

AEGPL Position Paper on the EU 2030 Framework for Climate & Energy

AEGPL, the European LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) Association, representing LPG distributors and national associations from across Europe, welcomes the European Commission proposal for a 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy released on January 22nd. AEGPL finds it very positive that the Commission has managed to strike the right balance between addressing the root causes of climate change and safeguarding the competitiveness of the European economy. AEGPL believes focusing EU efforts mainly on an ambitious GHG reduction target will also favour technology neutrality, which is an essential prerequisite for all energy technologies to compete on a level playing-field. This sound competition is the best way to encourage the investments and innovations that will eventually accelerate GHG emission reductions and energy savings.

AEGPL would like to highlight more specifically the following points with regard to the Framework:

- AEGPL notes that a **binding target of 40% GHG emissions reduction** is realistically achievable only if the energy mix is as diverse as possible, and furthermore only if energy resources are rationally allocated. Consequently, the LPG sector stresses that this reduction in emissions will not be possible through the promotion of renewables alone, due to the continuing cost of investment in renewable infrastructure and the relative high-cost of some renewable technologies. In short, only a combination of renewables, gas (natural and LPG), and other lower carbon sources of energy will allow the European Union to achieve this objective.
- AEGPL believes that the EU-wide **binding target for renewable energies of 27%** will require a certain flexibility to reflect on the ground realities of Member States' evolving energy mixes. AEGPL is therefore supportive of the pragmatic approach highlighted by the Commission's decision not to include national renewable energy targets in the proposal. AEGPL is also convinced that this will enable Member States to better assess which renewable energy sources deliver significant and proven GHG emission reductions, according to their own national circumstances.
- AEGPL considers energy efficiency to be an enduring low-hanging fruit in the fight against climate change, and stresses that reduction of carbon-dioxide and other climate forcing agents such as black carbon and hydro-fluorocarbons is achieved best through the reduction of energy usage. AEGPL notes that the effectiveness of energy efficiency legislation will be determined by the details of corresponding proposals, which must be technology neutral in order to achieve results.
- AEGPL would also like to stress that households and industries outside urban areas present a particularly high potential for energy savings and GHG emission reductions, which has been largely untapped so far. We therefore recommend the European Commission to keep this particular segment in mind when preparing upcoming legislative proposals to support the achievement of the 2030 climate and energy targets.

- Concerning the **Recommendation on Environmental and Safety standards for Shale Gas Exploration and Extraction**, AEGPL highlights that gas extracted using enhanced completion techniques has a lower carbon profile than some sources of energy that play a large role in the energy mixes of some Member States. Moreover, domestic energy sources such as shale gas can also contribute to Europe's energy independence. AEGPL therefore welcomes the Commission's cautious approach concerning regulation in this area, but stresses the need to ensure that future regulation is based on thorough and accurate scientific appraisal of the risks involved, as well as due consideration of all stakeholders.

AEGPL will closely follow the discussion in the European Parliament and in the European Council on the 2030 framework. In that context, we will be looking forward to engaging in the related stakeholder debate to highlight the role of LPG as an immediately available and cost-effective option for both the off-grid and the transport sectors.

For further information, please contact David Appleton at david.appleton@aegpl.be or Samuel Maubanc at Samuel.maubanc@aegpl.be

About AEGPL (The European LPG Association)

AEGPL is the sole representative of the LPG industry at European level, representing national LPG Associations as well as distributors and equipment manufacturers from across Europe. Our mission is to engage with EU decision-makers and the wider policy community in order to optimise the contribution that LPG - as a clean and immediately available energy source - can make to meeting Europe's energy and environmental challenges.