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REGATRACE

Renewable Gas Trade Centre in Europe

Newsletter 3 for Belgium (English)

December 2020



REGATRACE (REnewable GAs TRAdE Centre in Europe) aims to establish an efficient trading system based on the issuance and trading of Guarantees of Origin (GO) for biomethane and renewable gases. This will contribute significantly to the growth of a unified European biomethane market

News from the biomethane world

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

During the 34th European Gas Regulatory Forum, also known as 'Madrid Forum', the European Commission highlighted the 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](#)

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 CO₂ 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 options for harmonized European cross border title-transfer of biomethane/renewable gas certificates which is currently under review by the European Commission.

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.

[Read more](#)

Preparatory workshops to elaborate a long-term vision on biomethane

Creating a stable and harmonised Europe-wide market for biomethane, capable is a key element to reinforce the trade function of biomethane, enable the feasibility of investments to supply the whole European market and promote cross-border biomethane trade. REGATRACE will substantially contribute to the increase of biomethane deployment in the different project countries. To this aim, several participatory workshops have been organized in Target and Supported countries with the scope to fill the existing gaps and create a shared and long-term strategic vision for biomethane.

[Read more](#)

News from Belgium

First injection of green gas into the Walloon network.

Fleurus, 7th October 2020

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 Wednesday 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.

Agricultural waste recycled as energy

For a number of years now, Cinergie, the Fleurus-based agro-industrial company, has been recycling some 100,000 tons every year of material derived mainly from livestock manure, agricultural products and food waste. Until now, this material has been used as part of a cogeneration system producing electricity (injected into the grid) and heat (supplying a heat network in the local area). This biogas can now also be converted into biomethane, a 100% renewable gas that delivers the same output as traditional natural gas. For the first time, this biomethane is being supplied to domestic users and businesses via the collective network. The energy produced corresponds currently to the equivalent of the consumption needs of a town the size of Gembloux.

"Our aim at Cinergie has always been to encourage the circular economy by short-circuiting recycling solutions," said Éric Pierart, Managing Director of Cinergie. "We are delighted to have been able, thanks to the support of our partners and investors, to introduce a solution for the production of green energy that will benefit Wallonia and its citizens."

A model for the future

With its extensive agricultural land, Wallonia has a major potential supply of biomethane (estimated at 8.7 TWh) that could actively support Belgium's targets for producing renewable energy and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, for heating applications, mobility and industrial processes. The arrival of this green gas into our networks responds to both ecological considerations (a reduction in greenhouse gases, as well as the recycling of waste, the association of the farming world with environmental transition, etc.) as well as to economic issues (the creation of local jobs that cannot be moved elsewhere, the diversification of revenue for farmers and optimisation of the way in which

existing network infrastructures are used, etc.). Four other projects to build biomethane injection units are also under development in the Walloon provinces of Hainaut and Luxembourg.

Decreasing investment support for biomethane from the Flemish government.

In 2020 the Flemish government had already decreased the investment support for biomethane plants from 1 mio€ per year to 250 K€. In the first support call of 2020 one biomethane project has received support for an amount of 108 K€. Biomethane plants in Flanders do not receive operational support related to their production, unlike plants in Wallonia that can receive around 75€/MWh support via the system of 'label de garanti d'origine'.

News from other countries

You can find news from other countries [here](#) (in English)

Meet the consortium!

The REGATRACE consortium consists of 15 partners from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain) working together to support the growth of the biomethane market.



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