

Roadmap towards ending Russian energy imports

GD4S Position Paper

GD4S - A Strategic Partner in Ending Russian Gas Imports

Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S) welcomes the European Union Roadmap towards ending Russian energy imports, particularly the phase-out of Russian gas and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting the EU's energy transition and security goals. As the Commission has underlined, gas will remain part of the energy mix for decades to come.

GD4S a strategic partner ready to deliver

The Commission's explicit recognition of renewable gases—including biomethane and clean hydrogen, as strategic alternatives, reinforces the pivotal role of local, sustainable solutions in enhancing Europe's resilience. The phase-out of Russian gas must go hand in hand with the accelerated phase-in of sustainable gases.

Biomethane stands out as a mature, scalable and European solution. The gas distribution network is fully prepared to integrate increasing volumes of biomethane. As operators of 867,000 km of gas distribution networks across nine EU Member States and the United Kingdom, serving over 54 million citizens, GD4S members are already deeply engaged in building a secure, affordable and climate-neutral energy system.

While biomethane can be scaled immediately, hydrogen integration must be prepared in parallel. These renewable gases reduce fossil fuel dependency and reinforce the EU's security of supply.

Therefore, GD4S welcomes the Commission's intention to:

- ✓ Establish a dedicated EU platform for non-fossil gaseous molecules, including biomethane.
- ✓ Create a European biogas network, engaging national and local stakeholders. However, we underline that biogas alone is not sufficient—only through a combined approach, integrating both biogas and biomethane, we can ensure the replacement of Russian gas at scale and contribute to Europe's energy sovereignty.
- ✓ Facilitate transparent, coordinated national phase-out plans that take full account of infrastructure capabilities.
- ✓ Introduce new legislation requiring Member States to adopt to specific national plans to plan and monitor the EU-wide phase-out of Russian gas.

GD4S stands ready to support this ambition, bringing technical expertise, investment-ready case studies, and on-the-ground insights to help accelerate the deployment of renewable gases and deliver on Europe's climate and energy security goals.

GD4S Calls for Targeted EU Action

To unlock the full potential of renewable gases and distribution infrastructure, GD4S calls on EU policymakers to:

- Provide a stable, predictable and simplified regulatory framework to incentivise biomethane production/demand and integration into the energy system.
- Recognise and support the role of DSOs in scaling biomethane deployment by ensuring appropriate grid investments and regulatory frameworks.
- Strengthen financial mechanisms, including dedicated funding programs and guarantees of origin, to encourage investments in biomethane projects.
- Introduce Biomethane Purchase Agreements to boost production by ensuring stable demand and incentivising investment in production capacity.

GD4S is ready to act. By bridging local capabilities and European ambitions, we remain fully committed to a future where energy is **clean, secure, and domestically produced within the EU.**