

# EURACOAL

European Association  
for Coal and Lignite



## **EU Policy and Regulations on Coal and Methane: the coal industry's perspective**

ICE-CMM Workshop on Post-Mining Perspectives:  
capture and use of abandoned mine methane and mine  
reclamation and revitalization of post-mining areas

Hotel QUBUS  
Kraków  
Poland

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# EURACOAL

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- The European Association for Coal and Lignite – EURACOAL – is the umbrella organisation of the European coal industry.
- EURACOAL evolved in 2002 from the European Solid Fuels' Association – CECISO – after the expiry of the ECSC Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.
- EURACOAL is composed of 24 Members from 13 countries.
- Our members represent national producers and importers associations, companies and research institutes, vis-à-vis and in co-operation with all European institutions.

EURACOAL – *the voice of coal in Europe*

# EURACOAL on the *European Green Deal*

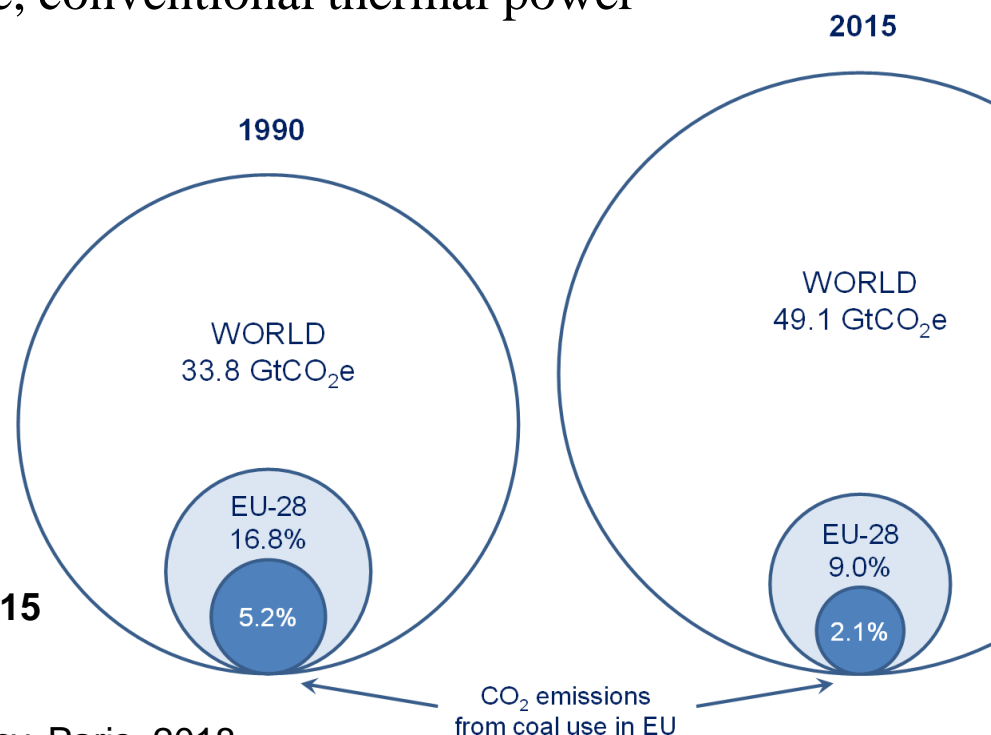
- The climate challenge requires global solutions with similar ambitions everywhere.
- A carbon-neutral EU economy by 2050 is highly ambitious: the necessary technologies need to be developed and deployed, and carbon-leakage risks need to be clearly addressed.
- Without large-scale energy storage, conventional thermal power generation will still be needed.
- To gain public support and to maintain EU competitiveness, solutions have to be affordable.
- EU Member States should remain free to choose their own (different) energy mixes.

