

PRESS RELEASE

German National Hydrogen Import Strategy: Backing targets with suitable funding measures and pragmatic certification

Berlin, 24 July 2024: The German government has adopted its hydrogen import strategy. In doing so, the federal government wants to pave the way for a resilient supply of green hydrogen and its derivatives to the German economy. Successful implementation now requires appropriate funding measures and progress in certification.

“The German government has found its way back to a more pragmatic path,” welcomes Ralf Diemer, CEO of the eFuel Alliance, the new strategy. “Not limiting the use of hydrogen and its derivatives to individual sectors is essential for a rapid ramp-up and swift cost reductions. The fact that the German government wants to pursue this market-orientated approach is to be welcomed. It is now important to implement this strategy with the help of appropriate measures and remove the final hurdles.”

German demand for hydrogen and its derivatives is estimated at 95-130 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2030. As a result of rising consumption, the demand will increase dramatically by 2045. The German government assumes that there will be demand for 360-500 TWh of hydrogen and a further 200 TWh of hydrogen derivatives by 2045 - well above the demand stated in the update of the National Hydrogen Strategy. In order to reliably supply these quantities, in addition to the construction of corresponding pipelines, transport by ship, rail and road is also to be secured in order to be able to import both pure hydrogen and its derivatives such as synthetic diesel, ammonia, methane and methanol from partner regions.

Funding measures are extremely important to support the market ramp-up. One of the central funding instruments for the ramp-up of green hydrogen and eFuels in Germany is H2Global. The first results from two of three tender calls were announced on 11 July 2024 and had an insufficient impact. “The tender results show where the obstacles lie in the production of derivatives. Although there was a successful bid for eAmmonia, the companies interested in eKerosene production have withdrawn from the process. One of the reasons for this is the restrictive production criteria. The regulatory framework for the production and import of green hydrogen and its derivatives makes the good idea of the H2Global auction programme fade away,” criticises Diemer. “The German government must react and counteract the restrictive legal framework at EU level so as not to jeopardise the fulfilment of targets.”

>>>The eFuel Alliance e.V.<<<

The eFuel Alliance is an interest group committed to promoting political and social acceptance of eFuels and to securing their regulatory approval. We represent more than 170 companies, associations and consumer organizations along the eFuel production value chain. We stand for fair competition and equal competitive condition for all relevant emission reduction solutions. We are firmly committed to further climate change mitigation and seek recognition for the significant part eFuels can play in sustainability and climate protection. Our aim is to create the conditions for the industrial production and widespread use of CO₂-neutral fuels from renewable sources of energy.

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