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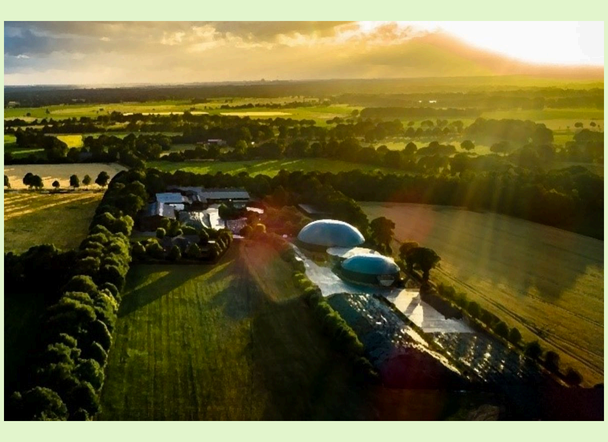
# International Newsletter #5
March 2025



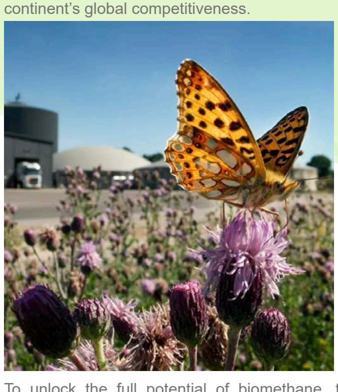
BIOMETHAVERSE (**Demonstrating and Connecting Production Innovations in the Biomethane Universe**) sets out to **diversify the technology basis for biomethane production** in Europe, increase its cost-effectiveness and contribute to the uptake of biomethane technologies.
To this aim, **5 innovative biomethane production pathways** will be demonstrated in five European countries: **France, Greece, Italy, Sweden and Ukraine**.

## News from the biomethane universe

*Find out what is tending in the biomethane, biogas and renewable energy sector*

### Major companies advocate for biomethane rollout to support decarbonisation pathways

Leading biomethane offtakers have come together in the **Biomethane Offtakers Declaration**, released in early February 2025, to call for higher support for biomethane production and offtake. Led by the European Biogas Association, this initiative emphasises biomethane's essential role in achieving Europe's climate neutrality objectives while ensuring the continent's global competitiveness.

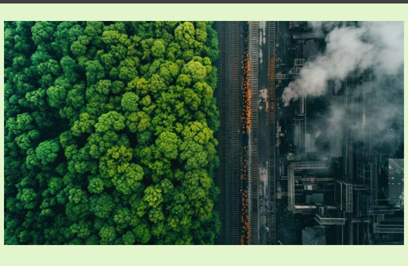


To unlock the full potential of biomethane, the Declaration outlines key actions:

1. Establish Long-Term Targets and Supportive Frameworks,
2. Enable Market-Driven Solutions,
3. Ensure Political and Institutional Support.

This initiative will remain open for additional signatories to endorse the Declaration.

For more information or to get involved, visit this link.



### European industries need to benefit from the most scalable and cost-effective renewable gas today

The European Biogas Association welcomes the launch of the Clean Industrial Deal strategy, outlining the European Commission's plan to address industry competitiveness concerns and economic resilience while still aspiring to reach EU decarbonisation targets.
However, the strategy proposed by the EU Executive sets no clear pathway for the role of European-produced biomethane and seems to concentrate on electrification, favouring less competitive low-carbon gases.

