

Clean Industrial Deal

Press release

28 February 2025

GD4S welcomes the Clean Industrial Deal but Calls for a More Inclusive, Technology-Neutral Approach

Brussels, 26 February 2025 – Gas Distributors for Sustainability (**GD4S**) welcome the publication of the **Clean Industrial Deal** and the **Affordable Energy Action Plan**, both important steps in the European Commission's ambition to reinforce **industrial competitiveness and accelerate the clean transition**. However, **GD4S regrets the limited recognition of the role of renewable gases**— and the demand flexibility brought by gas solutions, crucial element for a **cost-effective, resilient, and inclusive energy transition**.

A Call for a More Balanced Approach

While GD4S supports the EU's commitment to decarbonisation, the **Clean Industrial Deal represents a missed opportunity to fully integrate all available solutions**. A **one-size-fits-all electrification approach will not be sufficient** to ensure **energy security, affordability, and industrial competitiveness**.

⚡ Laurence Poirier-Dietz, President of GD4S, stated:

*"The Clean Industrial Deal is a step forward, but we must ensure that Europe's transition is **built on pragmatism and inclusiveness**. A truly competitive, resilient, and affordable decarbonisation strategy must leverage **all renewable and decarbonised energy solutions**, including biomethane and hydrogen. Only by integrating gas and electricity infrastructures can we secure a **cost-effective and reliable transition** that benefits all sectors of society."*

Key Priorities for a Successful and Fair Energy Transition

✅ A Holistic Energy System Approach

The transition to a carbon-neutral Europe must be **system-wide**, combining **gas and electricity infrastructures** to guarantee **affordability, flexibility, and resilience**. The **overemphasis on electrification** ignores the need for a **diverse, technology-neutral energy mix**.

✅ Recognising the Role of Renewable and low carbon Gases

Biomethane and green and blue hydrogen are **proven, scalable solutions** that can:

- ✓ **Decarbonise industry, buildings, and mobility.**
- ✓ **Strengthen Europe's circular economy**, making use of biowaste and agricultural residues.
- ✓ **Reduce dependency on imported energy**, ensuring energy sovereignty.

According to the **European Biogas Association (EBA)**, biomethane production could reach **101 billion cubic metres (bcm)** by 2040, covering over **80% of the EU's gas demand**. This potential **must be reflected in the Clean Industrial Deal** to ensure Europe capitalises on its **homegrown renewable gas resources**.

✓ **Scaling Up Flexibility to Ensure Energy Security**

- **Industrial and building demand flexibility must be reinforced**, especially in extreme weather conditions such as **cold snaps and Dunkelflaute periods**.
- **The Clean Industrial Deal does not sufficiently address** how to balance supply and demand **beyond electrification**, overlooking **the essential role of gas infrastructure in ensuring system stability**.

✓ **Enabling Decarbonisation Through Market-Based Tools**

- Industries and households need **simple mechanisms** to demonstrate decarbonisation through **renewable gases**, ensuring steady demand.
- **GD4S advocates for a transparent invoicing system**, allowing consumers to prove the **renewable gas share**, enabling a **cost-effective and consumer-friendly transition**.

A Commitment to Constructive Dialogue

GD4S remains committed to **collaborating with EU policymakers and industry stakeholders** to ensure that the implementation of the **Clean Industrial Deal** embraces all **available, competitive, and sustainable solutions**.

"Europe must seize this opportunity to build an inclusive and pragmatic energy transition. GD4S is ready to work with policymakers to ensure that renewable gases and existing infrastructures play their full role in delivering a sustainable, secure, and competitive energy future," added Laurence Poirier-Dietz.

About GD4S

Gas Distributors for Sustainability (**GD4S**) represents **leading European gas distribution system operators**, committed to **delivering a sustainable, affordable, and secure energy transition**. GD4S supports **technology neutrality, infrastructure optimisation, and the accelerated deployment of renewable gases** to build a **resilient, decarbonised European energy system**.