



**At New York Climate Week, Heads of State Call for
Mandatory Methane Mitigation**

**Investors with EUR 4.75 trillion in Assets
Urge EC, Parliament, and Member States to Implement the European
Methane Regulation “as Adopted”**

October 2025

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At New York Climate Week, Heads of State Call for Mandatory Methane Mitigation

Investors with EUR 4.75 trillion in Assets Urge EC, Parliament, and Member States to Implement the European Methane Regulation “as Adopted”

New York, 24 September 2025 — The Climate & Clean Air Coalition’s methane forum, co-hosted with Michael Bloomberg, was one of the most important meetings of Climate Week 2025. Ministers and current and former heads of State urged the world to take faster action to cut methane emissions to slow near-term warming. The call for binding methane mitigation starting with the oil and gas sector was heard throughout the week.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley stated that:

“We need to recognize that if we are going to reduce emissions, and I say this to you, President Lula, as we go into COP, we ... need a legally binding global agreement for methane reduction. ... I feel that we do not need to reinvent the wheel. The Montreal Protocol that allowed us to reduce HFCs is the most successful climate agreement in history. We can replicate it....”

President Macron of France agreed:

“We need binding objectives on methane. We know that this is a reachable goal This is the best way to reduce our emissions and it’s also a G7 priority.”

President Simina of the Federated States of Micronesia elaborated:

“Voluntary methane pledges are failing to reduce emissions. Markets cannot align and polluters cannot be held accountable without stronger mandatory measures at national, regional, and global level. We need clear, predictable, mandatory approaches to ensure success. ... Excellencies, friends, we have done this before. When the ozone layer was in crisis, leaders forged the Montreal Protocol—a binding, enforceable system that saved lives, created markets, and restored balance. We must summon that same courage for methane.”

Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo also called for a binding methane agreement:

“Tuvalu therefore calls on major emitters to ... step up methane action with binding commitment. ... The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change has made it crystal clear that inaction is not just immoral, it is unlawful. Together, we must rise to the challenge of honoring both legal and moral responsibility in safeguarding our shared future and pulling the emergency brake on methane. Cutting methane is the fastest scalable way to slow global warming, avoiding up to 0.3 degrees centigrade of warming by 2040 and buying critical time for long-term CO2 decarbonization strategies to take effect.”

UN Secretary-General Guterres summed it up when he stated that for success at COP30:

“Five areas are crucial: First, ... the clean energy transition. ... Second, methane.... Drastic cuts this decade are essential – and most can be achieved quickly and cheaply. ... fossil fuel operations could cut 40% of methane emissions today with no net cost. ... The International Energy Agency estimates fossil fuel operations could cut 40% of methane emissions today with no net cost. Third, forests. We must end the destruction of nature’s greatest carbon sinks. This could deliver a fifth of needed emissions reductions by 2030.”

At the methane meeting hosted by the CCAC and Michael Bloomberg, Durwood Zaelke, President of IGSD, wrapped up the meeting, along with Eamon Ryan the former Environment Minister from Ireland. Durwood noted:

“This meeting on Wednesday the 23rd of September was one of the most important of Climate Week 2025, co-hosted by one of the most important climate organizations in the world, the CCAC, where every minister and current and former head of State drew their methane facts from this organization as they unanimously urged the world to take faster action to cut methane emissions and slow near-term warming. The call for binding methane mitigation starting with the oil and gas sector was heard and is clearly the way forward.”

At the separate meeting of the leaders of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Finance Ministers (CVF-V20) on September 24th, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, Chair of the CVF-V20 Presidency, again called for a global methane agreement:

CALL FOR A GLOBAL METHANE AGREEMENT

Prime Minister Mottley also urged CVF-V20 nations to support rapid emissions reductions, particularly through a global methane agreement. She stressed that such measures could significantly reduce global emissions without threatening key fossil fuel or livestock sectors.

“I suggest that if CVF member countries were to support a global methane agreement, we could lower global emissions to all our benefit, stop the rising heat levels and buy ourselves more time,” Prime Minister Mottley said. “More specifically, such an agreement must recognise that our agriculture and livestock sectors should stand to be the first beneficiaries of access to finance, technology, and transition support” she added.

