

Single and mixed gas permeability studies on mixed matrix membranes composed of MIL-101(Cr) or MIL-177(Ti) and highly permeable Polymers of Intrinsic Microporosity.

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Abstract

The gas transport properties of mixed matrix membranes (MMMs), prepared by dispersing nanoparticles of MOFs MIL-101(Cr) or MIL-177(Ti) into highly permeable Polymers of Intrinsic Microporosity PIM-EA-TB or PIM-TMN-Trip, were investigated. The homogeneity of the dispersion was confirmed by means of Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) mapping analysis. Single gas time-lag measurements provided the permeability and ideal selectivity of different gas pairs, both after treatment of the MMMs with methanol and after natural aging over an extended period (up to 2000 days). This data demonstrated that the gas size-sieving pores of MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) and their good dispersion into the PIM matrix results in MMMs with enhanced gas separation performance, as compared to films composed solely of the polymer. The comparison of actual permeability with Maxwell model for PIM-EA-TB with both MOFs confirmed the good dispersion and the absence of anomalies, whereas the inconsistency of permeability with prediction data for PIM-TMN-Trip suggests that the MOFs improved the polymer properties, stiffening or occupying

33 the polymer free volume. In particular, the incorporation of MIL-101(Cr) into PIM-EA-TB
34 significantly enhances the H₂ permeability from ~ 6000 to 13000 Barrer, with a concurrent
35 increase of the H₂/N₂ selectivity from 14 to 21. MIL-177(Ti) also enhances the H₂/N₂
36 selectivity to 20 due to a slight reduction of the N₂ permeability. The addition of MIL-101(Cr)
37 and MIL-177(Ti) into the ultra-permeable PIM-TMN-Trip showed more modest increases in
38 H₂ permeability and H₂/N₂ selectivity from 4.6 to ~ 10. Hence the data for some of the MMMs
39 surpass the 2008, and even approach the 2015/2019 Robeson's upper bounds, particularly for
40 gas pairs including H₂.

41 **Keywords:** Mixed matrix membranes, PIMs, MOFs, MIL-101(Cr), MIL-177(Ti), gas
42 separation, Maxwell model

43 1 Introduction

44 Membranes derived from Polymers of Intrinsic Microporosity (PIMs) have demonstrated
45 promise for gas separations [1–5]. This is mainly attributable to their high permeability, often
46 paired with good selectivities for several commercially important gas pairs. Their remarkable
47 gas transport performance of PIMs can be attributed to their unique structural design inspired
48 by the pioneering theoretical insight of Freeman [6]. He proposed that high permeability (PA)
49 and good selectivity ($\alpha_{(A/B)}$) in polymeric membranes requires a combination of high free
50 volume and stiff polymer chains. PIM-1, the archetypal example of this class of materials,
51 exemplifies this concept as it features a fused-ring structure that imparts high stiffness to the
52 backbone, and a spiro-centre that provides the site of contortion, necessary to induce
53 microporosity and free volume [7,8]. This combination allowed the gas permeability data of
54 PIM-1 to define the 2008 Robeson's upper bounds [9]. Since then, many chemical and
55 structural modifications of PIM-1, aimed to improve their gas performance, have been
56 proposed [10]. For instance, chemical modification of the nitrile-group led to obtain amine-
57 [11,12], thioamide- [13], amidoxime- [14], and tetrazole-functionalized PIM-1 (TZPIM) [15],
58 all of which showed an improved affinity for CO₂ and, as consequence, an enhanced selectivity
59 for CO₂ based gas pairs. The incorporation of Tröger's Base (TB) units into PIMs initiated the
60 synthesis of a new family of, so-called TB-PIMs, such as PIM-EA-TB that was used in this
61 study ($PCO_2 \sim 6000$ Barrer, $\alpha_{CO_2/N_2} = 13$) [3,16]. The introduction of rigid and extended "spacer"
62 groups into novel TB-PIMs, provided additional inter-chain separation that contributed to the
63 synthesis of even more permeable PIMs, such as PIM-BTrip-TB and PIM-TMN-Trip-TB [17–
64 19]. A similar increase of the performance of benzodioxin-linked PIMs was achieved by