## Global greenhouse gas emissions, 1990 & 2015

(excluding aviation and marine bunkers)

Source: IEA (2018), *CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel*

*combustion*, OECD – International Energy Agency, Paris, 2018



# Coal in transition

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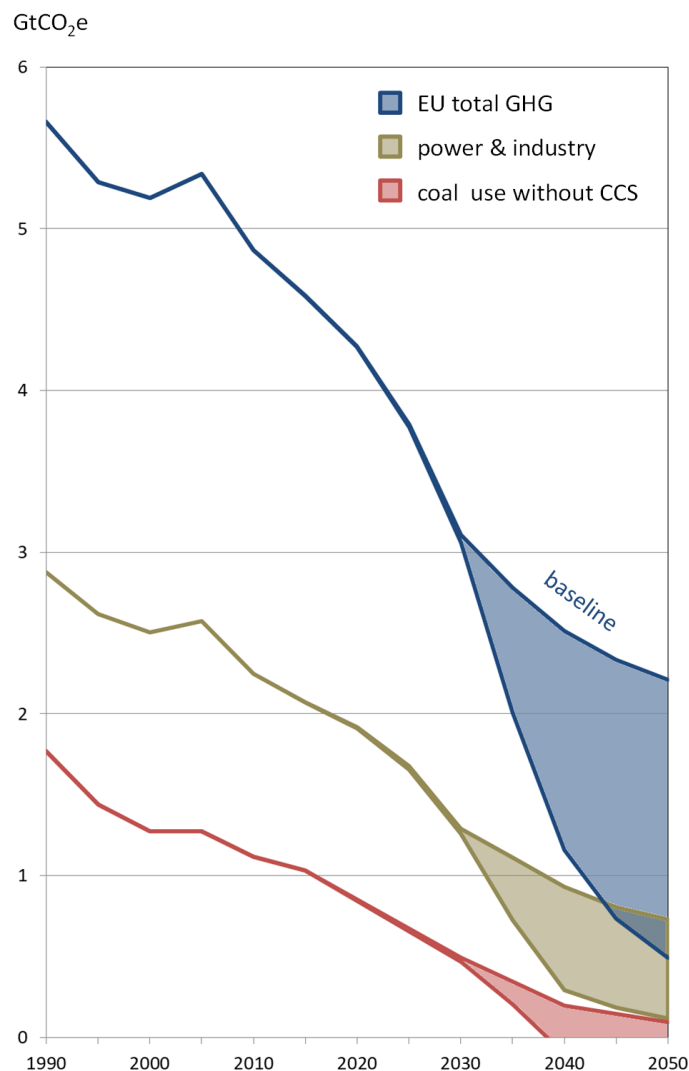
EURACOAL recognises the need for a transition to clean and affordable energy. It is active in the European Commission's initiative known as the **Coal Regions in Transition Platform**, especially in regards to clean coal technologies. For example, a coal R&D strategy is being developed by EURACOAL and its partners within the **CoalTech2051** project supported by the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

A coal-research strategy that is in line with EU policy calls for:

- a focus on research activities that support EU policy objectives; and
- research activities that promote the necessary global response to the ongoing coal use in many regions.

EURACOAL fully supports the Coal Regions in Transition Platform.

# GHG emission reduction pathways in EU to 2050



Showing the range of scenarios reported by the European Commission in its long-term strategic vision for a climate-neutral economy

Sources: European Commission (2018), In-Depth Analysis in Support of the Commission Communication COM(2018) 773 *A Clean Planet for all - a European long-term strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy*, Brussels, 28 November 2018 (§7.7). IEA (2019), “Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs and SF<sub>6</sub>”, *IEA CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion Statistics* [database <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00431-en>], OECD – International Energy Agency, Paris, 2018 (accessed on 30 July 2019). EURACOAL estimates for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal use based on industry trends.

EU coal sector has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 50% since 1990.

