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EU Methane Regulation: Two-year postponement provides a path to compliance, but gives Europe no margin for error

Brussels, 19 November 2026 – The European Parliament and the Council have reached an agreement to postpone the EU Methane Regulation's importer requirements by two years. While it leaves Europe with a tight implementation timetable, the compliance framework can be finished in time if all parties pull constructively in the same direction – IOGP Europe is determined to play its part in doing so.

We welcome the Council and Parliament's thorough efforts to reach a deal, and we call on all parties involved to start work immediately to fully complete and implement the compliance framework before the postponed obligations apply, while addressing the outstanding challenges for European producers.

François-Régis Mouton de Lostalot, Managing Director of IOGP Europe, said: *"We appreciate co-legislator's efforts to get this over the line. A two-year postponement to finalise the compliance framework is a clear improvement and provides a path to compliance. But without a conditional extension mechanism, Europe has no margin for error. The Commission and Member States must lead a coordinated effort from day one, with clear milestones and responsibilities, to make the compliance framework fully operational before the obligations apply."*

"Our industry will continue to build on decades of work reducing methane emissions and will do its part to help policymakers get the framework ready on time. Europe cannot afford to reach the new deadline with key elements still missing. Importers and European producers alike need a workable route to compliance so the Regulation can deliver methane reductions while safeguarding Europe's energy security and affordability", he added.

Two years with no room for error

Oil and gas companies will continue their longstanding efforts to reduce methane emissions, both individually and through initiatives such as the Oil & Gas Climate Initiative, Methane Guiding Principles and Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter, while progressing volumes reported under OGMP 2.0 Level 5. However, verification protocols and accreditation procedures still need to be finalised and endorsed, verifiers accredited, producers independently verified, and recognised certification solutions deployed at scale across international supply chains.

These steps are sequential and depend on the Commission, Member States, accreditation bodies, international organisations, and service providers all pulling in the same direction. The framework must be fully operational by 1 January 2029, leaving little room for slippage at any stage.

Clear milestones and regular progress reporting

The Commission and Member States should set out an implementation roadmap with clear milestones and responsibilities, and report regularly on progress so delays can be identified and addressed early. Companies need to know well ahead of the deadline how to demonstrate compliance. That clarity is critical to reduce uncertainty and the risk of non-compliance.

Progress for European producers, with work still to do

The postponement of monitoring, reporting and verification obligations for EU operators under Article 12(3) is an important step towards a level playing field between domestic production and imports. However, implementation challenges under Article 14 on leak detection and repair remain unresolved. For offshore and subsea operations in particular, the current requirements are unworkable and disproportionate. IOGP Europe calls on policymakers to address these challenges as a priority.

Next steps

The provisional agreement still requires formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council ahead of the existing 1 January 2027 deadline. IOGP Europe will continue to work with all stakeholders to complete and implement the compliance framework in the time available.

About IOGP Europe

IOGP Europe is the European advocacy arm of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), the leading voice of the global oil and gas industry, pioneering excellence in safe, efficient and sustainable energy.

We represent around 30 energy companies accounting for 70% of EU oil & gas production, and many of Europe's energy suppliers.

We support policymakers in crafting impactful and inclusive policies that drive prosperity for Europe's businesses and citizens.

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