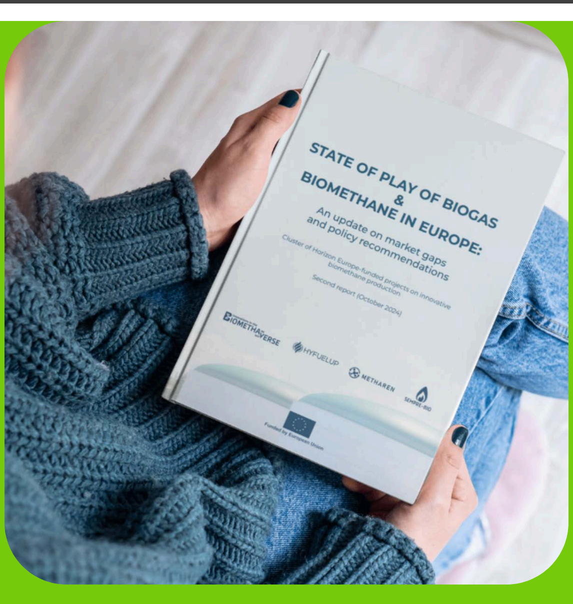
Download the press release for more information.

*"The EU should invest in reducing gas dependence much faster. Biogases will play a decisive role as the most scalable and cost-effective renewable gas, enabler of much needed grid flexibility. To help EU industries become more clean and competitive, we urge EU legislators to be more bold on their support for those green gases made in Europe that are championing renewable gas deployment today, by ramping-up the production of biogases and fostering their industrial use."*

**Harmen Dekker, EBA CEO**

## Pills from the project

*Discover project activities and insights coming from BIOMETHAVERSE's research team*



### New report from the Horizon Europe biomethane cluster

***On 26 February 2025, the biomethane cluster formed by the four Horizon Europe projects BIOMETHAVERSE, HyFuelUp, METHAREN, and SEMPRE-BIO presented their second joint report on policy and market recommendations to deploy biomethane production in the European Union, in a webinar that gathered hundreds of participants.***

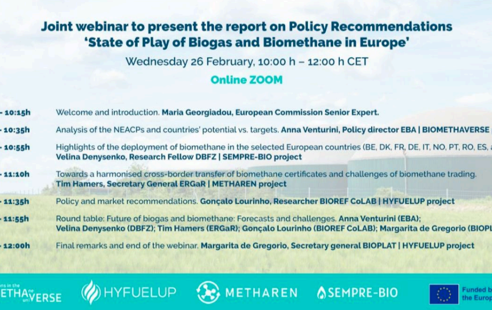
The report **'State of Play of Biogas and Biomethane in Europe: An Update on Market Gaps and Policy Recommendations'** analyses the gap between countries' targets and their biomethane production potential. The evaluation originates from the European Commission's assessment of EU Member States' updated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) under the REPowerEU scheme.

| Countries' NECPs with a 2030 biomethane target | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | **0.11 bcm** (Walloonia) | Ireland | **0.58 bcm** (5,7 TWh) |
| Czechia | **0.5 bcm** | Italy | **5.7 bcm** |
| Denmark | **0.4 bcm** (biomethane production to cover 100 % of the gas consumption in 2030) | Lithuania | **0.13 bcm** (1,4 TWh) |
| Estonia | **0.04 bcm** (380 GWh/year) | The Netherlands | **2 bcm** |
| France | **4.15 bcm** (44 TWh) | Slovakia | **0.3 bcm** |
| Greece | **0.2 bcm** (2,1TWh) | Slovenia | **0.05 bcm** |
| **TOTAL: 14.16 bcm** | | | |

These plans forecast biogas and biomethane production to reach 30-32 billion cubic metres (bcm) by 2030, though this falls short of the 35 bcm target set by REPowerEU. While demonstrating a commitment to biomethane as a key technology for European decarbonisation, achieving the target requires further efforts. Read More

Full Report

### Highlights from the Webinar



Joint webinar to present the report on Policy Recommendations
'State of Play of Biogas and Biomethane in Europe'
Wednesday 26 February, 10:00 h – 12:00 h CET
Online ZOOM