(The CVF-V20 is comprised of 74 member-countries ranging from small island developing states, least developed countries, low-to-middle income countries, landlocked developing countries, and fragile and conflict-affected states, who work towards achieving climate justice through economic and financial resilience strategies. The CVF represents 1.81 billion vulnerable people.)

In addition, Laurent Fabius, the president of COP21 and a member of the COP Presidents’ Circle, published an Op-Ed September 24th setting out options of developing a Montreal Protocol-inspired methane agreement and/or extending the European methane regulations. He builds his argument using the same basic framing and facts, that methane is responsible for 30% of historic warming, has the potential to avoid 0.3°C in the next 15 years and 0.5°C by 2050, and

that the Montreal Protocol is one model. (The European Climate Foundation is supporting Laurent Fabius as a member of the COP Presidents' Circle; Laurent also has participated in some of the methane webinars organized by Edmond Alphandery, former Minister of Finance for France, which IGSD has been co-hosting.)

Fabius L. (web: 24 September 2025, print: 25 September 2025) «L'impératif méthane», priorité pour la COP30, LES ECHOS [English translation]:

In the vital field of climate change, the latest data points to a dismal, two-fold prognosis. On the one hand, the 1.5° figure set by the universal Paris Agreement, on a scientific basis, as the limit not to be exceeded for the average increase in temperatures, is likely to be exceeded.

On the other hand, this limit, which was legally enshrined in July by the International Court of Justice, will only be possible to be recognized, and met again, after many years and provided that there are considerable changes in human activities, technologies, and political will between now and then.

In this situation, what are the respective roles of the necessary additions to successive COPs, the unwillingness of certain signatories, and the international context? These are major questions, but today one question dominates all others: without in any way downplaying the central importance and urgency of reducing CO₂ emissions, is there a realistic solution that can be applied immediately to avert the impending disaster? The answer is yes, and that decisive yes concerns methane.

Methane (CH₄) is a greenhouse gas in the same way as carbon dioxide (CO₂), but it is less well known to the general public and its emissions are less difficult to reduce. Methane emissions are generally estimated to account for 30% of warming since the pre-industrial era. Its calorific potential is about 80 times greater than that of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period and 25 times greater over a century. Thirty-five percent of emissions come from the oil, coal, and gas sectors, 20% come from waste, and the rest is linked to agriculture and livestock farming.

The techniques and costs of reducing these first two categories are accessible. Of the 80 million tons of methane emitted by the oil and gas sector each year, 35 million could be avoided at zero or even negative cost.

By acting quickly and decisively on these methane emissions, we can hope to reduce the temperature increase by 0.3° over the next 15 years and by 0.5° by 2050. Every tenth of a degree gained saves tens of millions of lives. Several initiatives have been taken in this direction, particularly within the framework of the Global Methane Pledge, which have led to some significant results. Despite predictable resistance, a large-scale operation appears necessary, with at least three possible avenues.

The first is the broadest extension of the Global Pledge. The second would be the adoption of a new international protocol, similar to the Montreal Protocol for the ozone layer, requiring signatories to drastically reduce their methane emissions: but is this feasible in the current international context?

A third solution would be to adopt, as the European Union has done, methane reduction standards applicable to imports of fossil fuels. In any case, it is now imperative to move forward in one or (and) both of these directions. It is rightly emphasized that the next COP in Belém in November must be one of action and implementation.

I believe it is crucial that, on this occasion, Brazil, China, the European Union, and as many countries and companies as possible make the “methane imperative” an absolute priority.

Laurent Fabius was the President of COP21 and is a part of the COP Presidents' Circle.

Following Climate Week, on October 1st, the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change published a letter offering “Support for a strong and properly implemented EU Methane Regulation” signed by 42 leading institutional investors, representing more than EUR 4.75 trillion in assets, urging the European Commission, European Parliament, and European Union Member States “to maintain and implement the Regulation as adopted – including its timeline and core provisions”:

Re: Support for a strong and properly implemented EU Methane Regulation

We, the undersigned investors representing more than EUR 4.75 trillion in assets globally, are writing to express strong support for the EU Methane Emissions Regulation (EU MER). We urge the European Commission, European Parliament, and all Member States to maintain and implement the Regulation as adopted – including its timeline and core provisions.

