

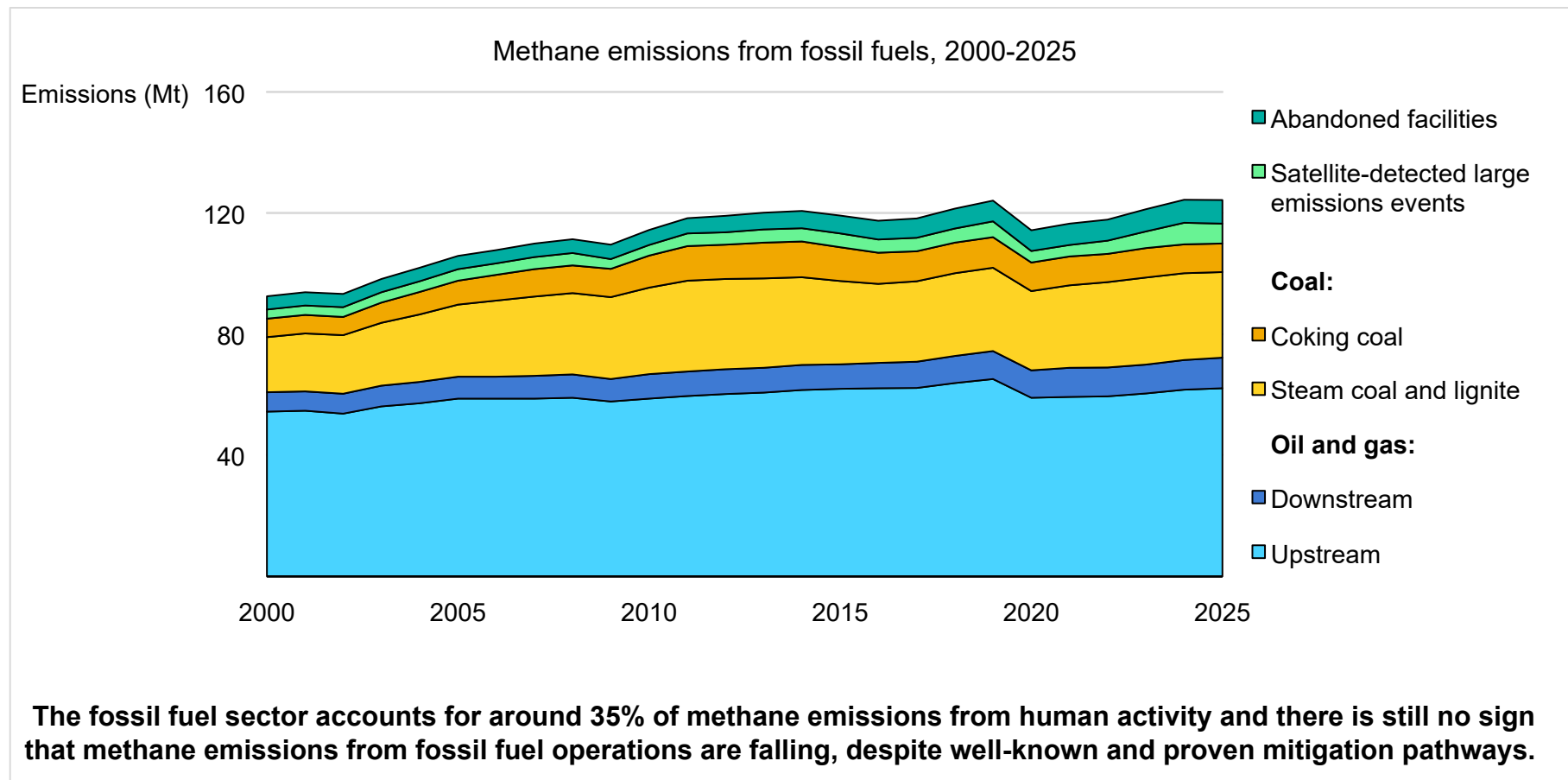


Global Trends in Methane Emissions

Sadhika Gulati, Legal and Regulatory Analyst

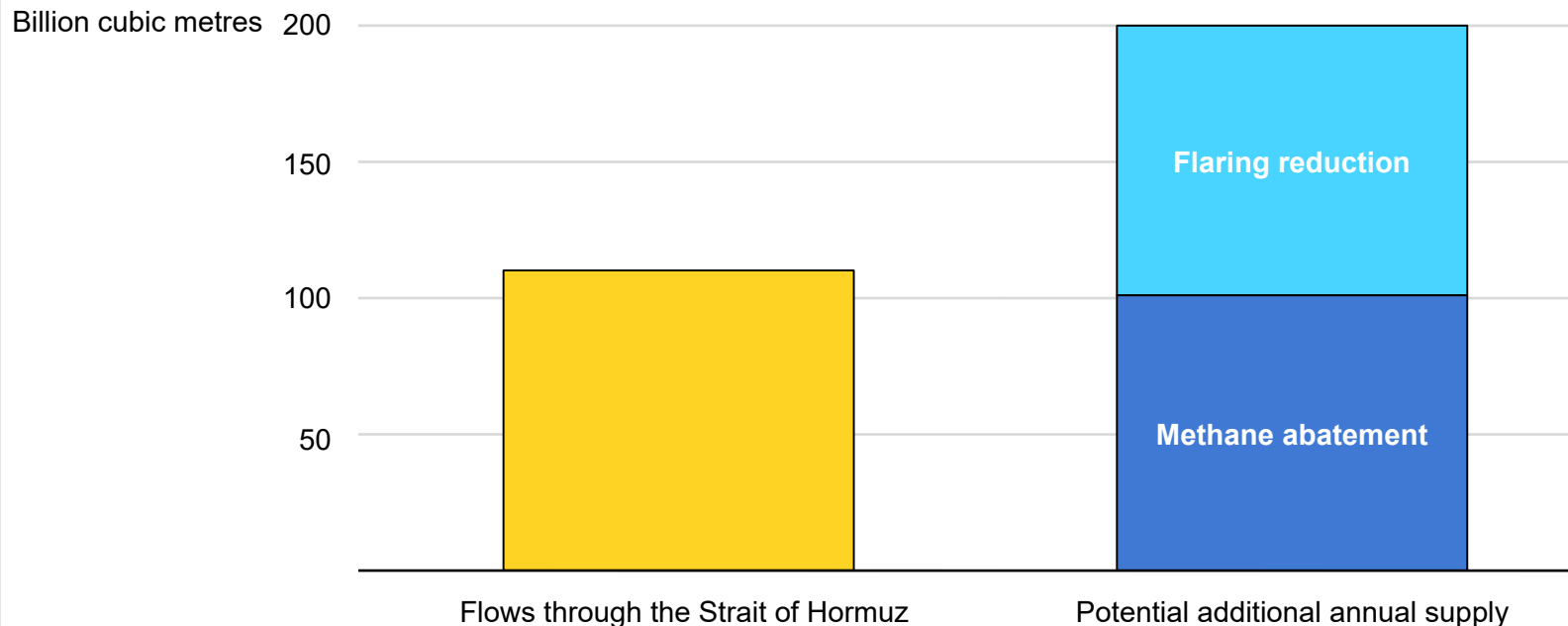
9 July 2026

No signs that global methane emissions fell in 2025



There are major energy security benefits from action on methane

Gas flows through Strait of Hormuz and potential additional gas supply annually from methane and flaring reductions in 2025