# **Declaration by the European Commission on a review of methane emissions**

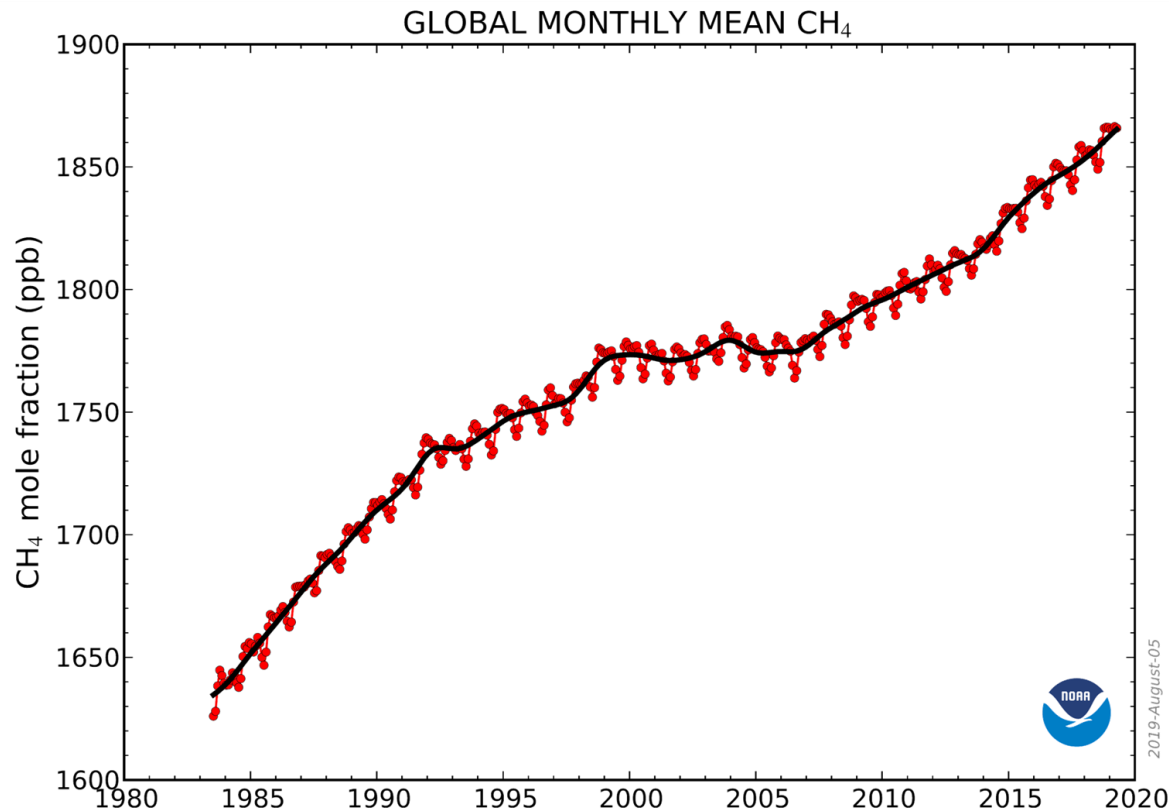
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- The Commission considers that there is a strong air quality case for keeping the development of methane emissions in the Member States under review in order to reduce ozone concentrations in the EU and to promote methane reductions internationally.
- The Commission confirms that on the basis of the reported national emissions, it intends to further assess the impact of methane emissions on achieving the objectives set out in Art. 1 para. 2 of the NEC Directive and will consider measures for reducing those emissions, and where appropriate, submit a legislative proposal to that purpose. In its assessment, the Commission will take into account a number of ongoing studies in this field, due to be finalised in 2017, as well as further international developments in this area.

Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants

# Global methane emissions are increasing

*Climate policies focus on the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub>. However, new scientific reports show that the global atmospheric concentration of methane – a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub> – rose in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 at rates not seen since the 1980s.*



Nisbet, E. G., E. J. Dlugokencky *et al.* (2019), “Very Strong Atmospheric Methane Growth in the 4 Years 2014-2017: Implications for the Paris Agreement”, *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, vol.33, iss.3, pp.318-342, 18 March 2019.

Source: NOAA (2019), *Trends in Atmospheric Methane – global CH<sub>4</sub> monthly means*, Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\\_ch4](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends_ch4), last updated 5 August 2019.

# EU energy sector and methane emissions

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Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on EU and the Paris Climate Agreement: Taking stock of progress at Katowice COP (COM(2018) 716 final) states that,

