How the EU Methane Regulation Is (Not) Being Implemented in Czechia

Evidence shows a wide gap between obligations and practice

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Abstract

This report assesses how far the Czech authorities have implemented Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector (EU-MER), on the basis of publicly available information and information obtained directly from Czech authorities and companies. It finds a substantial gap between Czechia's obligations and the almost complete lack of action in practice. By late October 2026, the competent authorities had been notified to the European Commission but not empowered by law, no rules on penalties had been adopted, and the government's legislative plans did not provide for remedying these deficiencies before the end of 2029. Most other obligations depend on functional competent authorities and remain unfulfilled. The ongoing targeted revision of the EU-MER does not change this assessment: even the European Parliament's more far-reaching amendments would not affect the Member State obligations whose deadlines have already passed.

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Abbreviations

CA / CAs	Competent authority/ies
CDE	Centre for Transport and Energy (Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku)
CH_4	Methane
EUKI	European Climate Initiative
EU-MER	EU Methane Regulation : Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector.
I-MER	EUKI project “Implementing the EU Methane Emission Regulation”
LDAR	Leak detection and repair
MPO	Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade (Ministerstvo průmyslu a obchodu)
MŽP	Czech Ministry of the Environment (Ministerstvo životního prostředí)
SEI	State Energy Inspection (Státní energetická inspekce)

Introduction

This report assesses the extent to which, and how, the Czech authorities have implemented Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector[1] (the EU Methane Regulation, or EU-MER). The assessment is based on publicly available information and on limited information obtained by CDE directly from the Czech authorities and from companies subject to obligations under the EU-MER.

The EU-MER is currently undergoing a targeted revision, following a European Commission proposal of 14 October 2026. On 22 October 2026, the European Parliament adopted substantial amendments at first reading. At the cut-off date for this report (28 October 2026), the Council of the EU had not yet adopted its position. The Commission has proposed postponing some deadlines for importers' reports by one year. The Parliament has called for longer delays of up to three years and has extended the revision to further provisions. Notably, even if the Parliament's more far-reaching changes were adopted, none of the obligations for Member States discussed in this report, whose deadlines have already passed, would be affected. The ongoing revision therefore does not relieve Czechia of its existing obligations.

This report identifies a substantial gap between the measures the Czech authorities should have taken to implement the EU-MER and the almost complete lack of action taken in practice during the period under review. Its scope is limited to assessing the state of implementation on the basis of the available evidence. It does not examine the reasons for the implementation deficit or its potential consequences, including its implications for global warming, Czechia's standing among its EU counterparts, and the risk of infringement proceedings.

The report was produced under the project "*I-MER – Implementing the EU Methane Emission Regulation*", with support from the European Climate Initiative (EUKI). EUKI is a programme run by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, on the basis of a decision by the German Parliament.

The I-MER project work plan was developed in summer 2024, shortly after the EU legislators had adopted the EU-MER by an overwhelming majority. In the Council of the European Union, 26 Member States, including Czechia, voted in favour, while Hungary (then led by Orbán) was the only Member State to vote against. In the European Parliament, the EU-MER was approved in plenary on 10 April 2024, with 85% of votes in favour, 10% against and 5% abstentions. All 21 Members of the European Parliament elected in Czechia took part in the vote: 15 (71%) voted in favour and 6 (29%) against.[2]

As recital 66 of the EU-MER notes, the EU "is committed to working in cooperation with its energy partners and other key fossil energy importing and exporting third countries to tackle methane emissions globally. (…) In September 2021, the Union and the United States announced the Global

[1] The full text of the EU-MER in all official EU languages is available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1787v

[2] European Parliament: „Minutes - Results of Roll-Call Votes, 10 April 2024, Item 22: Methane Emissions Reduction in the Energy Sector. https://data.europarl.europa.eu/en/datasets/documents-related-to-the-plenary-activities-of-the-european-parliament-session2024-04-10/0007