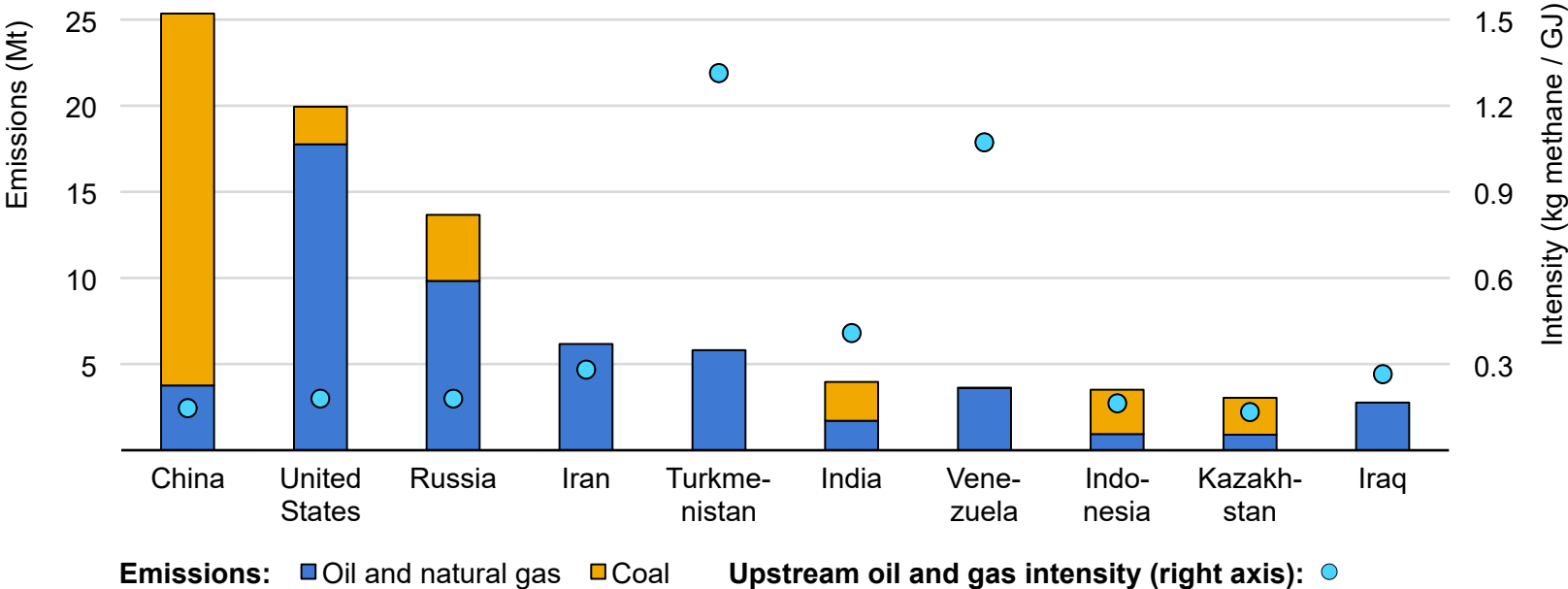
Cutting methane from oil and gas operations and eliminating non-emergency flaring could deliver nearly 200 bcm of gas to markets each year, double the annual supply volumes cut off from the ongoing crisis in the Middle East