65 incorporating triptycene units, especially those linked to “spacer units”. For example, PIM-
66 TMN-Trip [17] exhibits comparable permeability to the much studied ultrapermeable
67 poly(trimethylsilylpropyne) but with significantly higher selectivity, which was attributed to
68 its pronounced size-sieving effect originating from its highly rigid chain structure [20]. More
69 recently, the replacement of the TMN with a variety of functional groups led to the
70 development of a new series of benzotriptycene-PIMs with tailored permeability and
71 selectivity. These advancements led to the proposed revisions to the Robeson upper bounds for
72 CO₂ based gas pairs [21] which has set a high benchmark for recently developed PIMs [22].
73 Despite their exciting initial performance, all PIMs are susceptible to the phenomenon of aging,
74 which refers to a process that occurs in glassy polymers when stored at temperatures lower than
75 their glass transitions [28]. Typically, polymer chains are initially “frozen” in a non-
76 equilibrium thermodynamic state, which creates a high free volume in the material. However,
77 over time (often just a few weeks), these chains relax and approach equilibrium, altering their
78 spatial arrangement and leading to the loss of part of the free volume, with a consequent
79 decrease in permeability often compensated with an increased selectivity for selected gas pairs
80 [29].

81 An effective technique for boosting the performance of PIMs for gas separation involves the
82 incorporation of insoluble nanoparticles (known as fillers) into a soluble PIM (the matrix),
83 which leads to the formation of mixed matrix membranes (MMMs). Their combination aims
84 to synergistically enhance both permeability and selectivity, along with mitigating aging
85 [23,24]. The solution-diffusion model, which typically describes the gas transport in PIMs
86 membranes, suggests that permeability of a gas through a dense polymer is the result of
87 contribution from both gas diffusion and gas solubility ($P = D * S$). Hence, the introduction of
88 porous fillers such as MOFs may increase the overall performance, simultaneously enhancing
89 both parameters[25]. In fact, MOFs with well-defined pores can improve the diffusion of
90 smaller gases, thus influencing the overall selectivity via an improved diffusivity selectivity
91 (D_A/D_B). In addition, MOFs can bear substituents which are aimed to enhance the affinity for
92 specific gases. In this case the selectivity would be primarily affected by an improved solubility
93 selectivity (S_A/S_B) [23,26,27]. The presence of MOFs, along with the improvement of initial
94 permeability and selectivity, may also influence the local polymer dynamics, mitigating the
95 gradual loss of free volume and, thus reducing aging [24,30,31]. Several research groups have
96 explored this approach by dispersing a variety of crystalline compounds in PIM-based
97 membranes, such as porous organic frameworks (POFs) [24], zeolitic imidazolate frameworks
98 (ZIF) [32–35], and metal organic frameworks (MOFs) [36–41]. For example, the addition of

99 ZIF-8 into PIM-1 pushed its performance above the 2008 upper bound for several gas pairs,
100 which was predominantly attributed an improvement of the diffusion selectivity [33]. Hao et
101 al. studied MMMs based on the combination of PIM-1 and ZIF-71, finding that the dispersion
102 of the filler of up to 30 wt% improves the CO₂ permeability from ~ 3000 to 8000 Barrer,
103 without apparent loss of selectivity. In the attempt to mitigate the aging process, Lau et al.,
104 incorporated the porous aromatic framework PAF-1 into PIM-1 resulting in a selectivity
105 increase with aging, without apparent loss of permeability [24]. Khdhayyer et al. and Ghalei et
106 al., improved on the performance of PIM-1 towards CO₂ by incorporating zirconium-based
107 MOF UiO-66 [40,42]. Yampolskii et al., dispersed MIL-101 into PIM-1, leading to the increase
108 the permeability of most gases, which they attributed to the enhancement of the diffusion due
109 to the insertion of the MOF [36], which is in agreement with work of Khdhayyer et al. [37].
110 Recently, Chen et al., incorporating KAUST-7 into PIM-1 produced MMMs with long-term
111 stability for CO₂/CH₄ separation [23].

