

MR2R Network – Inaugural Plenary Meeting

14-15 April 2026, Paris

Day 1 – Strategic Context, Markets and Finance

The first day of the MR2R Network's inaugural Plenary Meeting focused on establishing a shared strategic understanding of methane mitigation within the evolving global energy and climate landscape. **Opening remarks** by senior representatives of the Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CCAC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) underscored the importance of methane abatement and the role of regulator-to-regulator cooperation in translating high-level pledges and commitments into effective national frameworks.

The opening substantive session provided participants with a **data-driven overview** of recent analytical work shaping global methane mitigation efforts. Drawing on the *Global Methane Status Report 2025* and the *Global Methane Tracker 2026*, speakers highlighted current trends in methane emissions in the energy sector, the scale of cost-effective mitigation opportunities, and the implications for energy security and near-term climate outcomes. This session reinforced the role of methane abatement as one of the most impactful levers for mitigating climate change and strengthening energy security, while emphasising the need for concrete national and global action.

The next session examined the **outlook for high-level methane commitments** across international fora, including the G7 and COP. Panelists discussed how methane has increasingly moved from a technical issue to a prominent element of climate diplomacy, reflected in joint statements, political pledges and emerging expectations for national regulatory action. The discussion highlighted both the opportunities created by this political momentum and the challenges regulators face in aligning domestic legal frameworks with evolving international commitments.

The afternoon sessions focused on the growing interaction between **methane regulation and market dynamics**. Participants examined how initiatives such as the EU Methane Regulation and the CLEAN Initiative are beginning to integrate methane intensity criteria into trade flows. The discussion explored practical challenges for importing and exporting countries, including data availability, comparability of metrics, and the risk of market fragmentation if standards diverge. Speakers emphasised the need for coordination and dialogue to ensure that market-based approaches reinforce, rather than undermine, effective regulatory outcomes.

This market-oriented discussion was complemented by a session dedicated to **company perspectives** on oil and gas methane abatement. Senior representatives from national and international oil and gas companies shared insights into how firms are managing regulatory, market and political risks associated with methane emissions. The discussion highlighted the increasing alignment on methane mitigation in corporate strategies, regulatory expectations and investment decisions, while also identifying areas where clearer regulatory guidance and improved data systems could reduce uncertainty and support compliance.

The day concluded with a forward-looking session on how methane performance is increasingly being considered as part of **capital allocation and financing decisions**. Panelists from investment, philanthropic and civil society organisations discussed how methane abatement is becoming more prominent in investment decision-making and sustainable finance frameworks. The discussion addressed disclosure requirements, the role

of regulators in facilitating transparency, and opportunities to mobilise capital for methane abatement projects.

Day 2 – Regulatory Design, Implementation and Tools

The second day of the Plenary shifted the focus to the practical realities of regulatory design, implementation and enforcement. The opening session addressed challenges and opportunities in **designing effective methane regulations**. Drawing on both analytical input and country experiences, the discussion explored key elements of regulatory design, with contributions from countries at different stages of regulatory development highlighting common challenges, such as balancing ambition with feasibility, building technical capacity, and ensuring that regulations are adaptable as data quality and technologies improve.

Building on this foundation, participants turned their attention to **coal mine methane**. The session provided an overview of regulatory strategies for managing emissions from active and abandoned coal mines. Country experiences illustrated differing approaches shaped by geological conditions, legacy infrastructure and institutional arrangements, reinforcing the need for tailored regulatory solutions supported by international cooperation and shared learning.

The afternoon sessions concentrated on **implementation and enforcement**, recognising that regulatory effectiveness ultimately depends on compliance in practice. Presentations addressed practical challenges such as monitoring and verification, inspection regimes, enforcement tools and coordination between regulatory agencies, drawing from experiences of jurisdictions with enforceable methane regulations. The subsequent open discussion allowed participants to exchange views on what works in practice, where bottlenecks persist, and how international networks such as MR2R can help close implementation gaps.

The final substantive session highlighted **key tools and resources** available to regulators to support effective methane governance. Presentations covered satellite-based monitoring, emissions data platforms and analytical tools designed to help regulators understand emissions profiles, prioritise action and support enforcement. Speakers emphasised that while tools are rapidly improving, their effectiveness depends on regulatory integration, institutional capacity and clear legal mandates.

The Plenary Meeting concluded with **closing remarks** that summarised key discussions, identified emerging priorities and outlined a roadmap toward the 2027 MR2R Plenary Meeting.