The BIP Support Group is inviting new interested parties to become members!

Dear BIP stakeholder,

The Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP) has made significant strides over the past two years, advancing biomethane adoption across Europe and demonstrating how we can further accelerate progress towards the 35 bcm target and beyond.

The work of the BIP is bolstered by the Support Group, consisting of 20 members who not only contribute their expertise but also provide financial support to the project. We are pleased to announce that new opportunities are now available to join this group for the 2025–2026 term.

This document outlines the responsibilities and opportunities associated with joining this group and provides you with the opportunity to apply for membership in the upcoming term.

1. The vital role of the Support Group in advancing the mission of the BIP

As outlined in the BIP Work Programme [1], the Support Group represents the entire biomethane value chain within the BIP and provides essential financial support to the Secretariat. Comprised of up to 20 companies along with the European Biogas Association, the Support Group is instrumental in driving BIP's strategic initiatives.

The Support Group's mandate lasts for **two years** and any company active in the biomethane value chain is eligible to apply for membership.

The Support Group has three main responsibilities:

- Supply two of its members to the Governing Board, which is the steering body of the BIP (more information are under section 2), for a one-year term to represent the entire biomethane value chain.

[1] Download the BIP Work Programme here: https://bip-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Updated-February-2024_BIP-Work-Programme-adopted-by-GB_version-24-October-2022.pdf

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- Propose to the Governing Board SG members as candidates to become co-chair for each Task Force.
- Support company representatives serving on the Governing Board.

For more detailed information about the role of the Support Group, please visit our webpage here. To gain insights from past Support Group members about their experiences and contributions, you can watch the video here.

2. Responsibilities, way of working and benefits of SG membership

Support Group members commit to financially supporting the BIP Secretariat to ensure the effective operation of the Partnership, with an annual maximum contribution of €30,000. The exact contribution is proposed by the BIP Secretariat and approved by the Support Group at the end of each year for the following year.

This ensures that BIP membership remains completely free for the extensive network of stakeholders involved, making it attractive for all interested parties to join the Partnership.

Each Support Group company appoints a representative known as a Sherpa who acts as the intermediary between the Secretariat and the main Support Group member. Sherpas meet monthly to receive updates, provide input on ongoing and future activities, and report back to the main Support Group members.

Support Group members convene in dedicated meetings once per month via their Sherpas and at least twice per year at C-level to review strategic activities of the Partnership, receive updates on ongoing activities, and provide guidance on priorities and future initiatives.

SG membership's benefits:

- **Governing Board membership**: Support Group members can propose candidates for, or directly apply to be appointed as, Governing Board representatives of the value chain on a rotating basis. Selection of these members takes place through voting by all members of the SG. Each appointment is for a one-year term, with the possibility of a one-year extension subject to approval by Support Group members.

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The Governing Board is the highest body steering the Biomethane Industrial Partnership, consisting of representatives of the European Commission, Member States and the biomethane value and supply chain. It takes all strategic decisions related to the functioning of the BIP, including the creation of Task Forces and their deliverables, as well as timelines. For more info check the BIP Work Porgramme here under section 3.2.

- **Task Force co-chairs designation:** Support Group members can propose candidates for, or directly apply to be appointed as, Task Force co-chairs. The Governing Board makes the final decision on the candidates and must ensure that at least one of the co-chairs of each Task Force is a representative from the industry, including the Support Group.

Task Force Co-chairs are responsible for organizing, overseeing, and guiding their Task Force in alignment with the strategic direction set by the Governing Board. They work collaboratively to build consensus and coordinate with subgroup leaders and rapporteurs. Each Task Force is led by three to five co-chairs, ensuring diverse representation. The composition of co-chairs must include at least one representative from each of the following categories: a policymaker, an industry representative (including the Support Group), and a member from civil society or academia.

- **Regular progress updates on the work of the BIP**: SG members receive regular progress updates on the various activities performed by the BIP (e.g. deliverables, events, strategic meetings and communication activities) via their Sherpas, during dedicated monthly meetings.

- **Contribution to the BIP strategic planning:** SG members are actively consulted on the definition of the partnership's priorities and can suggest topics for discussion to the Co-chairs of the Task Forces and the Governing Board. They have the opportunity to propose new topics, suggest events and initiatives, and recommend specific actions

- **Active involvement in BIP events:** Support Group members can actively participate in BIP events, including conferences, workshops, webinars, fairs and meetings.

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3. SG criteria, application and selection process

Starting from **September 25** 2024**,** and for a period of three weeks until **October 16** 2024, **all BIP companies active in the biomethane value chain are invited to submit their applications** to join the Support Group by emailing the BIP Secretariat at secretariat@bip-europe.eu.

To apply for SG membership, the following criteria must be met:

1. Companies should support the objectives of the REPowerEU plan, in particular those related to biomethane and underwrite the mission statement of the BIP
2. SG members are represented at CEO/senior board level, with a clear willingness to take part in quarterly SG meetings
3. SG members each nominate a 'sherpa' who is available for max 10 hours per week to prepare and follow-up on SG meetings
4. Willingness to finance (part of) the BIP secretariat via a fee to the EBA. This fee will be determined annually based on a proposal by BIP Secretariat
5. Each SG member represents the full biomethane value chain rather than its own company interests.

Following the submission of all applications, the selection of SG members will take place through an online voting process involving all company members of the BIP Task Forces. The voting will be done digitally via a dedicated form that will be sent after the application deadline, on **October 17**. The voting process will last for 1 week, **until October 25.** The final selection will be announced by **October 31.** SG membership candidates cannot vote themselves.

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