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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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 - Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

Delegations will find attached the mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament on the abovementioned proposal, as agreed by the Permanent Representatives Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2026. Changes to the Commission proposal are marked in **bold** and ~~strikethrough~~. Changes to Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 are marked in **bold underline** and ~~strikethrough underline~~.

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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]:

[1] Changes to the corresponding recitals will be made during trilogues negotiations.

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(1) Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council aims to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector[2]. 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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[2] 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).

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(5) In addition, the Commission has recently published recommendations on compliance solutions[3] and on the application of penalties[4]. 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.

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[3] 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).

[4] 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).

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(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.

(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.

(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:

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Article 1

Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2024/1787

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

0. In Article 12, 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 ~~2027~~ 2028 and by 31 May every year thereafter; and

(b) for non-operated assets, by 5 August ~~2028~~ 2029 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.’;

1. Article 28 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘By 31 May 2029 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.’;

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

‘By 31 May 2029 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.’;

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

‘That implementing act shall be adopted by 30 June 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 2029 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 2029 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.’;

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(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. In Article 32, the following paragraph is added:

'3. The Commission shall by 30 June 2027 adopt implementing acts in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 35(2) establishing mandatory standards, or parts thereof, for the purposes of:

(a) independent third-party verification accepted as equivalent to that set out in Articles 8 and 9, in accordance with Article 28(5), point (a);

(b) methods that can be used to transfer information about methane emissions between a producer and an importer.';

4. In Article 36, paragraphs 2a and 2b are inserted as follows:

‘2a. By 30 September 2027, and 30 June 2028 in case of a negative outcome in the previous year, the Commission shall assess whether the necessary elements for the implementation of the reporting obligations under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 28 are fulfilled. This assessment shall be transmitted to the Parliament and to the Council.

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For the purposes of the assessment referred to in the first subparagraph, the Commission shall in particular evaluate the following:

a) the adoption of an implementing act in accordance with Article 32(3) point (a) to define independent third-party verification accepted as equivalent to that set out in Articles 8 and 9;

b) the adoption of an implementing act in accordance with Article 32(3) point (b) to define methods that can be used to transfer information about methane emissions between a producer and an importer;

c) based on a reasonable, factual forecast, the availability on the market of a sufficient number of independent third-party verifiers capable of carrying out the verification activities required under Article 28 at the time the verification is due; and

d) the adoption of the implementing act pursuant to Article 28(6), establishing the procedure and requirements concerning evidence to be provided by third countries for the purpose of establishing equivalence.

Where the Commission's assessment concludes that one or more of those conditions are not fulfilled, it shall adopt a delegated act postponing the application of the obligations set out in Article 12 (3) (a), (b), Article 28(1) and (2) and in Article 29(1), and (2) by one year.

2b. The Commission shall, where appropriate and necessary, propose changes to this Regulation in case of continued challenges for implementation, including after two consecutive postponements, or a threat to the security of supply, in light of the deadlines provided for in Articles 28 and 29.'.

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Article 2

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the ~~twentieth~~ 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*

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