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00h – 10:15h | Welcome and introduction. **Maria Georgiadou, European Commission Senior Expert.** |
| 10:15h – 10:35h | Analysis of the NEACPs and countries' potential vs. targets. **Anna Venturini, Policy director EBA \| BIOMETHAVERSE project** |
| 10:35h – 10:55h | Highlights of the deployment of biomethane in the selected European countries (BE, DK, FR, DE, IT, NO, PT, RO, ES, and UA). **Velina Denysenko, Research Fellow DBFZ \| SEMPRE-BIO project** |
| 10:55h – 11:10h | Towards a harmonised cross-border transfer of biomethane certificates and challenges of biomethane trading. **Tim Hamers, Secretary General ERGaR \| METHAREN project** |
| 11:10h – 11:35h | Policy and market recommendations. **Gonçalo Lourinho, Researcher BIOREF CoLAB \| HYFUELUP project** |
| 11:35h – 11:55h | Round table: Future of biogas and biomethane: Forecasts and challenges. **Anna Venturini (EBA); Velina Denysenko (DBFZ); Tim Hamers (ERGaR); Gonçalo Lourinho (BIOREF CoLAB); Margarita de Gregorio (BIOPLAT).** |
| 11:55h – 12:00h | Final remarks and end of the webinar. **Margarita de Gregorio, Secretary general BIOPLAT \| HYFUELUP project** |

BIOMETHAVERSE | HYFUELUP | METHAREN | SEMPRE-BIO | Funded by the European Union

Along with presenting the findings from sections of the report, the launch webinar was a unique opportunity to gain an overview of the current state of biogas and biomethane in Europe and its future.
In representation of the BIOMETHAVERSE Project, **Anna Venturini (EBA Policy Officer)**, discussed the analysis of NEACPs and countries' potential against their targets.
Other themes discussed included: highlights of the deployment of biomethane in different European countries; pathways towards a harmonised cross-border transfer of biomethane certificates; challenges of biomethane trading; policy and market recommendations; and forecasts and future of biogas and biomethane production in the EU. Read More

## BUDDY CORNER
### News from our 'Sister Projects'

### Value4Farm achieves key milestones in supporting sustainability in agriculture

Imagine a farm that not only produces food but also generates its own renewable energy! This is exactly what the Horizon Europe project Value4Farm aims to achieve.

Having been underway for over a year, the project has already taken important steps to help farmers integrate biogas and agrivoltaic technologies into their operations to make agriculture more sustainable and food production more efficient.

Read the full press release here and find out all about Value4Farm's endeavour.

*The Value4Farm consortium partners at the 2nd Consortium Meeting held at Aarhus University in Viborg, Denmark, on September 11-12, 2024.*

### HyFuelUp project attends the 1st Spanish BioCircular SUMMIT in Madrid

On 11 February 2025, the first edition of the Spanish BioCircular SUMMIT took place in Madrid (Spain), and HyFuelUp was one of the 20 European projects presenting a poster with its most recent advances in the area dedicated to innovation.

The event was underpinned by an unequivocal consensus on the enormous capacity of biocircularity to advance in the ecological transition, providing immediate and sustainable solutions to deemphasize strategic sectors of our economy, and promoting industrialization, competitiveness, and strategic autonomy.

For HyFuelUp it was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the project among more than 200 stakeholders linked to the different biocircular solutions, including renewable gases, biogas, and biomethane.

*Adrián Vega and Paloma Pérez, representatives from BIOPLAT, presented the HyFuelUp project's poster at the Spanish BioCircular SUMMIT 2025 in Madrid.*

### SEMPRE-BIO drives innovation in biomethane production by tackling regulatory, market, and infrastructure barriers

The SEMPRE-BIO project is pioneering new, cost-effective methods for producing biomethane, supporting a circular economy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The project aims to unlock the full potential of biomethane across Europe by addressing technical, market, and policy barriers tied to biomethane production.

For more insights, check out their latest blog post, Breaking Barriers for the Future of Biomethane, where SEMPRE-BIO discusses legal, market, and technological challenges in biomethane production, highlighting regulatory gaps, infrastructure limitations, and certification barriers while outlining solutions to boost production and cross-border trade.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Biomethane Planning Decision Guide Workshop 2025

📅 **14 May 2025**

📍 **Silversquare Bailli, Avenue Louise, 231, Brussels, Belgium**

Join us for the **Biomethane Planning Decision Guide Workshop 2025**, a key event for industry leaders, policymakers, and researchers focused on advancing biomethane and e-methane production.

