

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Publishes Roadmap on its Upcoming EU Methane Strategy

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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Report Highlights:

On July 8, 2020, the European Commission published a roadmap outlining its intention to develop a EU Methane Strategy. This Strategy aims to reduce methane emissions in the the European Union and is targeted at all sectors, including agriculture. Stakeholders can comment on the roadmap until August 5, 2020.

Commission Publishes Roadmap on its Upcoming EU Methane Strategy

On July 8, 2020, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) outlining its intention to develop a EU Methane Strategy.

The European Commission publishes roadmaps to inform EU citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work in order to allow them to provide feedback. EU citizens and stakeholders are invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have.

Reducing Methane Emissions

Following the adoption of [Regulation 2018/1999](#) on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, the European Commission has the legal obligation to develop a strategic plan to reduce methane emissions. This obligation was reaffirmed in the European Green Deal Communication, which stressed that the EU should engage with third countries on crosscutting climate and environmental issues, such as tackling methane emissions

The Commission is therefore in the preparatory stage of a EU Methane Strategy that will cover the areas of energy, agriculture and waste and look at exploiting synergies between sectors, such as biogas production. The strategy aims to contribute to the overall goal of the EU Green deal: climate-neutrality by 2050.

Methane Emissions in the Agricultural Sector

According to the roadmap, the EU agricultural sector contributes to slightly more than half of the total EU methane emissions. The main source of methane emissions in agriculture is enteric fermentation, followed by manure management, and rice cultivation. The roadmap notes that methane emissions from EU agriculture have decreased by about 21 percent from 1990 but emissions have seen limited increases again in the last 5 years. The Commission notes that methane emissions in agriculture cannot be reduced to zero and are challenging to monitor, verify and report accurately, requiring clear methodologies to capture any mitigation efforts correctly. For the Commission, methane from agriculture constitutes a business opportunity both for farmers and for rural areas and the potential needs to be fully explored to curb the emissions as well as to create jobs and diversify farmers' income.

Feedback period

On July 8, the European Commission launched a feedback period on the roadmap. Feedback will be taken into account while the Commission is finalizing this initiative.

U.S. stakeholders who would like to comment can do so on the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12504-EU-Methane-Strategy>

Deadline for input is 12:00 am Brussels Time (Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on August 5, 2020.

Please note that all comments made in the framework of the consultation may be published.

Attachments:

No Attachments.