

1 August 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

In less than two months, you will deliver your final State of the Union address – a unique opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of your mandate, as well as your vision to tackle the fiercest challenges ahead. **We, the undersigned organisations, are grateful for your commitment in the fight against climate change, and are writing to urge you to use this address to highlight one of the most important – and most overlooked – climate threats: the steep rise of global methane emissions, and to call for the adoption of an ambitious regulation by the end of this legislative term.**

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is more than 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere over 20 years, and it is responsible for nearly half of our net global temperature increase today. Methane also contributes to increasing concentrations of ground-level ozone, degrading air quality and deteriorating human health. Current methane concentrations are well above the 2°C degree scenarios envisioned by the IPCC, and because emissions continue to rise fast, methane now poses the greatest single threat to passing irreversible climate tipping points.

The European Commission's leadership in the fight against methane emissions has been commendable, and we welcome your co-creation of the Global Methane Pledge at COP26, the methane reduction incentives included in REPowerEU Plan, and the European Commission's proposal for a Methane Regulation, which presents an opportunity to tackle the EU's methane emissions from its oil, gas, and coal sectors. If boldly concluded, this file could be one of the most impactful pieces of legislation advancing the European Green Deal.

Despite these positive steps, the fight against methane emissions remains peripheral in the fight against climate change, even though it has the greatest impact on accelerating global warming. **Therefore, we are asking that you highlight the importance of securing an ambitious EU Methane Regulation in your forthcoming State of the Union Address, as well the importance of accelerated and measured progress towards achieving the Global Methane Pledge. This would help build valuable support across Member States, the EU Institutions, and partner countries for one of the most impactful solutions to slow global warming and increase European energy security.**

With the impacts of climate change worsening every year, we can no longer afford to overlook one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to slow down current warming. We urgently need broader awareness, stronger support, and bolder action to reduce global methane emissions, and we hope you will consider using your platform this September to help deliver it.

Sincerely,



1. **2Celsius** – Mihai Stoica, *Executive Director*
2. **Centre for Transport and Energy** – Veronika Murzynová, *Energy transition expert*
3. **Clean Air Task Force** – Jonathan Banks, *Global Director, Methane Pollution Prevention*
4. **Deutsche Umwelthilfe** – Sascha Müller-Kraenner, *Executive Director*
5. **Ecologistas en Acción** - Luis Rico García-Amado, *Coordinator*
6. **eco-union** – Jérémie Fosse, *President*
7. **Ember** – Eleanor Whittle, *Programme Lead, Coal Mine Methane*
8. **Environmental Defense Fund Europe** – Flavia Sollazzo, *Senior Director EU Energy Transition*
9. **Environmental Investigation Agency** – Mary Rice, *Executive Director*
10. **Food & Water Action Europe** – Enrico Donda, *Campaigner*
11. **Fundación Renovables** – Raquel Paule, *Executive Director*
12. **Instrat Foundation** – Michał Hetmański, *CEO*
13. **Legambiente** – Stefano Ciafani, *President*