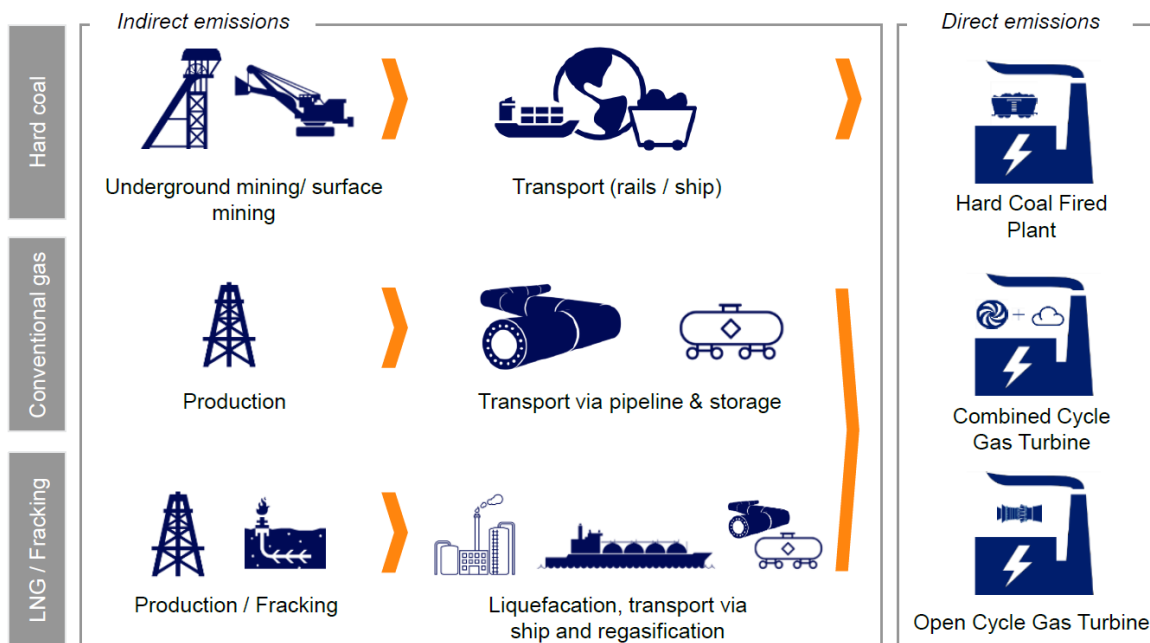
*“Lower levels of coal mining and post-mining activities from energy production have led to a **56 % reduction** in methane emissions from energy production since 1990”*

EURACOAL notes that this declining trend will continue in the future.



# EC plan for a methane strategy

- Methane emissions come from a wide spectrum of very different sectors; many are difficult to tackle (e.g. agriculture).
- Energy-sector emissions show the largest decrease of all the methane-emitting sectors.
- Measuring life-cycle methane emissions is crucial for the strategy.



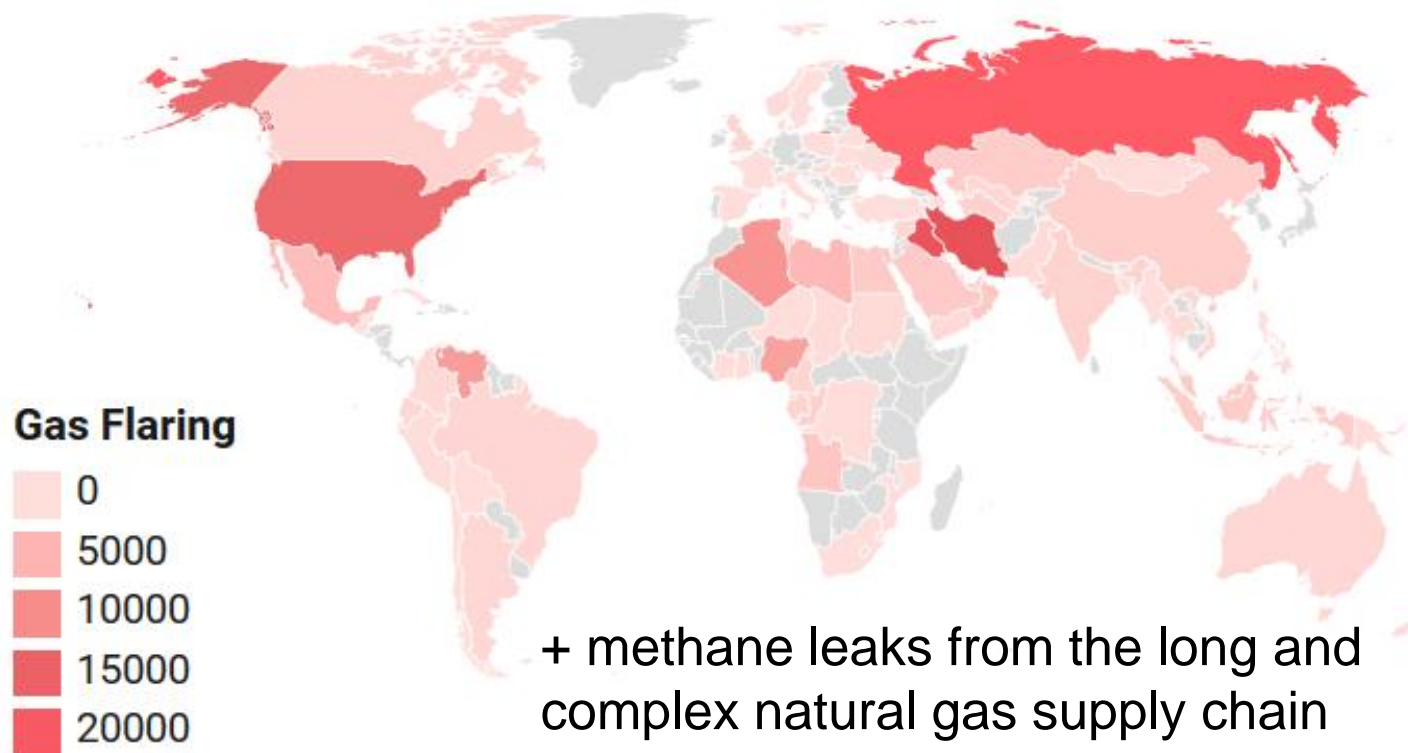
Source: Comparison of GHG emissions from coal-fired and gas-fired power plants, Pöyry, June 2016.

