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Council of the European Union

Brussels, 16 September 2021
(OR. en)

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	Declaration on Global Methane Pledge

Global Methane Pledge

Recognizing that, in order to ensure that the global community meets the Paris Agreement goal of keeping warming well below 2 degrees C, while pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C, significant methane emission reductions must be achieved globally by 2030;

Recognizing that the short atmospheric lifetime of methane means that taking action now can rapidly reduce the rate of global warming and that readily available cost-effective methane emission measures have the potential to avoid over 0.2 degrees C of warming by 2050 while yielding important co-benefits, including improving public health and agricultural productivity;

Recognizing that methane accounts for 17 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, principally from the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors, and that the energy sector has the greatest potential for targeted mitigation by 2030;

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Recognizing that the mitigation potential in different sectors varies between countries and regions, and that a majority of available targeted measures have low or negative cost;

Recognizing that, to keep 1.5 degrees C within reach, methane emission reductions must complement and supplement, not replace global action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including from the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), industrial processes, and the lands sector;

Recognizing that improvements to the transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability, and consistency of methane emissions data assessed and validated in accordance with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) standards and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) good practice can promote more ambitious and credible action;

Recognizing that, while there are multiple useful international initiatives that address methane, there is a need for high-level political engagement in order to catalyze global methane action.

The signatories to the Global Methane Pledge:

Commit to work together in order to collectively reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions across all sectors by at least 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030.

Commit to take comprehensive domestic actions to achieve that target, focusing on standards to achieve all feasible reductions in the energy and waste sectors and seeking abatement of agricultural

emissions through technology innovation as well as incentives and partnerships with farmers.

Commit to moving towards using the highest tier IPCC good practice inventory methodologies, consistent with IPCC guidance, with particular focus on high emission sources, in order to quantify methane emissions; as well as working individually and cooperatively to continuously improve the accuracy, transparency, consistency, comparability, and completeness of national greenhouse gas inventory reporting to the UNFCCC, and to provide greater transparency in key sectors.

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Commit to maintaining up-to-date, transparent, and publicly available information on our policies and commitments.

Commit to support existing international methane emission reduction initiatives, such as those of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Methane Initiative, and the relevant work of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the International Methane Emissions Observatory, to advance technical and policy work that will serve to underpin signatories' domestic actions.

Welcome and encourage announcements of further parallel specific domestic actions by signatories and commitments taken by the private sector, development banks, financial institutions and philanthropy to support global methane abatement.

Resolve to review progress towards the target of the Global Methane Pledge on an annual basis until 2030 by means of a dedicated ministerial meeting.

Call on other states to join the Global Methane Pledge.