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## Local Newsletter 3

December 2020

REGATRACE (Renewable GAs TRAdE Centre in Europe) aims to create an efficient trade system based on issuing and trading biomethane/renewable gases Guarantees of Origin (GoO). This will strongly contribute to the uptake of the European common biomethane market.

### News from the biomethane world

#### **GOs and certificates high on the agenda of the 34th Madrid Forum**

During the 34<sup>th</sup> European Gas Regulatory Forum, also known as 'Madrid Forum', the European Commission highlighted the

#### **Acknowledging the full potential of biomethane as transport fuel**

Studies on alternative fuels since 2010, including EU JRC reports, show that biomethane can reach even carbon negative levels of CO<sub>2</sub>

necessity to get a robust and resilient certification system for renewable and low-carbon gases to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Certificates for renewable and low-carbon gases received high attention following the announcement to recast the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (called REDII), and the release of the Hydrogen and Energy System Integration strategies as part of the EU Green Deal. Both initiatives identify certificates as means to boost the demand for low-carbon and renewable gases and help developing a strong market.

[\*\*Read more here\*\*](#)

reductions in the transport sector. This renewable fuel is readily available, scalable and contributes to maintain a strong car industry within the EU. It is now crucial to untap the valuable role of biomethane on an equal footing with electric mobility to ensure the most needed decarbonisation of the EU transport sector.

[\*\*Read more here\*\*](#)

## News from the project

### **Investigative study finalised: IT system options for harmonised European cross border title-transfer of biomethane/renewable gas**

The REGATRACE project consortium finalised the Investigative study of IT system

### **Guidelines for tender process of IT-services**

To find the best possible IT-provider to acquire specific IT-services for a renewable gas trading platform, an open, clear, structured, and fraud-excluding tender process should be performed, allowing a transparent

options for harmonized European cross border title-transfer of biomethane/renewable gas certificates.

Fundamental basics for Europe-wide title transfers are the IT-systems of National Organisations such as national biomethane/renewable gas registries, issuing bodies and biofuels registries/databases. They shall be designed to not only oversee the national markets, but also to pursue a European market by being connected to a European IT-option, underpinned by a European Scheme.

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competition of a broad variety of bidders. REGATRACE report D2.5 provides guidelines and addresses the tendering organization as well as the possible bidders as audience.

[\*\*Read more\*\*](#)

## Country news

### IRELAND

#### **Project Clover - Decarbonising Ireland's food production sector**

A consortium of the leading dairy producers in Ireland have come together under an industry lead initiative to assess the viability of

### IRELAND

#### **Irish Green Gas Registry**

Ireland has now launched a Renewable Gas Registry which has issued the first Renewable Gas Certificates for grid injected biomethane. This Registry is being

reducing emissions in the agricultural sector by 9.1 M tonnes by 2030 through the establishment of a biomethane industry based primarily on agricultural wastes and residues, with the reapplication of digestate as a sustainable alternative to chemical fertiliser application being a key component of the project.

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operated by Gas Networks Ireland, the gas grid operator, on a voluntary basis. The Irish Government are expected to appoint Gas Networks Ireland as the official Issuing Body imminently.

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## Focus on Regatrace countries

### AUSTRIA

#### **New federal government: Anticipation for new legislative framework for renewable energy carriers in Austria**

The new government, compiled of the Austrian Peoples Party (ÖVP, die neue Volkspartei) and the Austrian Green Party (die Grünen), started its work in early January 2020. In the governmental programme, the target “combating climate change and compliance with Paris climate goals” is

### AUSTRIA

#### **Sector coupling in Austria: potential and initiatives**

The Austrian federal government plans to reach climate neutrality by 2040. The Austrian energy sector must contribute to this target by achieving significant greenhouse gas emission reductions by exploiting the potentials of renewable and sustainable resources in Austria and by connecting/combining established infrastructure such as energy grids and

listed as the 2nd of eight official targets indicating Austria's commitment to tackling climate change.

[Read more here](#)

## AUSTRIA

### **Draft version of the Austrian Renewable Expansion Law leaves biomethane market in unclarity**

At the beginning of the year, the Austrian federal government has endorsed the target of reaching climate neutrality in Austria by 2040. The recently published draft law on the market uptake and expansion of renewables (EAG, Erneuerbare-Ausbau-Gesetz) shall set the legislative framework for achieving this target. Not only does the extensive draft law introduce a new law on the expansion of renewables (EAG) but also proposes amendments in eight further national legislation pieces.

[Read more here](#)

## GERMANY

storages.

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## ITALY

### **First production of Bio LNG in Italy at the Lucra 96 company, Lodi, Lombardia region**

Lucra 96 will produce around 1.400 t bioLNG/y using the Organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste mixed with pig slurry. The plant is the result of close collaboration between the companies of the SIAD Group: Tecno Project Industriale has developed the Upgrading unit (membrane), SIAD MACCHINE IMPIANTI has designed and produced the Liquefier and SIAD S.p.A. manages the supply of liquid Nitrogen for the liquefaction of Biomethane.

[Read more here](#)

## GERMANY

### **German airport gets climate-friendly passenger bus**

Munich Airport has put a biomethane bus into operation as part of a pilot project. The "CMF Drive" drive concept used and patented by CM Fluids combines the advantages of a combustion engine with the benefits of an electric drive. The passenger bus is fuelled with bio-LNG, which drives a motor. The energy generated in this way is temporarily stored in a small buffer battery that supplies the bus's electric drive axle with electricity.