112 To the best of our knowledge, here we report the performance of the first MMMs
113 prepared from two important MOFs, namely MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti), with the highly
114 permeable PIM-EA-TB and PIM-TMN-Trip as polymer matrices. These two fillers were
115 selected based on (i) the ability to be synthesized as homogenous nanoparticles, which is crucial
116 to ensure their homogenous dispersion in MMMs; (ii) their excellent chemical stability and
117 (iii) their large pore sizes, each with unique pore morphologies. In fact, MIL-101(Cr) shows
118 3D mesoporous cages (2.9 nm and 3.4 nm of diameter), accessible by windows of 1.6 and 1.2
119 nm [43], whereas MIL-177(Ti) possesses 1D hexagonal channels of ca 1.1 nm of diameter,
120 along with narrow (ca. 0.3 nm) 1D channel (Fig. 1A-B) [44]. MIL-101(Cr) is one of the most
121 studied MOFs, particularly for applications in gas separation [45]. The gas transport properties
122 of MMMs were tested via *single gas* permeation measurements in different membrane
123 conditions, such as freshly *MeOH treated* (which is known to reset the history of the film
124 casting), after *thermal treatment* (which is known to accelerate the aging), after long *natural*
125 *aging* (in some cases, after several years) and under real *mixed gas conditions*. All these
126 experiments aimed to thoroughly assess the performance of these new MMMs, studying in
127 detail the significance of the dispersion of these porous fillers, including their influence on the
128 aging phenomenon.