As methane emissions are on the rise globally, but in decline in Europe, the European Commission should use its planned strategy as a tool to curb indirect emissions related to imported fuel supply to the EU.

# Methane issues to tackle in the energy sector

It is estimated that globally some 145 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas were flared in 2018, which is almost equivalent to one third of the EU's total annual gas consumption.

## Upstream gas flaring (mcm)



<https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/global-gas-flaring-inches-higher-first-time-five-years>

# Draft study (1)

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- We recognise the need to improve knowledge on coal sector emissions.
- We understand that the purpose of the document is to present the existing *status quo* and recommend improvements in data collection.
- The recommendations on improved methodologies for estimating emission factors in Member States which do not use factors appropriate to their specific mining and geologic conditions are unclear.
- Emissions reported to the UNFCCC do not correlate with the information that is reported to E-PRTR. The authors report a lack of comprehensive locational data which prevents estimates on a localised level which could help determine the reasons for discrepancies.

## Draft study (2)

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- IPCC NIR approach is known globally, yet it seems not all countries follow these guidelines for national GHG inventories. Even then, it is not a perfect methodology in terms of methane emission reporting – it can be even quite confusing as the term “post-mining” is used for processes undergone after coal has been extracted from the mine (widely known as coal processing), rather than for activities related to closed mines. At the same time, the term “abandoned mines” is used in the methodology, but this has a negative connotation as it really refers to “closed mines” (or “post mining”!).
- When thinking about curbing methane emissions from mines and closed mines, care is needed. Coal mining activities are decreasing and this trend will continue. There will be more closed mines, managed by local and regional authorities. It would be illogical to charge them penalties or fees for methane emissions, when their task is to revitalise post-mining areas.

## Draft study (3)

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- The study emphasised that the existing database of European coal mine methane (CMM) emissions is not unified and therefore cannot be recognised as a reliable tool for any actions concerning future CMM emissions, any related strategy or long-term policies.
- We agree with the conclusions of the report's authors that a centralised European dataset of CMM emissions should be established.
- To that end and in order to make it reliable and acceptable to all interested parties, representatives from the twelve major coal-producing Member States and their leading scientific bodies should be involved.

# EURACOAL position on 2050 vision

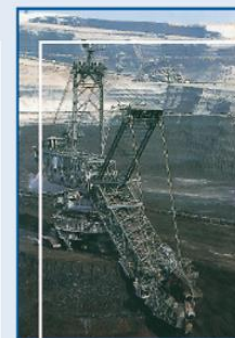
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- EURACOAL wants to see a transition to a cleaner energy system.
  - We should embrace new technologies with a positive attitude and allow fair competition to deliver affordable solutions.
- EURACOAL supports a climate protection policy with ambitious targets for 2050...
  - *provided* the energy transition is based on technological progress within a non-discriminatory, competitive market that delivers solutions which consumers are willing to pay for.
- EURACOAL does not support unilateral action by the European Union which endangers security of supply, competitiveness and social welfare.
  - Unilateral action by the European Union can only serve as a blueprint for other countries if it adequately addresses EU economic competitiveness and societal concerns

The different starting points of EU Member States and their regions have to be taken into account. Under the EU ETS, which sets a clear and predictable framework to deliver cost-effective and economically efficient CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions, coal will play its role in the energy transition.

# EURACOAL

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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