The EU MER outlines sensible objectives with a phased approach to implementation, providing investors with valuable regulatory certainty. Reopening the regulation – via an omnibus or other process with unclear timing and scope – would introduce unpredictability and undermine companies and investors actively working toward compliance. What is needed now is consistency and clarity. The EU MER should not be reopened at this critical stage.

As prudent fiduciaries, we recognise the economic and financial risks of climate change and the comprehensive response it demands. Reducing oil and gas methane emissions is one of the fastest, lowest-cost ways to limit near-term global warming. Legal compliance requirements like those included in the EU MER, supported by international frameworks such as the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0), have helped elevate methane to a strategic issue for company boards – helping mitigate key portfolio risks and support decarbonisation objectives.

Strong mitigation of methane emissions, and accountability via robust measurement, reporting and verification – as required by the EU MER – also benefits the oil and gas industry and its financial stakeholders. Performance on methane is increasingly viewed as an indicator of the quality of management teams, operational excellence, process safety, and companies' long-term competitiveness.

This recent progress should not be reversed. We believe the EU should continue to play a leadership role on this issue, leveraging its position as one of the largest importers of oil and gas globally. We strongly encourage the European Commission, European Parliament and all Member States to:

- ***Avoid re-opening the EU MER via any upcoming omnibus initiatives and any potential legislative delays to the phase-in timeline.*** Legitimate challenges importers may face in meeting requirements can be addressed through Member State implementation – ensuring the overall timeline is maintained while allowing for flexibility as needed.
- ***Ensure consistent implementation of the EU MER across competent authorities, to encourage predictability and clarity while preventing unequal competition through regulatory arbitrage, including:***
 - ***Strict standards for country-level equivalencies for non-EU jurisdictions*** – third countries seeking equivalency determinations need to enact and enforce monitoring, reporting and verification requirements at least as rigorous as those required for domestic EU operations, or aligned with OGMP 2.0's Level 5 reporting; and
 - ***A practical gas tracing approach that preserves the regulation's integrity and intent,*** while maintaining market flexibility and minimising consumer impacts.

In conclusion, we urge the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States to uphold the Regulation as adopted and focus on delivering timely, harmonised implementation.

Sincerely,

Aegon Asset Management UK Aegon Investment Management Aegon UK Aequo, Shareholder Engagement Services Akademiker Pension AP3 AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden) Brunel Pension Partnership Cardano Christian Brothers Investment Services Church of England Pensions Board Coöperatie Univé U.A. Generation Investment Management LLP Hymans Robertson KBI Global Investors Lærernes Pension (Danish Teachers' Pension Fund) LBP AM Miller/Howard Investments, Inc. NEI Investments Nest Ninety One Nordea Investment Management AB Ofi Invest Asset Management PFA Pension Pictet Group PKA Railpen Rathbones Group plc Redwheel Robeco Royal London Asset Management Ruffer LLP Sampension Scottish Widows Storebrand Asset Management Sustainable Advisors Alliance, LLC Swiss Association for Responsible Investments Sycomore AM Union Investment Wales Pension Partnership Wesleyan Assurance Society

Climate Crisis Advisory Group, [Methane: the emergency brake for climate heating](#) September 22nd:

Together, these [methane] interventions provide decision-makers with a clear roadmap to scale proven solutions, delivering near-term relief while buying time for the longer, non-negotiable task of cutting CO₂ to net zero.

Sir David King, Chair of CCAG said: “Methane is the emergency brake on climate heating that we can pull right now. It is more than 80 times more powerful than CO₂, yet is still treated as an afterthought. That blind spot is costing us precious time. The solutions are here, they are affordable, and they deliver immediate benefits for health, food security, and livelihoods. What’s missing is political will. This report shows leaders exactly how to pull the brake. If we fail to act now, we will lose our last real chance to slow near-term warming.”

In preparation for Climate Week, IGSD released its updated [Background Note on The Need for Fast Near-Term Climate Mitigation to Slow Feedbacks and Avoid Tipping Points](#) (September 2025).