Total is a member of many industry associations and has published a list of its affiliations since 2016. It typically cooperates with these organizations on technical matters, but some take public stances on other issues, such as climate. The Group verifies that those organizations hold positions aligned with its own, and regularly reviews each organization’s stance on climate issues.

Total and industry organizations
Total joins national and international business and industry associations, particularly when collective action is more effective than isolated steps. Through these organizations, the Group can help to define technical standards, for example, and also make its voice heard with regard to government regulations or policies related to its business.

In most cases, an organization’s governance implies that adopted positions reflect a consensus view among its members, and accordingly may not reflect the views of every member. Total’s representatives make it their priority to support, defend and promote its position within those organizations. If there is disagreement, its representatives reaffirm Total’s stance and advocate positions that are consistent with Total’s stated positions.

A review of industry affiliations
In 2019, Total examined the most significant industry associations to which it belongs to conduct a preliminary review of their stance on climate issues, and then updated that review in 2020. For those with a stated public position, the Group examined whether that position was aligned with its own, based on six criteria (see sidebar).

Total may choose to state a position publicly in response to proposals that are clearly contrary to one or more of these criteria. In late 2019, for example, the Group voiced its opposition to a proposed rollback in methane regulations in the United States. In 2020, Total affirmed its support for policies in the U.S. that would improve financial transparency regarding payments made by the extractive industries, similar to those adopted for European businesses in recent years (including Total, as of 2015).

For each criterion, public positions by industry associations that are contrary to those of the Group were considered to be “Not Aligned” and ambiguous positions were considered to be “Partially Aligned.” Concerning the first two criteria (scientific position and support for the Paris Agreement), the absence of a public position was interpreted as partial alignment. For the other criteria, the absence of a position was not taken into account in the review.

Once Total had completed its analysis, it assigned each association to one of three categories, based on the level of alignment with its own positions: “Not Aligned” (at least one criterion with a “Not Aligned” position), “Partially Aligned” (one or more criteria with “Partially Aligned” positions), or “Aligned” (for all of the criteria addressed by the association, the stated positions were in line with Total’s).

Three associations had been classified as “Partially Aligned” in 2019 and were therefore reevaluated more closely.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC): This association recently published its climate policy principles, which are aligned with Total’s positions, including with regard to the development of renewable energies (the criterion on which it was partially aligned in the 2019 analysis). Therefore, the ACC is now classified as “Aligned.”

The American Petroleum Institute (API): The API demonstrated its intention to address climate as a separate issue by establishing a special committee, parallel to its long-standing Upstream and Downstream Committees. It has not, however, changed its support for a rollback in U.S. regulations on methane emissions. Consequently, the API remains classified as “Partially Aligned.”

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP): pursuant to its gradual exit from oil sands, Total will not renew its membership in this industry association.

The 2020 analysis also found that the Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) had strong expectations about policies to reduce methane emissions; TXOGA was therefore classified as “Partially Aligned.”

For the Partially Aligned associations, Total has chosen to advocate participation in industry associations or to seek a change in each association’s position.
GETTING TO NET ZERO SEPTEMBER 2020

RESULTS OF OUR REVIEW OF EACH ASSOCIATION’S POSITION ON THE CLIMATE

PARTIALLY ALIGNED

American Petroleum Institute (API)
Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA)

Our analysis indicates that these associations are partially aligned with Total on one or more of the following criteria:
- The Paris Agreement (API).
- Carbon pricing (API).
- The development of renewable energies (API).
- The role of natural gas (API, TXOGA), and particularly on the support by those organizations for the rollback of U.S. regulations on methane emissions.

Our policy with these associations is as follows:
- Express the points on which it disagrees.
- Maintain its commitment to promoting its position.
- Reevaluate its alignment in the future and reassess its membership if necessary.

ALIGNED

American Chemistry Council (ACC)
Association Française des Entreprises Privées (AFEP, French Association of Private Enterprises)
Association Française du Gaz (AFG, French Gas Association)
Assomineraria (Italian Petroleum and Mining Industry Association)
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA)
Belgian Petroleum Federation (BPF)
BusinessEurope
European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)
Danish Shipping (Dii)
Essenci.
Eurogas
European Round Table for Industry (ERT)
France Chimie
FuelsEurope
International Air Transport Association (ATA)
International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)
International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)
IPECA
MEDEF
MineralWirtschaftsverband (MWV)
Norsk Olje Og Gass (NOROG)
Oil & Gas Denmark (OGD)
Oil and Gas UK (OGUK)
UK Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA)
Union Française de l’Électricité (UFE)
Union Française des Industries du Pétrole (UFIP)
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

The analysis indicates that these associations are aligned with Total on the criteria selected for this review. Total will maintain its membership in these associations in order to promote its positions on the climate and other issues.