Nearly 70% of fossil fuel methane comes from the top 10 countries



Methane emissions and intensities from the top 10 emitting countries, 2025

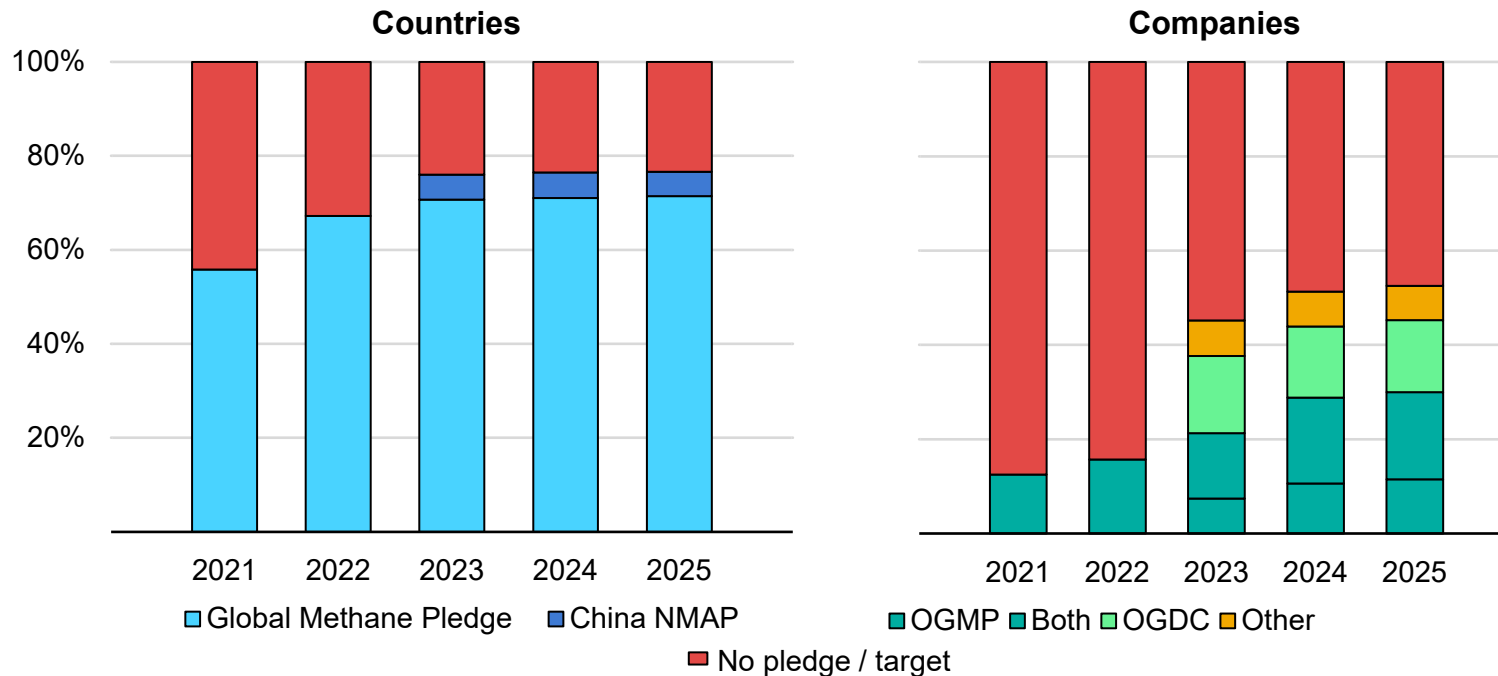
Data availability: Limited Moderate None Limited Limited Limited None None Limited Limited



The quality and reporting of methane emissions data have improved markedly in recent years, and while data availability remains uneven, our estimates suggest the best performers score over 100 times better than the worst

The coverage of pledges and targets continues to expand

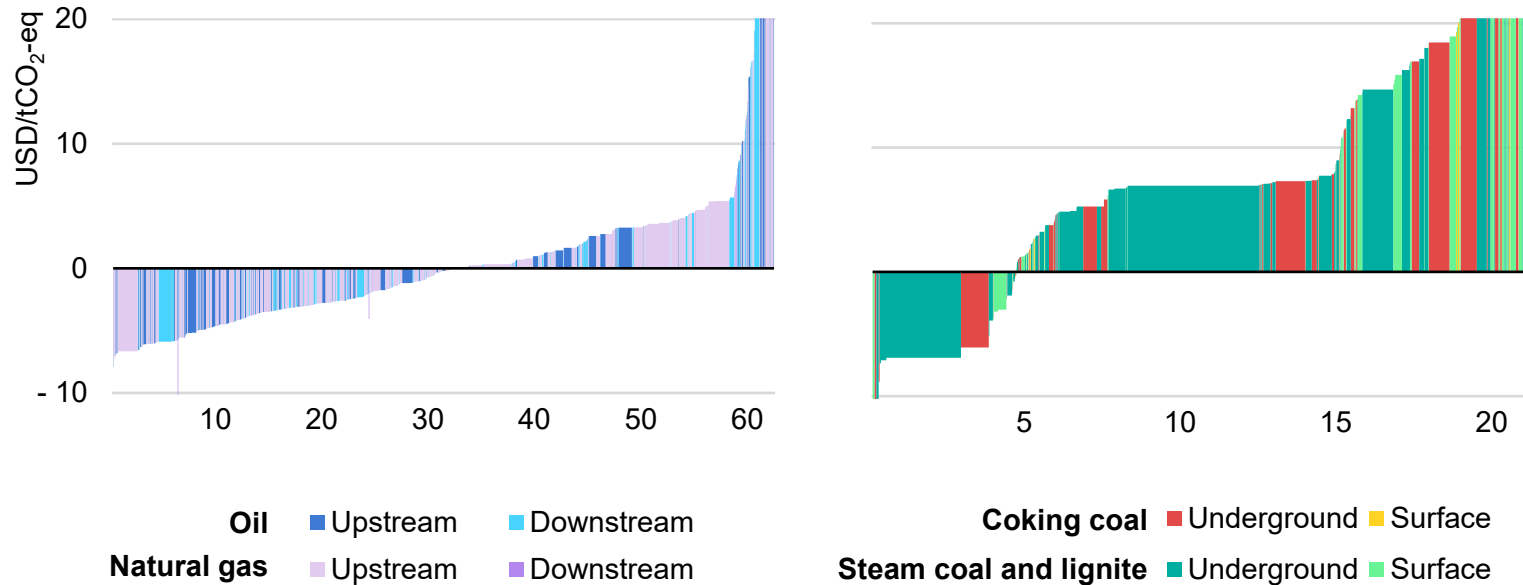
Global oil and gas production covered by country and company pledges