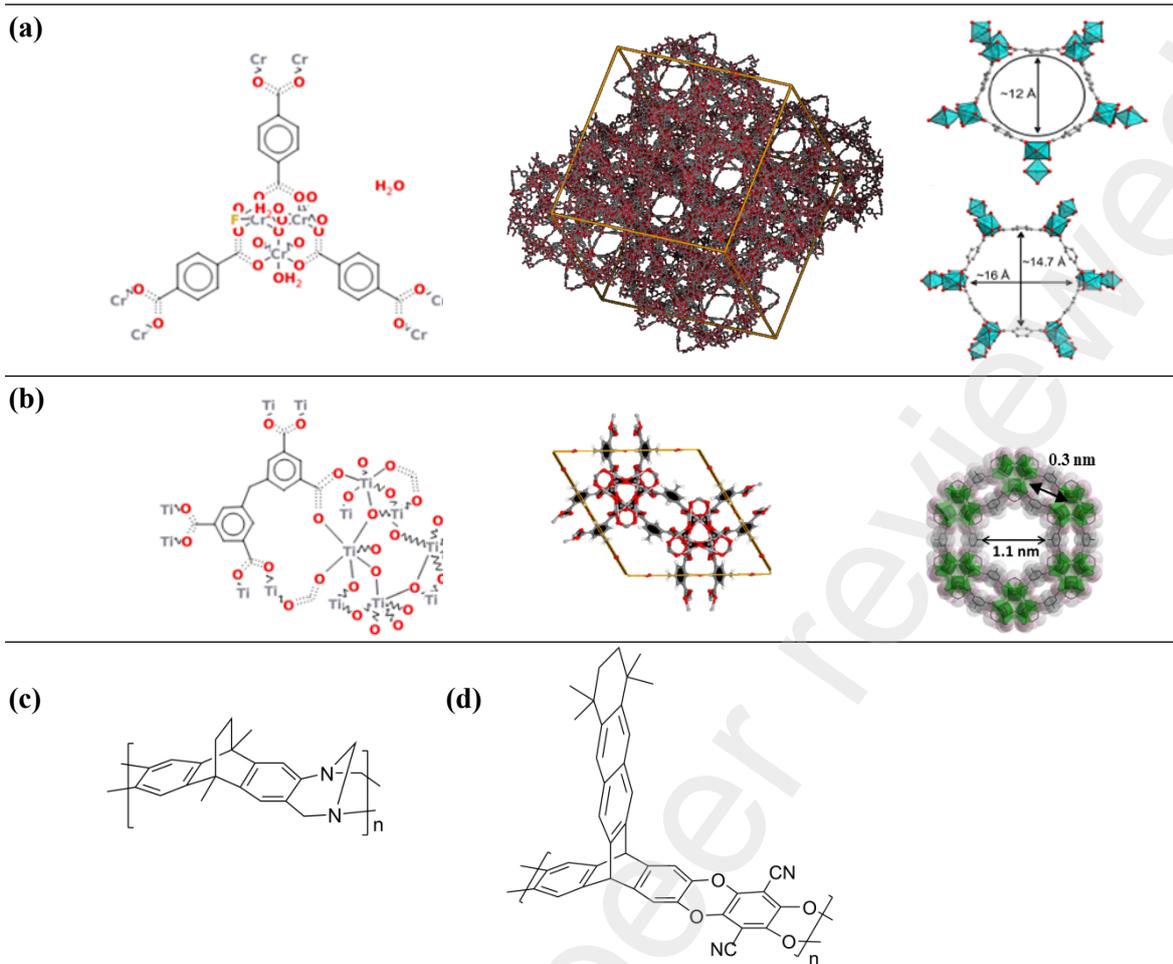


Fig. 1 (a) MIL-101(Cr) with the single unit, its framework cell, hexagonal and pentagonal cavities [46]; (b) MIL-177(Ti) with the single unit, its framework cell, hexagonal cavities and smallest narrow channels [44]; structures of polymers PIM-EA-TB (c) and PIM-TMN-Trip (d).

129 2 Experimental

130 2.1 Materials

131 All starting materials and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and were used as
 132 received without further purification. Gases were supplied by Sapio at a minimum purity of
 133 99.9995%.

134 **MIL-101(Cr):**

135 MIL-101(Cr) was synthesized following a microwave assisted hydrothermal synthesis, as
 136 previously reported [46]. The obtained nanoparticles were kept in CHCl_3 to avoid their
 137 aggregation and facilitate their dispersion with the polymers.

138 **MIL-177(Ti):**

139 MIL-177(Ti) was synthesized by refluxing a mixture of $\text{Ti}(\text{iPrO})_4$ and 5,5'-
140 methylenediisophthalic acid (H_4mdip) in formic acid under ambient pressure, as described
141 previously [44]. The MOFs were kept in CHCl_3 to avoid aggregation and facilitate their
142 dispersion with the polymers.

143 2.2 PIMs synthesis

144 PIM-EA-TB was synthesized from 9,10-dimethyl-2,6(7)-diamino-9,10-ethanoanthracene (Fig.
145 1c). The ethanoanthracene (EA) units are linked by Tröger's base, and the synthesis was
146 described in previous works [16,47]. PIM-TMN-Trip was produced using a monomer based on
147 triptycene that contains a fused tetramethyltetrahydronaphthalene (TMN) unit as described
148 previously [17] (Fig. 1d).

149 2.3 Membrane preparation and conditioning

150 All the pristine PIM and MMM films were cast from chloroform solutions. The PIM/filler
151 weight ratios were 9:1 and 7.5:2.5, corresponding to filler weight percentages of 10 wt% and
152 25 wt%, respectively. In a typical experiment (10 wt% and 25 wt% loading), a dispersion of
153 the filler in CHCl_3 (i.e., 70 mg in 6 mL of CHCl_3) was sonicated for 1 h, it was then poured
154 into a flask containing the PIM solution (i.e., 700 mg in 12 mL of CHCl_3) and then sonicated
155 for a further 1 h. The final dispersion was poured onto a Petri dish, covered with a glass lid and
156 the CHCl_3 allowed to slowly evaporate for three days, until the film was easily peeled off. This
157 procedure yielded robust, self-standing films for all the reported MMMs. Methanol treatment,
158 essential to remove the last traces of casting solvent, consisted in soaking the membrane for 24
159 h in anhydrous methanol, followed by drying for 24 h at 25 °C and ambient pressure. The
160 thermal conditioning was carried out in a vacuum oven, at 140 °C for 24 h. Membranes for
161 aging studies were kept at ambient conditions, without any control of humidity or air exposure.