Methane Pledge, launched at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November 2021. The Global Methane Pledge represents a political commitment to work together in order to collectively reduce global methane emissions by 30 % compared to 2020 levels by 2030, and to take comprehensive domestic actions to achieve that target. (…) More than 100 countries, accounting for nearly half of global anthropogenic methane emissions, have already joined the Global Methane Pledge." By the end of 2024, the number of participating countries had risen to 160, according to the Global Methane Pledge website[3], which is hosted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), a partnership convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Against this backdrop, the I-MER project was premised on the expectation that all EU Member States would work to implement the EU-MER. The question was not whether they would do so, but how to facilitate effective and timely implementation. The project was designed to help accelerate methane (CH_4) emission reductions in Czechia and Romania by strengthening implementation of the Regulation. These countries were selected because their energy sectors emit comparatively high levels of methane. The project comprises activities to support public authorities, the private sector and civil society organisations involved in implementing the EU-MER.

The project's first outputs included the report *Implementing the EU Methane Regulation in Czechia*, published in English in May 2025 and subsequently in Czech.[4] Building on earlier work by Ecologic Institute[5] on the tasks facing Member States and their competent authorities, and the resources required to fulfil them, the report outlined the sources of energy-sector CH_4 emissions in Czechia. It also provided information to support the Czech government and encourage the teams within the competent authorities, once designated, to implement the EU-MER effectively and in a timely manner. At the time, the authors expected the Czech government to establish the competent authorities shortly.

In December 2025, the same group of authors published a second report examining the penalty provisions in the draft legislation intended to implement the EU-MER. The Czech Minister of the Environment had submitted the draft to the Prime Minister on 11 November 2025.[6] However, almost one year later, the Czech government has not yet considered that draft or submitted it to Parliament.

For the sake of readability, and with the agreement of the authors of the reports cited in footnotes 4–6, this report occasionally reproduces short passages or elements from those reports where rephrasing would add no substantive value. Such wording is not individually attributed each time it appears.

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[3] See: https://www.globalmethanepledge.org/#about (last accessed on 9 October 2026).

[4] Piria, Raffaele, Ramiro de la Vega and Aleš Jeník (2025): Implementing the EU Methane Regulation in Czechia. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.ecologic.eu/20098 // Czech version: Piria, Raffaele, Ramiro de la Vega and Aleš Jeník (2025): Provádění nařízení EU o metanu v České republice. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.cde-org.cz/cs/blog/implementace-evropske-metanove-legislativy-v-cesku/2735

[5] Piria, Raffaele, Ramiro de la Vega, Leon Martini and Eike Karola Velten (2024): Implementing the EU Methane Regulation, Working Paper N° 1. Tasks and resources needed at the national level. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.ecologic.eu/19718 // Piria, Raffaele and Leon Martini 2024: Implementing the EU Methane Regulation, Working Paper N° 2. Governance at the national level: responsible ministries and competent authorities. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.ecologic.eu/19719 // Piria, Raffaele, Stephan Sina and Lina-Marie Dück 2024: Implementing the EU Methane Regulation, Working Paper N° 3. Penalties and selected legal issues. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.ecologic.eu/19720

[6] Piria, Raffaele, Ramiro de la Vega and Aleš Jeník (2025): Czechia's Draft Penalty Rules for Violations of the EU Methane Regulation. Ecologic Institute, Berlin. Available at: https://www.ecologic.eu/20278

1 Designating and Empowering the Competent Authorities

Most EU-MER implementation activities at Member State level are to be carried out by competent authorities (CAs) designated by each Member State. Until the CAs have been established and provided with the necessary powers and resources, implementation of the EU-MER is impeded or, in some respects, impossible.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) of the EU-MER, each Member State must "*designate one or more competent authorities responsible for monitoring and enforcing the application* [of this Regulation]". The Member States were required to notify the European Commission of the names and contact details of the CAs by 5 February 2025. Pursuant to Article 4(3), each Member State must ensure that its CAs have adequate powers and resources to carry out their tasks under the EU-MER.

By 31 March 2025, the cut-off date for our report cited in footnote 4, the Czech government had not published any information on the designation of CAs, and there was no evidence that it had notified the Commission. Czechia appears to have notified the Commission at a later date, since the Commission subsequently published a list of CAs that includes Czechia. The information it contains for Czechia is reproduced in Table 1.

