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Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector as regards the postponement of certain obligations - Letter to the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Following the Permanent Representatives Committee meeting of 20 November 2026 which endorsed the final compromise text with a view to agreement as regards the abovementioned proposal, delegations are informed that the Presidency sent the attached letter, together with its Annex, to the Chair of European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and to the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 November 2026

Mr Borys BUDKA
Chair, European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
B-1047 Brussels

Mr Pierfrancesco MARAN
Chair, European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
B-1047 Brussels

Subject: **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector as regards the postponement of certain obligations**

Dear Mr BUDKA,
Dear Mr MARAN,

Following the outcome of the informal trilogue between the representatives of the three institutions held on 18 November 2026 in the Parliament regarding the Regulation in subject, the draft compromise text was agreed today by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

I can confirm that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294 paragraph 3 of the Treaty, in the exact form as set out in the above Commission proposal, but subject to revision by the legal linguists of both institutions, the Council would, in accordance with Article 294, paragraph 4 of the Treaty, approve the European Parliament's position and the act shall be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

On behalf of the Council, I also wish to thank you for your support in reaching a swift agreement on this dossier.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Cáit MORAN
Chairwoman of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

copy to: Mr Dan JØRGENSEN, Commissioner
copy to: Mr Dimitris TSIODRAS, Rapporteur

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175 – 1048 Bruxelles/Brussel – Belgique/België
Tél./Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11

ANNEX

2026/0325 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector as regards the postponement of certain obligations

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council aims to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector[1]. It establishes obligations for importers of crude oil, natural gas and coal to the Union to provide, as of 5 May 2025, information to the relevant competent authorities of the Member States on measures undertaken by exporters to the Union and by third-country producers on measurement, reporting, verification and mitigation of methane emissions, in particular on the application of regulatory or voluntary measures to control methane emissions.

(2) Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 also requires importers to demonstrate and report, as of 1 January 2027, that contracts concluded or renewed after 4 August 2024 for the supply of crude oil, natural gas or coal produced outside the Union are subject to monitoring, reporting and verification measures that are equivalent to those set out in the Regulation at the level of the producer.

(3) Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 also requires Union producers and importers to report, by 5 August 2028 and every year thereafter, on the methane intensity of crude oil, natural gas or coal placed on the Union market and, by 5 August 2030 and every year thereafter, to demonstrate that the methane intensity is below the maximum intensity values established in accordance with Article 29(5) and (6) of the Regulation.

(4) The Commission has taken substantial steps to facilitate the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787, cooperating with Member States and stakeholders. In particular, the Commission established an Informal Expert Group on the Reduction of Methane Emissions in the Energy Sector, which also hosts the Network of Competent Authorities, created pursuant to Article 5(3) of the Regulation to foster cooperation and enable regular exchanges on best practices among competent authorities. The Commission also adopted a standardisation request to develop European standards to ensure harmonised implementation and create a common technical framework. The Commission will continue to take all necessary measures to implement Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 and adopt the remaining implementing and delegated acts.

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/942 (OJ L, 2024/1787, 15.7.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1787/oj).

(5) In addition, the Commission has recently published recommendations on compliance solutions[2] and on the application of penalties[3]. These have contributed further clarity and support to Member States and operators alike on how to implement the Regulation. The Recommendation on compliance solutions sets out how to demonstrate compliance with the import requirements, especially in complex supply chains. In parallel, the Recommendation on the application of penalties provides Member States with guidance on the application of Article 33(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 in the context of the current energy crisis.

(6) The global energy situation continues to be highly volatile and unpredictable, and energy prices remain very high. The Union should therefore secure reliable and continued fossil fuel imports. Although Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 does not impose restrictions on energy imports to the Union, full compliance with the Regulation's requirements will require additional time, and importers may face challenges in supplying energy to the Union as of 1 January 2027. Additional time is needed to start applying those requirements in order to allow third countries, Member States, producers, importers, operators and traders to prepare fully, including, to allow them to establish the necessary mechanisms, so as to be in a position to fully comply with their obligations.

(7) Therefore, the obligations established by Article 28(1) and (2) and Article 29(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 for importers and Union producers should be postponed by one year.

