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Regulators' reflections on enabling the injection and access to the wholesale market of biomethane

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Current CEER work covers the following areas

- Access of biomethane to the wholesale market
- Connection fees and costs for biomethane production facilities
- Tariff discounts for biomethane
- Trading of biomethane

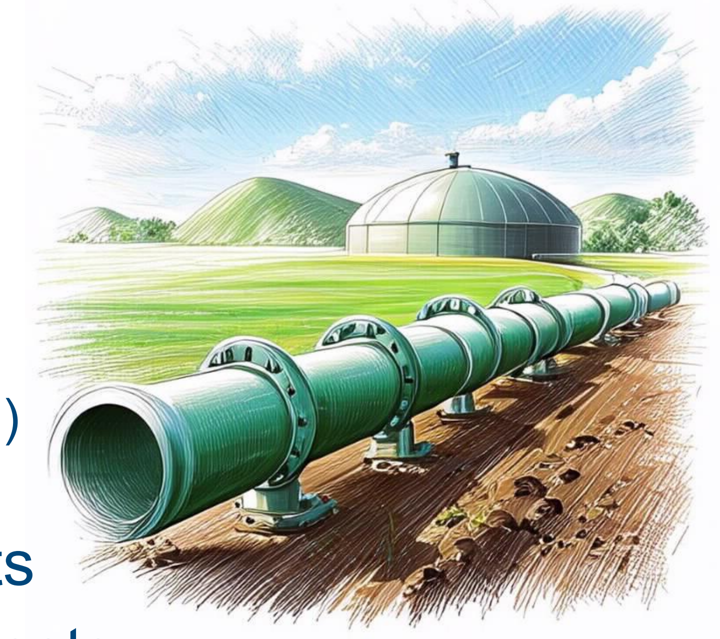
➔ Report with learnings from case studies to be published soon…

Access of biomethane to the wholesale market

- **Main finding:** Multiple workable models exist to integrate distribution-level biomethane into the wholesale market.
- Different concepts are applied:
  - **Integrated market areas** (e.g. AT, DE, IT, LV, PT): direct access to VTP at both transmission & distribution level through an integrated balancing zone
  - **Virtual entry points** (e.g. DK): distribution-level injected biomethane can be virtually injected into the transmission level and then traded at wholesale level
  - **Indirect access** (e.g. FR): offtake via “buyer of last resort” obligation gives indirect access to wholesale market

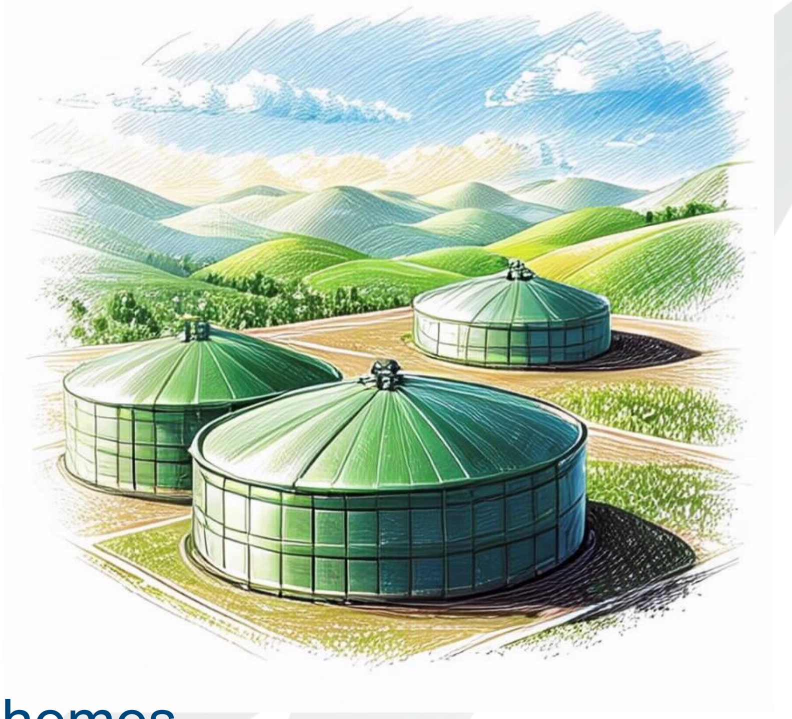
Connection costs for biomethane plants

- **Main finding:** cost-sharing models are applied in most Member States
- **Cost-sharing models**
  - DK, PT: producers cover most connection costs (pipelines, compressors, metering)
  - AT, DE, FR, IT, LV, CZ producers pay part of project-specific costs:
    - FR: 40% producer / 60% socialised (≤600k€)
    - IT (DSO): 80% producer / 20% socialised
    - DE: 25% producer / 75% operator (distance caps)
    - CZ: case-specific (capacity & distance)
    - LV: producer pays pipeline, TSO pays injection facilities
    - AT: full socialisation if ≤60 m/m³CH_4eq/h
- **System-level reinforcements** (e.g. reverse flow and meshing)
  - Usually covered by network operators and fully socialised
- **Mapping tools** (AT, FR, IT) guide optimal injection points
- **Shared connection points** for multiple plants can cut costs



Tariff discounts for biomethane

- **Tariff discounts at interconnection points**
  - Several derogations so far (e.g. FR, DK, IT, PL)
  - Most derogations based on Art. 18(5b): advanced rollout or alternative support scheme
  - Some MS still evaluating (e.g. DE, AT)
  - PoS certification not yet fully operational
- **Tariff discounts at biomethane entry points (mainly DSO level)**
  - Very low tariffs: AT, CZ
  - 100% discount: LV, PT, IT (DSO)
  - No discount: DK, FR → offset by national support schemes
- **Result:** Fragmented application of tariff discounts across Member States, subject to different stages of biomethane sector development and alternative support schemes



Trading of biomethane

- **Main finding**
  - Different types of gas certification schemes exist
    - Guarantees of Origin (GOs) schemes for disclosure towards end customers
    - Proof of Sustainability (PoS) for compliance with achieving EU targets under RED II
  - Several Member States have already established national gas GO schemes while implementation is pending in some Member States
- **Facilitating cross-border biomethane trade and market integration**
  - Integrated and harmonized handling of GOs and PoS within the national GO registries and the Union Data Base (UDB)

Thank you

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