Table 1: Information on Czech competent authorities published by the European Commission

Responsibility	Competent authority	Contact	Functional mailbox
Mining operations including those connected with underground storage facilities	The State Mining Authority of the Czech Republic (Státní báňská správa ČR)	https://cbu.gov.cz/	info@cbu.gov.cz
Energy Infrastructure, except underground storage facilities	The State Energy Inspection (Státní energetická inspekce)	https://sei.gov.cz however, the link provided in the PDF of the Commission's website leads to the State Mining Authority's website https://cbu.gov.cz/	posta@cr-sei.cz
Overall implementation and Imports	Ministry of the Environment	https://www.mzp.cz however, same as line above	info@mzp.gov.cz

Source: European Commission, List of competent authorities on methane emissions (PDF), available on the Commission's methane emissions webpage: https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/carbon-management-and-fossil-fuels/methane-emissions_en (last accessed on 9 October 2026).

The three URLs given in the Commission's list are the generic websites of the respective institutions. As noted in the table, all three hyperlinks in the Commission's PDF in practice lead to the website of the State Mining Authority. A search of that website on 15 October 2026 found no reference to the EU-MER. Searches in Czech for "methane" and "methane emissions" produced no results. We repeated the search on the website of the district mining authority responsible for the Ostrava area

(https://cbu.gov.cz/obu/ostrava), which is relevant to coal mining activities. This search also produced no results.

According to the list of CAs on the European Commission's website, the overall responsibility for EU-MER implementation in Czechia lies with the Czech Ministry of the Environment (MŽP). On 15 October 2026, a search of its Czech-language website (https://www.mzp.gov.cz/cz) for content related to the EU-MER and methane emissions from the energy sector found only two pages:

1) A breakdown of the Ministry's departmental responsibilities dated August 2026, stating that the Climate Protection Strategy Department is responsible for matters concerning the implementation of the regulation on reducing methane emissions in the energy sector.

2) A page, available in Czech but not in the English version of the website,[7] which contains only a brief summary of the content of the EU-MER and a link to the EUR-Lex page with its Czech version. The page provides no information on the competent authorities or on any other aspect of EU-MER implementation in Czechia.

On the website of the State Energy Inspection (https://sei.gov.cz/), the search tool returns several results for "methane" and "emissions", but none of them relates to the EU-MER.

CORE FINDING

As at 28 October 2026, Czechia had not adopted a legal act formally empowering the CAs.

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Given the near-total absence of published information on implementation, and on the basis of our own research, there are serious questions as to whether the CAs notified by the Czech government to the European Commission are in practice carrying out a significant share of their tasks under the EU-MER.

In these circumstances, companies subject to EU-MER obligations that look for guidance on how to comply, for example to whom and in which format they should submit their reports, find no information on official Czech websites.

Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku (Centre for Transport and Energy – CDE), the Czech environmental organisation that co-publishes this report, repeatedly attempted to contact the State Mining Authority through the "functional mailbox" given in the European Commission's list of CAs to ask about the state of implementation, but received no reply. On a more positive note, both the MŽP and the State Energy Inspection (SEI) did respond. However, their answers provided little information on how the EU-MER is being implemented in Czechia.

[7] https://mzp.gov.cz/cz/agenda/klima-a-energetika/emise-metanu-v-energetice

After informal requests for information had proved unsuccessful, CDE submitted a formal request to SEI on 13 March 2026 under Act N° 106/1999 Coll. on Free Access to Information. CDE requested copies of all reports containing a quantification of methane emissions, pursuant to Article 12 of the EU-MER. The SEI rejected this request on 9 April 2026, arguing that the requested information is exempt from disclosure under Act No. 106/1999 Coll. On 21 April 2026, CDE appealed to the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO), which is responsible for supervising the SEI. The Ministry did not reply. Under Section 16 of Act No. 106/1999 Coll., which governs appeals, the superior authority - in this case the MPO - is required to issue a decision on an appeal within 15 days. If no decision is issued within this period, the appeal is automatically rejected and the original decision is upheld. No further appeal is possible against this outcome.