(8) The extended timeline enables Member States to complete adoption of their national penalty regimes as a matter of priority and by national accreditation bodies to accredit verifiers in line with the requirements of the Regulation. It also provides national competent authorities with additional time to assess and recognise compliance solution providers for compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 and the criteria of the Recommendation on compliance solutions.

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[2] Commission Recommendation (EU) 2026/1834 of 20 July 2026 on optional model clauses developed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/942 (OJ L, 2026/1834, 24.7.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2026/1834/oj).

[3] Commission Recommendation (EU) 2026/1835 of 20 July 2026 on the application of penalties provided for in Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector in relation to obligations of importers (OJ L, 2026/1835, 24.7.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2026/1835/oj).

(9) During the period of postponement, the Commission will closely monitor the implementation of the Regulation, as well as the security of supply situation. Any issues regarding implementation will be taken into account in the context of the upcoming review of the Regulation which expressly requires the Commission to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Regulation in establishing transparent and accurate measurement, reporting and verification rules. According to Article 36(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787, this review is due by 1 January 2028, including the requirement for the Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council.

(9a) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to adopt detailed rules with regard to accepting independent third-party verification as equivalent for the purposes of Chapter 5 and the methods that can be used to transfer information about methane emissions as referred to in that Chapter between a producer and an importer. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

(9b) The Commission should monitor and review the implementation of this Regulation and submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council. That report should assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this Regulation in establishing transparent and accurate rules on measurement, reporting and verification and in reducing methane emissions associated with the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed on the Union market. It should in particular assess the recognition and practical application of third-party verification and voluntary compliance solutions, the availability on the market of a sufficient number of accredited independent third-party verifiers, progress in the development and application of relevant technical standards and any potential implications for the security of supply. The review should also take into account the criteria for independent third-party verification to be accepted as equivalent, the methods that can be used to transfer information about methane emissions between a producer and an importer and the establishment of a procedure and requirements concerning evidence to be provided by third countries for the purpose of establishing equivalence. Depending on the conclusions in that report and as part of the review of this Regulation, the Commission should submit legislative proposals, where appropriate.

(10) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to postpone the date of application of Article 28(1) and (2) and Article 29(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787, cannot be achieved by the Member States but can only be achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

(11) Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2024/1787

Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 is amended as follows:

(-1) Article 12 is amended as follows:

(-1a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

'2. Operators and undertakings established in the Union shall submit a report to the competent authorities of the Member State where the asset is located containing quantification of source-level methane emissions:

(a) for operated assets, by 5 February 2026, 5 February 2027 and 5 February 2028;

(b) for non-operated assets, by 5 February 2027, 5 February 2028 and 5 February 2029, where those assets have not been reported under point (a).

Where direct measurement is not possible, reporting shall involve the use of specific emission factors based on source-level quantification or sampling.';

(-1b) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

'Operators and undertakings established in the Union shall submit a report to the competent authorities of the Member State where the asset is located containing quantification of source-level methane emissions, complemented by measurements of site-level methane emissions, thereby allowing assessment of and comparison with the source-level estimates aggregated by site:

(a) for operated assets, by 5 February 2029 and by 31 May every year thereafter; and

(b) for non-operated assets, by 5 August 2030 and by 31 May every year thereafter, where those assets have not been reported under point (a).

Before submitting the report to the competent authorities, operators and undertakings shall ensure that the report is assessed by a verifier and includes a verification statement issued in accordance with Article 8. Where operators deploy continuous site-level monitoring systems meeting the performance requirements laid down in the methodologies and standards adopted under this Regulation, the data from such systems shall be accepted as site-level measurements for the purposes of this paragraph and shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for site-level measurement campaigns.'

