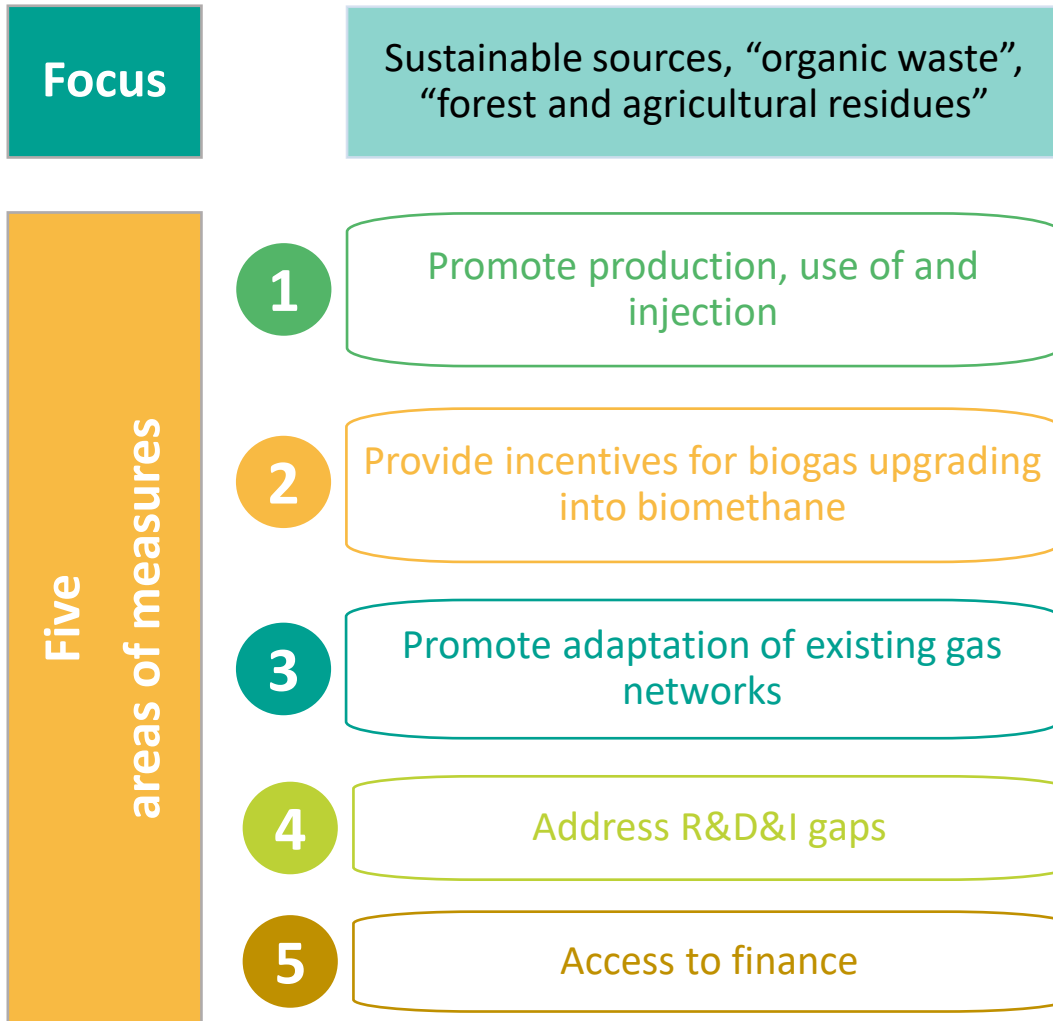




# The Biomethane Action Plan



# Overview and general assessment



- **Very positive political recognition at EU level**
- **Call for political prioritization at national level** (National Biomethane Strategies)
- **A public-private partnership** to support policymaking and production projects
- **“Sketch” of a bottom-up approach to infrastructure planning** for biomethane integration
- **EU funding for innovation** in production technologies and the expedited use of sustainable biomass as feedstock
- **The 35 bcm target not in the targeted RED revision published in May**
- **No change to the approach of energy transition of buildings – High risk of very restrictive use of biomethane**
- **No change to the target for advanced biofuels and biogas in transport**

General assessment

# The 5 areas of measures (1/2)

# 1

Promote sustainable production and use of biogas and biomethane at EU and national/ regional level and the injection of biomethane into the gas grid



# 2

Provide incentives for biogas upgrading into biomethane



- ✓ Creation of a **Biomethane Industrial Partnership**
  - ✓ **NATIONAL BIOMETHANE STRATEGIES** (prioritisation, monitoring in the NECPs)
  - ✓ National **assessment of biogas and biomethane production potentials**
  - ✓ Consider broadening the scope of the fuel supply obligation in the Renewable Energy Directive (blending mandate)
  - ✓ Promote participatory multi-stakeholder engagement
  - ✓ Reduce red tape and **speeding up permitting**
  - ✓ Promote co-operation with neighboring countries.
- 
- ✓ Reduce the costs for economic operators

## The 5 areas of measures (2/2)

**3** Promote the adaptation of existing and deployment of new infrastructure for the transport of biomethane through the EU gas grid



**4** Address R&D and Innovation gaps



**5** Access to finance



- ✓ **Regional assessment of grid development needs**
- ✓ Regional mapping of the highest potential for production
- ✓ **Assess challenges, bottlenecks** and other possible measures from the infrastructure perspective for cost-efficient deployment of biomethane (costs, planning, coordination)
- ✓ **Address gas quality standardisation issues**
- ✓ Provide further support to the development of **innovative production technologies** (including biogas upgrading)
- ✓ Provide further support to research and innovation on barriers and integration into the gas grid (**mention of results of REGATRACE Project**)
- ✓ Further support the **expansion of sustainable biomass feedstock**
- ✓ Access to grants and loans from existing EU programmes
- ✓ Innovation Fund
- ✓ Access to other financial instruments (European Bank of Investment and InvestEU programme)



# Next steps

# EU institutions must now act quickly to deliver on the Action Plan and unlock the potential of sustainable biomethane

## European Parliament and Council

- Agreeing quickly on the RED III *including the targeted new measures proposed by the Commission in May*
- Fast-tracking the negotiation on the Gas Package under negotiation (planning, long-term assessment)

## European Commission and the biomethane value chain

- Defining the Governance of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership
- Setting up the Secretariat
- Launch in October 2022 would be preferred

## Each Member State

- Defining National Biomethane Strategies
- Establishing bottom-up infrastructure planning based on regional assessment of biomethane production potential