On 22 April 2026, CDE wrote informally to the European Commission describing the lack of implementation measures in Czechia, including the fact that no CAs had been empowered to act. On 4 June 2026, CDE received a response acknowledging receipt of CDE's letter and advising that, for the purpose of process optimisation, official complaints should be submitted via the Commission's formal communication channels. CDE submitted an official complaint on 10 June 2026. As at 28 October 2026, CDE had only received an acknowledgement of receipt and no further reaction.

In January 2026, the Czech Chamber of Commerce issued a position paper on the draft Government Legislative Work Plan for the remainder of 2026 and the Legislative Outlook for 2027–2029, in which it explicitly proposed including the draft act to implement the EU-MER in the 2026 Plan to provide legal certainty.[8] In March 2026, the new Czech government published its official Legislative Work Plan for 2026[9] and its Legislative Outlook for 2027–2029[10]. Neither document mentions the pending draft law needed to formally establish the CAs and to adopt the penalty rules, as required by Article 33 of the EU-MER:.

In conclusion, as at 28 October 2026, more than a year after the respective deadlines, Czechia has neither rules on penalties for infringements nor a legally binding framework establishing its CAs and empowering them to carry out their tasks as required by the EU-MER. As a result, staff at some of the CAs have reported informally that, although they are receiving some company reports, they have no mandate to assess or publish them, or to require companies to improve their compliance, as required by the EU-MER.

The government's legislative plans do not provide for remedying these deficiencies before the end of 2029.

[8] Hospodářská komora České republiky: Stanovisko HK ČR - Návrh plánu legislativních prací vlády na zbývající část roku 2026 a návrh výhledu legislativních prací vlády na léta 2027 až 2029. Available at: https://mpo.gov.cz/cz/rozcestnik/kontakty/kontakty-na-ministerstvo-prumyslu-a-obchodu--22974/

[9] Vláda České republiky: Plán legislativních prací vlády na zbývající část roku 2026. Available at: https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/media-centrum/dulezite-dokumenty/1234_2026_priloha_c-_1.pdf

[10] Vláda České republiky: Výhled legislativních prací vlády na léta 2027 až 2029. Available at: https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/media-centrum/dulezite-dokumenty/1234_2026_priloha_c-_2.pdf

2 State of EU-MER Implementation in Czechia

The absence of empowered CAs, as described in Chapter 1, has seriously undermined implementation of the EU-MER in Czechia, since most obligations depend on functional CAs. However, obligations for which the Ministry is directly responsible have not been fulfilled either.

Table 2 lists key milestones in the implementation of the EU-MER in Czechia, covering obligations with deadlines falling before 15 October 2026.

The first three columns are taken, with minor adaptations, from our earlier report, published in May 2025 (see footnote 4). The "By when" column gives the deadline under the EU-MER or, where there is none, an *indicative date in italics*. The "Who" column shows whether the EU-MER assigns responsibility to the Member State, represented by the responsible ministry (MŽP), or to the CAs, which in Czechia have been notified to the Commission but have not been formally empowered (see Chapter 1). The "Obligation" column briefly describes the action required. The "Assessment" column evaluates the extent to which the obligation has been fulfilled, based on the available evidence.

Table 2: Overview of EU-MER implementation in Czechia

By when	Who	Obligation	Assessment
5 Feb 2025	MŽP	Notify the Commission of the names and contact details of their CAs responsible for monitoring and enforcing the EU-MER. Ensure that the CAs have adequate powers and resources to perform the tasks set out in the EU-MER.	Czechia appears to have notified the names and generic contact details of its CAs (see Chapter 1). However, the CAs have not been formally empowered. The government has not submitted to Parliament the existing draft legal act to empower them. In practice, the designated CAs appear to be largely non-operational as far as implementation of the EU-MER is concerned.
Spring 2025	CA	The CA should be able to receive, analyse and respond to a series of incoming reports, including: - various venting and flaring notifications and reports that the operators must submit from January 2025 onwards; - leak detection and repair programmes for active oil and gas wells, which the operators must submit by 5 May 2025; - reports that importers must submit by 5 May 2025.	According to information obtained by CDE from SEI staff, some operators did submit reports. However, as explained in Chapter 1, the designated CAs are not empowered to process them.