162 2.4 MOFs characterizations

163 Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data were collected on a Panalytical X'Pert Pro
164 Diffractometer Model PW3040/60 using $\text{CuK}\alpha$ ($\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$) radiation at an operating voltage
165 of 40 kV and 30 mA at room temperature. A small amount of dry crushed powder was put onto
166 the sample holder and scanned over the angular range of 2-30° (2θ). Scanning electron
167 microscopy (SEM) was undertaken using a FEI Quanta 200 ESEM. For powder samples, the
168 powder was scattered onto a carbon disc. Then coated with platinum by sputtering using an
169 Emitech coater. Nitrogen adsorption measurements were carried out using a Micromeritics
170 ASAP 2020 sorption analyser. The samples were first outgassed at 150 °C for 16 h under high

171 vacuum. After cooling, degassed samples were reweighed and placed in the analysis port, then
172 manually outgassed for 2 h. Nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms were recorded at 77 K
173 and the BET surface areas were calculated from N₂ adsorption data by multi-point Brunauer-
174 Emmet-Teller (BET) analysis. The free space of the sample tube was measured after analysis.

175 2.5 Membranes characterization

176 Membranes were characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (Phenom Pro X
177 desktop SEM). The samples for cross-section SEM characterization were prepared by freeze-
178 fracturing in liquid nitrogen. Samples were analysed without sputter-coating with gold.
179 Elemental analysis and mapping analysis were performed with the Phenom Pro X desktop
180 SEM, which is equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy detector (EDX) and a
181 Phenom Elemental Mapping Software.

182 2.6 Permeability measurements

183 Single gas permeation tests were carried out at 35 °C and at a feed pressure of 1 bar, using a
184 fixed-volume pressure increase instrument constructed by EESR following the design of HZG,
185 and described elsewhere [48]. Permeability coefficients (P), and diffusion coefficients (D),
186 were determined by the time-lag method [49]. The apparent solubility, S , was indirectly
187 calculated assuming the validity of the solution diffusion model as $S = P/D$. The ideal
188 selectivity for a pair of gases is the ratio of the permeability of the two species, $\alpha_{(A/B)} = P_A/P_B$.

189 Mixed gas permeation tests were carried out using a custom made constant pressure/variable
190 volume instrument, described elsewhere [50], equipped with a quadrupole mass filter (HPR-
191 20 QIC Benchtop residual gas analysis system, Hiden Analytical). Model mixtures of air, flue
192 gas and biogas were prepared by mixing the pure gases with electronic mass flow controllers
193 in the ratios N₂/O₂ (80/20 vol%), CO₂/N₂ (15/85 vol%) and CO₂/CH₄ (35/65 vol%),
194 respectively.

195 3 Results and discussion

196 3.1 Chemical and Morphological characterization of MOFs: MIL-101(Cr) and MIL- 197 177(Ti)

198 The structures of MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) are schematically shown in Fig. 1a and Fig.
199 1b, respectively. MIL-101(Cr) is a chromium terephthalate-based MOF with a cubic zeotype,
200 built up from hybrid supertetrahedra (ST) of chromium trimers connected through terephthalate

201 linkers. It forms two distinct mesoporous cages with free internal diameters of 2.9 nm and 3.4
 202 nm [46]. MIL-177(Ti) is a porous 3D mdip-based Ti-MOF composed of a $Ti_{12}O_{15}$ cluster
 203 secondary building unit (SBU), with a honeycomb crystal packing that features nanosized
 204 pores. