

Pledge from the EHB initiative to establish hydrogen supply corridors by 2030 as enabler for hydrogen market creation

The European Hydrogen Backbone initiative and its members stand ready to deliver the hydrogen infrastructure needed to achieve Europe's 2030 hydrogen targets.

We ask for a clear mandate and the suitable policy and regulatory support for this.

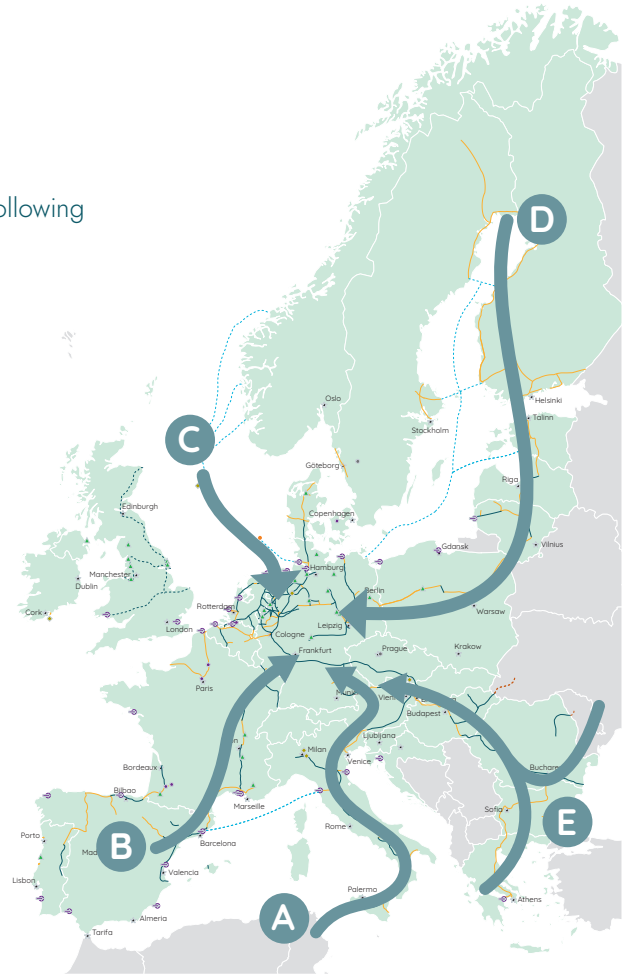
We, as European Hydrogen Backbone initiative of 31 TSOs are willing and capable to deliver the hydrogen infrastructure required to meet the EC's ambitious REPowerEU targets for 2030 and beyond. Hydrogen will play a key role in the decarbonization of Europe and the proposed infrastructure can enable an integration of hydrogen supply and demand across Europe.

We as European gas infrastructure operators believe that our organisations are best placed to drive an accelerated transformation from natural gas infrastructure to hydrogen, and **we are ready to drive the needed investments**, and in some cases, are doing so already. We possess the expertise and trust to optimally manage the assets and **ensure an efficient transition**. We have, for decades, maintained and operated the natural gas infrastructure. Our organisations house all the required expertise—planning, engineering, contracting, financing, permitting, system management, operating and maintaining - that is needed to plan, construct, maintain, and operate gas assets and manage energy systems that transport gas from sources of supply to demand centres. These same capabilities are now required to build the future-proof infrastructure needed for Europe's hydrogen-based future. In addition—our existing assets will play a large role in a cost-efficient upscaling of the infrastructure transporting hydrogen, due to repurposing existing pipelines and cross-border interconnections.

The EHB initiative has identified five hydrogen supply corridors that can bridge regional differences in supply and demand and deliver access to abundant and low-cost hydrogen supply by 2030. These corridors connect local hydrogen supply and demand in different parts of Europe, create connections across European regions as well as with neighbouring regions with export potential, in order to meet Europe's hydrogen, import needs. These import connections envisioned by EHB are **consistent with the three major import/hydrogen corridors identified by the Commission in the REPowerEU package**, specifically, import corridors from North Africa, the North Sea area and—as soon as conditions allow that—from Ukraine.

To ensure the development of each corridor by 2030, the following **concrete actions** are needed:

- **Fostering development of new and repurposed hydrogen infrastructure**, e.g., by unbundling rules facilitating efficient use of expertise & services from TSOs and by allowing different vertical unbundling models across EU in analogy to natural gas
- **Unlock financing to fast-track hydrogen infrastructure** deployment by leveraging regional regulatory flexibility and other pragmatic financing solutions (including incentivizing use of hydrogen on demand side)
- **Simplify and shorten planning and permitting procedures** for renewable energy, hydrogen, and infrastructure projects.
- **Intensify energy partnerships with exporting, non-EHB countries** providing financing support to reduce the cost of capital in export countries and identifying a common certification system for hydrogen exchanges.
- **Facilitate integrated energy system planning of hydrogen, natural gas, and electricity infrastructure**



Above all this, **speed is of the essence**, and we **need to start now**.

The members of the EHB initiative ask for a **clear mandate and suitable policy support** to prioritize these corridors. We recommend introducing the establishment of hydrogen supply corridors as **front-running infrastructure, including all infrastructure requirements, as a political objective**.

This **vision of 31 gas infrastructure companies** will foster the creation of a pan-European hydrogen market. We can connect substantial supply & demand and leverage storage to deliver stable supply of cost-competitive hydrogen, both domestically produced as well as imported from neighboring regions via pipelines and import terminals. Taking this proactive role in the development of hydrogen infrastructure will accelerate deployment and integration of renewable energy sources, support scale-up of green, innovative European industries and contribute to **a resilient, independent, and sustainable European energy system**.

On behalf of the European Hydrogen Backbone initiative,

Daniel Muthmann, Chair



List of TSOs standing behind the European Hydrogen Backbone initiative

TSO		Name	Function
Amber Grid		Nemunas Biknius	CEO
Bulgartransgaz		Vladimir Malinov	CEO
Conexus Baltic Grid		Uldis Bariss	CEO
Creos		Marc Reiffers	CEO
DESFA		Maria Rita Galli	CEO
Elering		Taavi Veskimägi	CEO
Enagás		Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri	CEO
Energinet		Thomas Egebo	CEO
EUSTREAM		Rastislav Ňukovič	CEO
FGSZ		Kristóf Terhes	CEO
FluxSwiss		Erik Vennekens	CEO
Fluxys		Pascal De Buck	CEO
Gas Connect Austria		Harald Stindl	Managing Director
Gas Networks Ireland		Cathal Marley	CEO
Gasgrid Finland		Olli Sipilä	CEO
Gassco		Frode Leversund	CEO
Gasunie		Han Fennema	CEO
GAZ-SYSTEM		Tomasz Stepień	CEO
GRTgaz		Thierry Trouvé	CEO
National Grid		Jon Butterworth	CEO
NET4GAS		Andreas Rau	CEO
Nordion Energi		Hans Kreisel	CEO
OGE		Jörg Bergmann	Chairman of the Board of Management
ONTRAS		Ralph Bahke	Managing Director
Plinacro		Ivica Arar	CEO
Plinovodi		Eberlinc Marjan	General Manager
REN		Rodrigo Costa	CEO
Snam		Stefano Venier	CEO
TAG		Daniele Gamba	CEO
Teréga		Dominique Mockly	CEO
TRANSGAZ		Ion Sterian	Director General