

THE BIOGAS ROADMAP

The deadline for presenting allegations to the Draft Biogas Roadmap ends on 15 September.

The Roadmap (i) identifies the main challenges and developments for the full development of biogas in Spain, (ii) offers a series of lines of action designed to promote investment and (iii) proposes a Vision for 2030 and 2050, establishing a biogas production target of 10.41 TWh per annum in 2030, of which 45% would be consumed directly as biogas for thermal processes or electricity generation, with the rest being upgraded to biomethane to replace natural gas of fossil origin in its standard uses.

The main lines of the Draft submitted for public information by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge are as follows:

- The Roadmap focuses exclusively on the rollout of biogas generated by means of the anaerobic digestion of organic waste (as a means for promoting the development of the circular economy in agriculture and for municipal waste) as it is considered to have a significant degree of technological maturity, meaning that the market may be activated immediately.
- The Ministry considers that direct use of biogas in locations close to where it is produced should be prioritised, favouring the appearance of synergies with connected industries, as well as its use in transport, when it is the most economically and environmentally efficient option.
- Meanwhile, it is understood that the biomethane produced using biogas can gradually replace natural gas of fossil origin in its standard uses, as it is fully interchangeable, particularly in energy intensive applications or where electrification is not viable, such as heavy transport or industry involving intensive use of thermal energy.
- 3030 Vision
 - Biogas production of 10.41 TWh per annum is envisaged for 2030, using the available potential of agro-industrial waste, the organic fraction of locally managed waste and sludge from wastewater, as well as manure.
 - It is envisaged that 1% of gas consumed via the natural gas network in 2030 will be biomethane.

Key points

- Priority will be given to the direct use of biogas in locations near to where it is produced
- It is envisaged that 1% of the gas consumed via the natural gas network in 2030 will be biomethane
- The creation of a system of guarantees of origin and the streamlining of authorisation procedures will be top priorities in the short term

- In the transport sector, biogas and biomethane will contribute to Spain reaching the objectives set in the 2021-2030 Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC), that is 28% of renewable energy in transport, as well as the advanced biofuels in transport target of RED II: 0.2 % in 2022, at least 1% in 2025 and at least 3.5% in 2030.
- As for the cogeneration sector, biogas could be used to replace natural gas of fossil origin in currently existing facilities.
- With a view to promoting this development in the short term, the following is considered necessary:
 - The enhancement of the renewable origin of biogas by means of the creation of a System of Guarantees of Origin, which will apply to any biogas produced in Spain, regardless of whether it is injected into the gas network as biomethane or used directly. The Guarantees of Origin will be in line with the terms of RED II. The viability of including information on accrediting sustainability will be studied. The Ministry may designate an entity responsible for developing and management the Guarantees of Origin system.
 - Streamlining the plant authorisation procedures: processing this kind of project can end up being highly complex as they are subject to numerous, diverse types of regulation (waste, agriculture, livestock, animal and plant health, industrial, planning, gas emissions, liquid discharges, noise, smells, transport, animal by-products not intended for human consumption, gas, electricity) and involves a large number of bodies (General State Administration, Autonomous Regions and Town Councils). Work will be done to simplify the administrative procedure for applying for and authorising the construction of biogas production plants and to reduce the decision deadlines, also seeking to establish an administrative procedure for authorising the construction of plants that is similar in all autonomous regions.
 - Using existing lines of aid for the development of biogas. The Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan is required so that, in order to receive support in this regard, bioenergy projects have to contribute major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 12 February 2021, establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, at least 80% in comparison with fossil fuels in the case of electricity or heat production and at least 65% in comparison with fossil fuels in the case of biofuels), which is an even more ambitious target than that set in RED II.
 - Moreover, depending on market evolution, there is the possibility to establish medium-term penetration targets, directly reducing natural gas dependence and consumption. This system of support is characterised by a legal obligation for consumers, suppliers or producers to have a certain percentage or share of energy production come from biogas, similar to the current mechanism for promoting the use of biofuels. In this regard, the sale or consumption certificates will be the documents issued at the request of a subject confirming that it has accredited the sale or consumption of a specific amount of biogas energy in a particular year. The assignment of biogas certificates to producers could be different depending on the raw material used for the production of the biogas, so that some waste treatment processes are incentivised over others. The percentage could be revised in order to adapt it to the biogas penetration targets, as the market and the technology develop. Monitoring systems would be established to assess whether the targets are met.

CONTACT



Clara Alcaraz
Senior Associate

T +34 91 590 9498
E clara.alcaraz
@cliffordchance.com

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www.cliffordchance.com

Clifford Chance, Paseo de la Castellana 110,
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