

To:
EU Member States and Energy Ministers

29 September 2026

US Organizations Urge European States to Resist Fossil Fuel Lobbying and Implement a Robust Methane Regulation

Dear EU Member States,

We, the 99 undersigned US civil society organizations and representatives of communities directly affected by heavily polluting and climate wrecking liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, as well as skyrocketing energy prices, reach out to you to express our deepest concerns regarding the proposal of the EU Commission attempt to [exempt polluters from the penalty regime under the EU Methane Regulation](#) for the next three years .

Since the [Trump-Juncker deal](#) of July 2018 when Trump adopted the same tariff-threatening playbook he's using now, the US has forcibly and rapidly become [the largest LNG supplier to Europe](#). Now, given the ongoing disruptions to Qatari LNG exports for which the US and Israel are directly responsible, the [US could account for 80% of EU LNG imports by 2028](#), despite being the most expensive for European buyers.

As of June 2026, 100 days into the US-Israeli war on Iran, Europe paid an [additional energy bill of approximately €60 billion](#). Much of these costs were passed on by [US LNG companies' war profiteering](#). The EU commission now proposes not to hold those very companies accountable for the continuation of harmful pollution of our environment and health.

According to the 2025 [Joint Statement on a United States-European Union framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade](#), both regions "*commit to cooperate on ensuring secure, reliable, and diversified energy supplies*". However, the US has done absolutely everything possible to actively deprive Europe from secure, reliable and diversified energy supplies and is therefore in breach of its commitment. The Trump administration is using its "energy dominance" agenda to openly blackmail the Union into lowering its climate and [human right](#) standards, including on [methane](#).

Leading experts on the methane regulation have [countered the US government's arguments as overstated](#), also outlining that the [enforcement regime does not endanger EU energy security](#). They encourage the EU to stick to its methane rules, while energy market analysts encourage it to [invest in alternatives to gas to reduce exposure to volatile global energy markets](#).

The EU seemed to agree when it announced its [intention](#) to end the bloc's fossil fuel dependency. The necessary measures to make that happen, together with [projections](#) of gas demand reduction in Europe by 23% in 2030 mean the amount of gas the EU will need to import in the future will be significantly less than currently, minimising the need for LNG imports. The announced [EU Electrification Action Plan](#) aims to reduce oil imports by more than 70% and gas imports by more than 40% by 2040, saving Europe up to [€260 billion per](#)

[year in fossil fuel imports](#). A robust EUMR with a functional penalty regime is the legal tool required to keep highly methane intensive and over-expensive US LNG out of EU markets and help achieve the fossil fuel imports reduction goals.

All operational LNG terminals in the United States have [violated air pollution limits](#). LNG facilities are not only hazardous to nearby human health, but also put indigenous people, people of color, and low-income communities in “sacrifice zones” at risk of [explosions](#). Additionally, the operations and the construction of US LNG terminals [have](#) had a dire [impact on the livelihoods of fishermen and marine ecosystems](#) in the Gulf South.

The structural human rights violations that are already occurring and are expected to take place in the future as a result of these projects are also enabled by the imports to Europe. European Member States have a responsibility in this regard. Implementing a strong and robust EUMR would help partially address these issues.

Directly linked and intertwined to those environmental and human rights violations is also the evidence showing [LNG exports displace renewable energy and drive up emissions, making them incompatible with a habitable climate](#). The high methane intensity of the US gas industry (including LNG terminals) has been very [well documented](#) and shouldn't be ignored, especially after the deadly and costly heatwave Europe has just experienced [Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with a warming potential much higher than other pollutants, which is why methane reduction has been a key strategy for mitigating the climate crisis](#). Meanwhile, in the US, the Trump administration has dismantled methane [emissions data collection, regulations, and enforcement](#), making the EUMR the last opportunity to apply methane intensity targets to US LNG.

The EUMR has been designed to concretely reduce methane emissions along supply chains and therefore tackle runaway and dangerous climate chaos, which partially already unfolds in a costly manner for our economies due to decades of unfulfilled promises and [misinformation](#) by the oil and gas industry. Without legal requirements, the industry won't move. It needs to be forced to do so and the penalty regime of the EUMR is the enforcement tool. Without it the whole regulation is worth nothing.

Europe still has the chance to lead by example! Now is the time to stand with us firmly against the bully attempts of the Trump administration by upholding strong European methane rules and climate leadership.

Do not let polluters get away with sacrificing communities and driving the world into climate catastrophe. Let's work together on both sides of the Atlantic for a sustainable, liveable and affordable future. Please reject industry's pressure to weaken and exempt polluters from EU's methane rule.

We are available to discuss these matters in further detail to help inform your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Signatories of the US groups letter to EU COM:

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations	Fenceline Watch
198 methods	Fisherville environmental action now
350 Chicago	For a Better Bayou
350 Eugene	Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution
350 Mass	Freeport Haven Project
350 Seattle	Friends of the Earth US
350 Silicon Valley	Friends of The Narrows of Hans Creek
350 Yakima Climate Action	Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition
350Hawaii	GreenFaith
350Juneau	GreenLatinos
A Community Voice	Greenpeace USA
Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA	Gulf South Fossil Finance Hub
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.	Habitat Recovery Project
ARTivism Virginia	Hip Hop Caucus
Better Brazoria Clean Air and Water	Houston Climate Justice Museum
Between the Waters	Inclusive Louisiana
Beyond Extreme Energy	Indvisible CA Green Team
California Communities Against Toxics	Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist	Kickapoo Peace Circle
Environmental Justice Ministry	Linnton Neighborhood Association
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing	Micah Six Eight Mission
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC)
Central California Environmental Justice Network	Movement Rights
Climate Crisis Advisory Group	Natural Capitalism Solutions
Climate Reality Greater Maryland	North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
Climate Conversation - Brazoria County	Nuclear Energy Information Service
Climate Reality Project Greater New Orleans Chapter	Oil and Gas Action Network
Coastal Watch Association	Oil Change International
Concerned Citizens of St. John	Oilfield Witness
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania	Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Delaware Riverkeeper Network	Our Revolution Massachusetts Climate Crisis Working Group
Divest Oregon: Reinvest in a Fossil Free Future	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Douglas County Global Warming Coalition	Pennsylvania
Earth Ethics, Inc.	Port Arthur Community Action Network(PACAN)
Earthworks	Portland Raging Grannies
Elders Climate Action	Progressives for Climate
Elders Climate Action Maryland	Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights
Elders Coalition for Climate Action	Protect PT
Extinction Rebellion Houston	

Public Citizen
Putnam Progressives
Quest For Growth and Development
Foundation
Rainforest Action Network (RAN)
Resource Renewal Institute
Rinascimento Green
Rise Up WV
Risky Business
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith
Save RGV
Seeding Sovereignty
Sunflower Alliance
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The Conversation 253
The Enviro Show
The Last Plastic Straw
Therapists for Peace & Justice
Third Act Texas
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Economic Community
UU Mass Action
Vessel Project of Louisiana
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Zero Hour