		After these deadlines, the CAs must deal with a continuous flow of reports.	
5 Aug 2025	MŽP	Notify the Commission of rules on penalties applicable to infringements and measures to implement those rules.	Czechia has not adopted penalty rules, nor has the government submitted a draft law containing such rules to Parliament.
5 Aug 2025	MŽP	Complete the inventories of disused oil and gas wells. The inventories must be kept updated at least annually afterwards.	According to the information that CDE obtained in 2025 from the department that handled implementation before the new Czech government reorganised the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry had started producing a map based on information from the Czech Geological Survey, rather than an inventory, intended for submission to the Commission. However, this map is not publicly available and the available evidence suggests that it may not have been completed.
2025	MŽP	Identify legal entities with adequate financial means to fulfil the methane emission mitigation obligations concerning abandoned assets. There is no formal EU-MER deadline, but the sooner these entities are identified, the lower the cost to public budgets and the sooner emissions are reduced, with corresponding benefits for the climate.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research.
Ca. Aug 2025	CA	Finalise lists of sites to be inspected and start routine inspections. This is not a formal EU-MER deadline, but in practice it is necessary in order to complete the first round of routine inspections by May 2026 as required by the EU-MER.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research.
5 Aug 2025	CA	Receive, analyse and react to reports that oil and gas sector operators must submit, quantifying source-level methane emissions, as well as the reports to be submitted by coal mine and drainage station operators containing annual source-level CH_4 emissions.	No evidence of action is publicly available. It is likely that the SEI received some reports from gas infrastructure operators, but the available evidence suggests they probably have not been processed. The authority that, according to the list provided by the Commission, should be responsible for coal mines is not responding to public enquiries; there

			are therefore doubts as to whether coal mine operators are able to submit their reports properly. Importers could submit reports directly to the Ministry of the Environment, but given the lack of any information on the MŽP website (see Chapter 1) there are doubts as to whether they are able to submit their reports properly.
5 Nov 2025	CA	The CAs must publish the operators' reports referred to in the previous row.	No reports have been published.
2025	CA	Ability to receive and deal with complaints. The first complaints might be lodged in 2025, for example if operators and undertakings do not fulfil their reporting obligations.	The Czech authorities provide no guidance on how to lodge a complaint.
2026	CA	Ability to carry out inspections following a complaint.	There is no evidence that procedures for carrying out inspections have been established, or that resources to do so have been made available. If the (potential) CAs cannot publish the reports submitted by the operators, it appears unlikely that they can carry out inspections.
5 Feb 2026	CA	Receive, analyse and react to reports that oil and gas sector operators must submit, quantifying source-level methane emissions for operated assets, based on measurement or, where direct measurement is not possible, at least specific emission factors based on source-level quantification or sampling.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research. It is likely that the SEI received some reports from gas infrastructure operators, but the available evidence suggests they probably have not been processed.
5 May 2026	CA	The CAs must publish the operators' reports referred to in the previous row.	No inspection reports have been published.
5 May 2026	CA	Finalise the first round of routine inspections.	There is no evidence that any inspection has been carried out. Field work carried out in September 2026 by CDE with the Clean Air Task Force at sites with oil and gas wells and on gas infrastructure found no physical evidence of inspections, such as the tags left by inspectors in France showing the date of a previous inspection.

5 May 2026	MŽP	Report emissions from disused coal mines, and oil and gas wells, or ensure that the responsible entities do so.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research.
31 May 2026	CA	Receive, analyse and react to the updated reports from oil and gas sector operators and from coal mine and drainage station operators.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research.
5 Aug 2026	CA	Review and publish the reports on CH_4 emissions from disused coal mines and oil and gas wells.	No reports have been published. There is no evidence of action.
5 Aug 2026	MŽP	Prepare mitigation plans for disused coal mines and oil and gas wells, or ensure that the responsible entities do so.	No evidence of action is publicly available or has been identified in our research.

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