The past five years has brought considerable progress in government and industry engagement on methane, the focus now needs to turn to robust operational standards, policy action and technology deployment

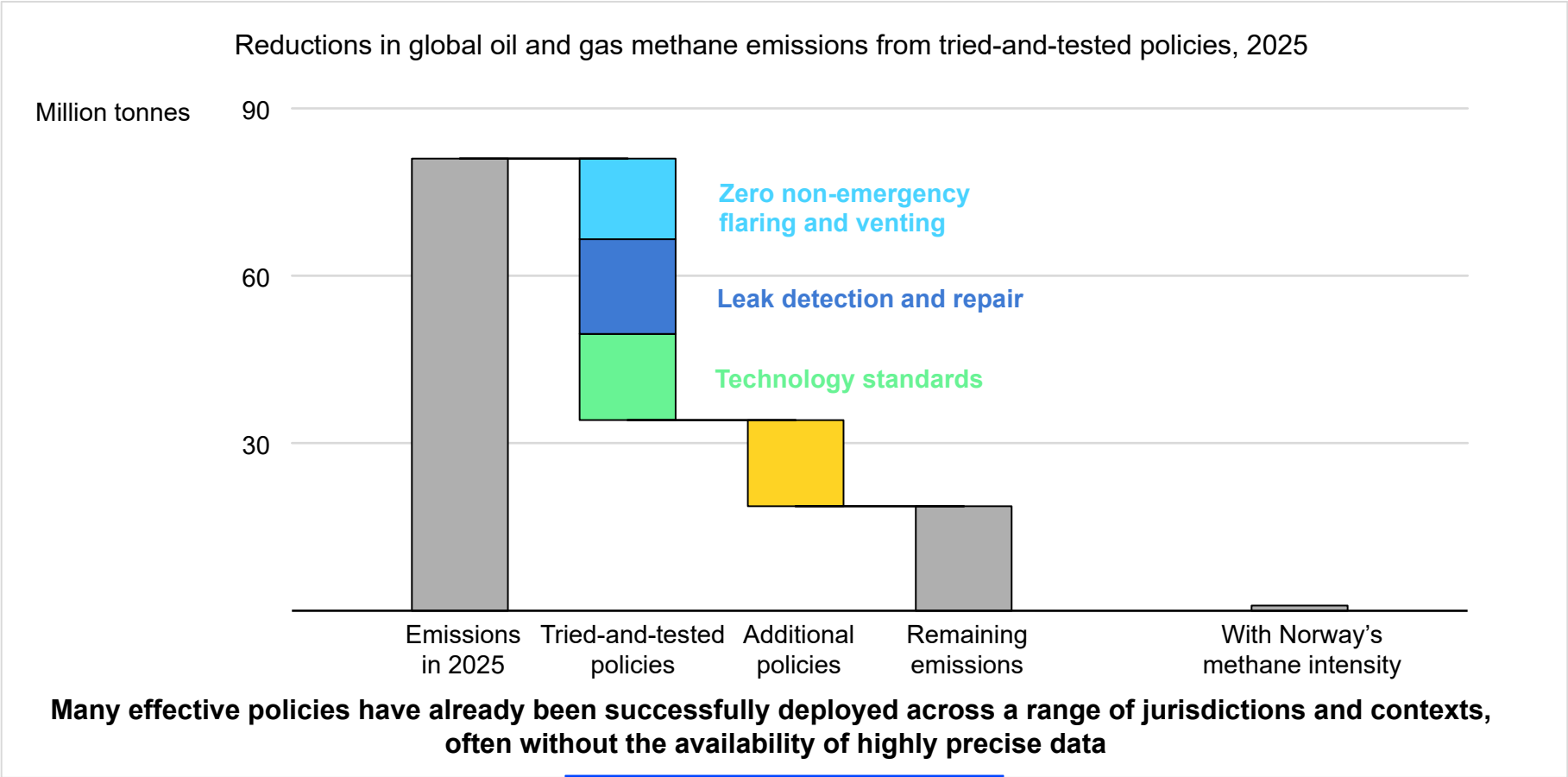
Around 30% of emissions could be reduced at no net cost