(1) Article 28 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'By 31 May ***2030*** and every year thereafter, importers shall demonstrate, and report in accordance with Article 27(1), to the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established that the contracts concluded or renewed on or after 4 August 2024 for the previous calendar year's supply of crude oil, natural gas or coal produced outside the Union cover only crude oil, natural gas or coal that is subject to monitoring, reporting and verification measures applied at the level of the producer that are equivalent to those set out in this Regulation.;'

(b) in paragraph 2, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘By 31 May ***2030*** and every year thereafter, importers shall annually inform the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established of the results of such efforts for the previous calendar year, as part of the information to be provided pursuant to Article 27(1) and, in case of failure, provide sound justification to those competent authorities for such failure and set out the actions that they have undertaken as part of those efforts.;’

(ba) in paragraph 3, the following subparagraph is added:

‘By 31 December 2027, the Commission shall adopt an implementing act in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 35(2) to define methods that can be used to transfer information as referred to in this Chapter about methane emissions between a producer and an importer.’;

(bb) in paragraph 5, the following subparagraph is added:

‘'For the purposes of this Chapter, equivalent verification shall be understood as sufficiently robust verification, the criteria for which shall be defined by the Commission by means of an implementing act. That implementing act shall be adopted by 31 December 2027 in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 35(2).’’

(c) in paragraph 6, the second sentence of the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘‘That implementing act shall be adopted by 31 December 2027 in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 35(3).’;’

(2) Article 29 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘By 5 August ***2030*** and by 31 May every year thereafter, for the supply contracts concluded or renewed on or after 4 August 2024, Union producers and, pursuant to Article 27(1), importers shall report to the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established the methane intensity of the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed by them on the Union market in the previous calendar year, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Article.

For supply contracts concluded before 4 August 2024, Union producers and, pursuant to Article 27(1), importers shall undertake all reasonable efforts to report to the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established the methane intensity of the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed by them on the Union market in the previous calendar year, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Article. By 5 August ***2030*** and by 31 May every year thereafter, Union producers and importers placing crude oil, natural gas or coal on the Union market shall report annually to the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established of the results of such efforts.;’

(b) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘By 5 August 2031 and by 31 May every year thereafter, Union producers and importers placing crude oil, natural gas and coal on the Union market under supply contracts concluded or renewed after 5 August 2030 shall demonstrate to the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established that the methane intensity of the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed by them on the Union market in the previous calendar year, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out pursuant to paragraph 4, is below the maximum methane intensity values established in accordance with paragraph 6 to promote the global methane emissions reductions for those products..’

(3) the following article is inserted:

''Article 29a

Crude oil, natural gas and coal from third countries subject to restrictive measures and Regulation (EU) 2026/261

This Regulation is without prejudice to restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 29 TEU and Article 215 TFEU and to Regulation (EU) 2026/261.';'

(4) In Article 36, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The Commission shall monitor and review the application of this Regulation and submit, by 1 January 2028 and every 5 years thereafter, a report to the European Parliament and to the Council.' In Article 36, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

'2. The first report referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover the effectiveness and efficiency of this Regulation in establishing transparent and accurate measurement, reporting and verification rules and in reducing methane emissions associated with the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed on the Union market. That report shall review, in particular:

(a) where feasible, the achieved level of reduction of methane emissions associated with the production of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed on the Union market as a result of this Regulation;

(b) whether additional or alternative measures are necessary to foster and accelerate the reduction of methane emissions in the value chain of crude oil, natural gas and coal placed on the Union market to support the Union's target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and its commitments under the Paris Agreement;

(c) the recognition and practical application of third-party verification protocols, and voluntary compliance solutions, including certification and traceability schemes, progress on the acts referred to in Article 29(4);

(d) the availability on the market of a sufficient number of accredited independent third-party verifiers, and expected development thereof, with adequate operational capacity to carry out the verification activities required under Article 28, and availability of voluntary compliance solutions;

(e) progress in the development and application of relevant technical standards, verification procedures and accreditation requirements;

(f) the definition of independent third-party verification accepted as equivalent for the purposes of Chapter 5;

(g) the definition of methods that can be used to transfer information about methane emissions between a producer and an importer;

(h) the establishment of the procedure and requirements concerning evidence to be provided by third countries for the purpose of establishing equivalence; and

(i) any potential implications for the security of supply.

The Commission shall, where appropriate and necessary, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a legislative proposal taking into account the relevant Union legislation in related fields.'

Article 2

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the ▌ day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament	*For the Council*
The President	*The President*