

LNG Energy Policy Statement in new Irish Programme for Government

We, the undersigned, are calling for any new Irish Programme for Government to include the following standalone LNG Energy Policy Statement as an urgent Climate Mitigation action against the acceleration of Global warming due to Methane Emissions from the global trade in fracked gas via LNG.

"Liquefied Natural Gas

The new Government is not supportive of new fossil fuel infrastructure in the form of LNG import terminals that could facilitate the entry of unconventional liquefied natural gas into the Irish energy mix. Such imports may create a functional interdependence between Irish energy consumption and global warming due to the high levels of non-territorial methane emissions linked to the exploitation of global shale gas resources."

The European Commission has added five LNG terminals in Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece and Poland to the [latest 4th Projects of Common Interest \(PCI\) list](#), which obliges each Member State to consider those projects as being of overriding public interest with no consideration of the full life-cycle, non-territorial climate impacts. Each Member State is obliged to ensure that PCI projects ["shall be allocated the status of the highest national significance possible and be treated as such in permit granting processes"](#) due solely to their status as PCI projects.

No LNG project can remain on the PCI List [without continued Member State Support](#).

We acknowledge a growing national consensus in Ireland against LNG terminals from the fact that almost half of the Members of the Irish Parliament (74 out of 160 deputies) have signed a pledge specifically stating that they were ["opposed to the importation of US fracked Gas into Ireland via LNG import terminals"](#).

We accept the [latest peer-reviewed scientific studies](#) which have found that one third of the total increased methane emissions from all sources globally, over the past decade, is coming from US fracked gas (shale gas) and that Methane emissions are accelerating global warming by [absorbing 87 times more heat than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period](#). Scientists informed the Irish Parliamentary Committee on Climate Action in October that importing US fracked gas into Ireland has a carbon-equivalent footprint of at least [44% greater than importing coal](#) over the full life-cycle. We accept the science which states that, unlike the case for carbon dioxide, the Climate System responds quickly to a reduction in methane emissions which, along with CO2 reduction measures, could provide the opportunity to immediately slow the rate of global warming by around [half a degree celsius](#).

For the same reasons that Ireland has already banned fracking on health and environmental grounds, this energy policy against the importation of fracked gas will also allow Ireland to propose, in solidarity with affected communities worldwide, a global ban on fracking, as was advocated for in an [open letter](#) to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in September 2019 by more than 400 organisations and individuals.

We believe that policy is the very first step in setting a clear framework for any future assessment of the Irish energy mix. Commitments to only blocking future funding applications for LNG terminals and possibly imposing future legislative bans on fracked gas imports alone, though desirable, are meaningless without a clear policy shift in a Programme for Government removing government support for LNG Terminals in Ireland as per the wording outlined above.

23rd April 2020