



## **Methane Management**

Panel Discussion for the Committee on Sustainable Energy

**22 September 2021, 15h40 – 16h00 CEST Geneva time**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

### **Background**

Reducing methane emissions offers significant climate change benefits, especially in the near term, as there is a large reduction potential and cost-effective mitigation technologies are readily available. Proper management of methane also delivers important improvements in air quality and safety of the oil and gas, and coal industries' operations. It can also enhance the uptake of sustainable hydrogen and support a just transition away from coal.

UNECE has 20 years of experience in addressing the problem of methane emissions from operating and abandoned coal mines, natural gas infrastructure, and other energy-related sources. Many international organizations and industry associations have undertaken work on limiting methane emissions and launched initiatives to improve monitoring. Unfortunately, these endeavours are not coordinated. There is limited information sharing and hence duplication of efforts and development of programmes that do not account for lessons learned by others. UNECE advocates declaration by the United Nations General Assembly of an International Decade for Methane Management. The proposed Decade aims to identify and coordinating activities to magnify their impact.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of this technical panel is to inform the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the UNECE member States on how the reduction of anthropogenic sources of methane emissions, in particular from the natural gas industry and coal operations, could help climate action and foster social transition.

### **Issues to be explored:**

- What can be done to mitigate methane emissions?
- What is being done, on the international level, on the national level, on the industry level?
- Costs of limiting methane emissions vs. costs of inaction.
- How coordinated and efficient are the current initiatives?
- Benefits of proper methane management for the oil, gas, and coal sectors.

### **Structure of the session:**

This technical panel will comprise four short reports illustrating the technical side of methane management.

### **Moderator:**

### **Presenters:**

- Mr. Raymond Pilcher, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (importance of methane management for the coal industry)
- Mr. Manuel Coxe, Secretary General, Marcogaz (importance of methane management for the gas industry)
- Ms. Volha Roshchanka, Program Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (current practices in MRV of methane emissions in the coal sector)
- Mr. Lukasz Kroplewski, Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts on Methane (modern methods of methane detection and monitoring applicable in the oil and gas, and coal sectors)