The workshop, organised within the framework of the BIOMETHAVERSE project, will include the following highlights:

- Presentation of the draft Biomethane and E-methane Decision Guide
- Innovations in bio-methanation technologies
- Feedback sessions on technical and market considerations
- Social acceptability and environmental insights

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with experts and contribute to the future of biomethane.
*More details and a registration link will follow soon!*

Provisional Agenda

## Flashes from our Demos/Countries

*Updates from our pilot demonstration sites, where innovations in the biomethane universe happen!*

### In-Situ and Ex-Situ Electro-methanogenesis (EMG) in France

**The demonstration site of the French pilot has changed location — the ENGIE BiOZ biogas unit in Coëvrons, Mayenne, will host the electromethanogenesis pilot starting this summer!**
We are also pleased to announce that the electromethanogenesis pilot has received the necessary permits for installation and operation for the duration of the project. Our current focus is on civil works, including the installation of a concrete slab, electrical systems, and piping, as well as the finalization of the pilot's fabrication. Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) on the final pilot (currently under construction, see picture below) will be conducted in March this year to ensure the system's integrity and proper functioning of the automation. The pilot installation at the Coevron site is scheduled for May 2025, with testing expected to commence in June.
Read More

### Ex-Situ Biological Methanation (EBM) in Italy

**Advancements in the Italian case study of BIOMETHAVERSE project continued throughout the autumn and winter period. Significant progress was made in completing the installation of the ozonolysis plant.** The testing phase has been successfully completed and the plant is now fully operational. The process control phase is ongoing to optimize the operational parameters of ozonolysis and to adequately integrate the pre-treatment with the subsequent phase of anaerobic digestion. Sampling and analytical activities are in progress.
Read More

### Ex-Situ Thermochemical/catalytic Methanation (ETM) in Greece

**Significant progress is being made at the Greek demonstration site, where the installation of the pilot unit is now in full swing.** A major milestone has been achieved with the placement of the container that will house the methanation reactor at Biogas Lagadas (BLAG) facilities. This marks the beginning of an intensive phase of site preparations and system integration.
Commissioning of all components, assembly, and integration with the existing biogas plant are currently in progress. Preparatory activities at the site include ensuring compliance with regulatory standards for hydrogen introduction and addressing any remaining licensing requirements.
Read More

### Ex-Situ Syngas Biological Methanation (ESB) in Sweden

**The construction of the last unit for the pilot demonstration (Ex-situ Syngas Biological methanation, ESB) has now begun at the innovation workshop at RISE in Uppsala, Sweden**. It is the hydrogen supply system that will produce hydrogen on-site by splitting water with energy from renewable electricity. The electrolyzer is of the AEM (Anion Exchange Membrane) type. Through a modular system, it has been designed to be able to produce exactly the amount of hydrogen required by the methanation process, regardless of syngas load.
Read More

### In-Situ Biological Methanation (IBM) in Ukraine

**Ukrainian biomethane hits the gas grid and export market. Ukrainian agricultural companies have begun biomethane delivery into the gas distribution system (GDS) of Ukraine.** The VITAGRO group of companies was the first one constructed a biomethane plant with 3 mcm of annual capacity at the end of 2023. Connection to the GDS took place in October 2024. Currently, the company pumps about 6,000 m3 of biomethane per day. Feedstock for biomethane production is mainly livestock waste.
The second entity starting biomethane pumping into the GDS is Hals Agro company. It has also 3 mcm of biomethane of annual capacity, and the current injection volume is 2,000-3,000 m3 per day. The company commissioned the biomethane plant on the basis of its own biogas plant in spring 2023.
Read More

## Meet the BIOMETHAVERSE Team

*The BIOMETHAVERSE multidisciplinary consortium includes 22 partners form 9 European Countries on a 5-year mission to test and deliver market-ready innovations in biomethane production.*

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BIOMETHAVERSE is Co-funded by the European Union.

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