Marginal abatement cost curves for methane emissions from oil, natural gas and coal, 2025



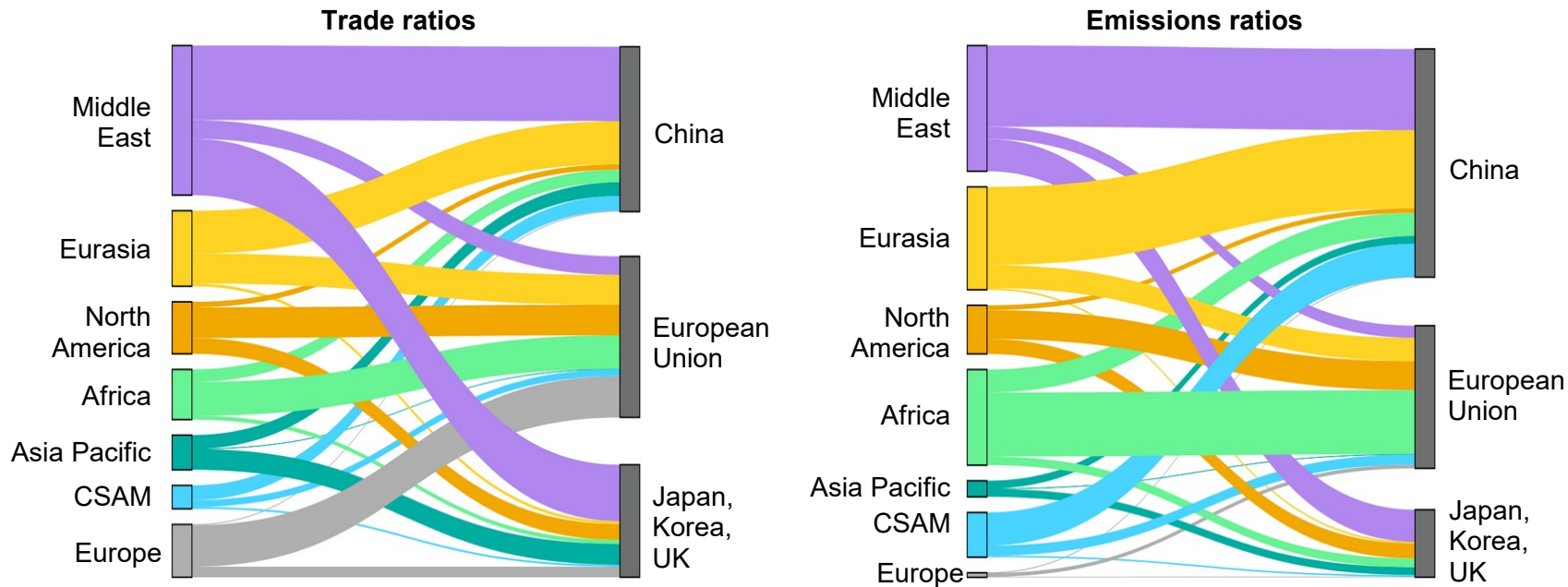
Around 70% of methane emissions from fossil fuels can be avoided with existing technology, and 30% at no net cost. The economics of abatement are even more attractive in 2026, given higher prices from the Middle East conflict.