[Read more here](#)

### **SPAIN**

**The Ministry for Ecologic Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO) includes changes to the new regulation for financing investments in thermal**

### **Rolande opens new generation of LNG/CNG filling stations**

Rolande, a market leader in building infrastructures for LNG and bio-LNG for trucks in the Netherlands, has opened the first of five CNG and LNG filling stations in Ulm, Germany. The plant is a 24/7 self-serve petrol station with two LNG pumps and two CNG pumps with capacities guaranteeing "swift fuelling" without long waiting times. The station has a daily capacity for up to 150 vehicles and large driveways designed for heavy-duty trucks. Before the end of this year, the company will open new LNG locations with partners in Dortmund, Duisburg, Grasdorf, Lübeck and Ziesar. A further expansion of the network is planned in Germany for 2021.

[Read more here](#)

### **SPAIN**

**REGATRACE and ECO-GATE committed in developing a system of certificates for renewable gases in Spain**

### **facilities with renewable sources**

The "Order of Regulatory Basis for Investment Aids in Thermal Installations with Renewable Sources" published by MITECO has incorporated aspects that AEBIG suggested in its allegations and which represent an advance in the recognition of the positive impact of biomethane projects in "Just Transition Areas".

[\*\*Read more here\*\*](#)

### **POLAND**

#### **The first participatory REGATRACE workshop in Poland**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October UPEBI organized the first participatory REGATRACE workshop at Hotel Boss in Warsaw. It was the first direct meeting after the online webinar "Biomethane in Poland - development opportunities" in June aimed at elaboration of a national strategy for the development of the biomethane sector that would combine the needs and visions of various stakeholders.

[\*\*Read more here\*\*](#)

RETEMA, a Spanish environmental magazine published an article on the REGATRACE and the ECO-GATE projects, in which explains how the renewable gas from Butarque's water waste treatment plant has been the first ever to be injected to the gas grid in Spain.

[\*\*Read more here\*\*](#) (available only in Spanish)

### **POLAND**

#### **A letter of intent was signed for the development of the biogas and biomethane sector in Poland**

During the 3rd International Conference of Biogas and Biomethane Producers "Green Gas Poland 2020" organized by UPEBI at the beginning of October this year, the Government Plenipotentiary for RES, Ireneusz Zyska, announced the signing of the "Letter of Intent to establish a partnership for the development of the biogas and biomethane sector and the conclusion of a sectoral agreement". The document was signed at the Ministry of Climate and

Environment on the 13th of October, and its signatories included, apart from UPEBI, PGNiG, ORLEN, PSG and GAZ-SYSTEM.

[\*Read more here\*](#)

## **BELGIUM**

### **First injection of green gas into the Walloon network**

The first site in Wallonia for the injection of biomethane into the gas network is now operational. This is a major step forward that not only contributes to Wallonia's energy transition process, but also to the construction of a new model for the circular economy.

On 7th October in Fleurus, Ministers Philippe Henry (Climate, Energy and Mobility) and Willy Borsus (Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital, Spatial Planning, Agriculture, IFAPME and Centres of Expertise) inaugurated the first injection site in Wallonia of gas produced from renewable sources into the gas distribution network.

[\*Read more here\*](#)

## **BELGIUM**

### **Decreasing investment support for biomethane from the Flemish government**

For 2020 the Flemish government had already decreased the investment support for biomethane plants from 1 mio€ per year to 250 K€.

In the first call of 2020 one biomethane project has received support for an amount of 108 K€.

[\*Read more here\*](#)



## LITHUANIA

### **37 million EUR from the Climate Change Program for energy, transport and agriculture**

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, EUR 37 million are allocated from the Climate Change Program for the energy, transport and agriculture sectors. 15 million EUR are allocated to purchase vehicles using electricity, compressed or liquefied natural gas, biomethane or hydrogen. The subsidy reaches up to 40% and it is dedicated to businesses that are involved with passenger transport, utilities services, commercial or logistics services and that are developing alternative fuel infrastructure.

**[Read more here](#)**

## ROMANIA

### **State aid of 150 million euros**

## ESTONIA

### **Biomethane production - an example of the environment-friendly, practical circular economy**

The use of CNG fuels and biomethane has increased in the world as well as in Estonia. Four biomethane production plants are operating in Estonia by now: the first companies that started producing biomethane in 2018 are OÜ Rohegaas in Kunda, which makes it from sewage sludge, and OÜ Biometaan in Koksvere, Viljandi County, which gets its raw material from manure and biomass. OÜ Vinni Biogaas and OÜ Tartu Biogaas launched their production this summer. Both plants produce biomethane from manure, biowaste and food industry residues.

*(Article written by Kadri Penjam and published in *Eesti Loodus* in October 2020)*

**[Read more here](#)**

**approved for Romania by the  
European Commission for  
investments in the transition from  
fossil fuels to heating systems  
based on renewable sources**

In order to unlock the potential of district heating systems to contribute to the transition to a climate-neutral economy, the Investment Plan has given Member States more flexibility in providing support for heat production, in accordance with EU state aid rules.

The European Commission has approved Romania's request to provide public support worth up to 750 million lei (150 million euros) for the construction and / or modernization of several thermal energy production facilities and distribution networks.

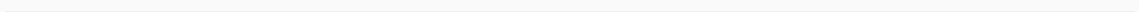
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## Meet the consortium!

The REGATRACE consortium is composed by 15 partners from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain) working together to provide support for the biomethane market uptake.

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