Tried-and-tested policies could cut global emissions in half



Momentum is growing for a near zero methane marketplace

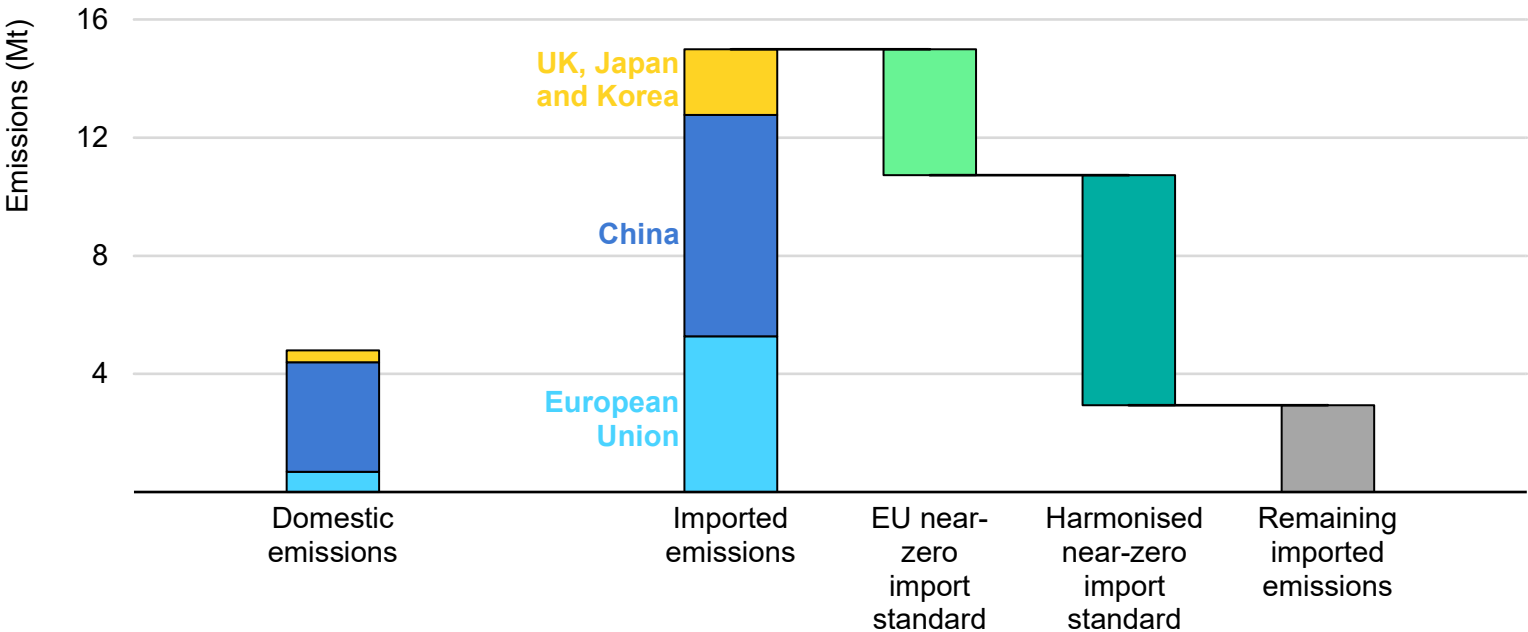
Oil and gas trade flows and imported methane emissions for selected importing economies, 2024



Near zero methane standards could cut upstream emissions by 20%



Potential methane emissions reductions from import standards in selected economies in full-compliance scenario, 2025



If the methane intensity of all imported oil and gas to the EU was reduced to 0.2%, emissions would fall by over 4 Mt.
If the UK, Japan, Korea and China were to implement a similar standard, emissions would be reduced by 12 Mt.

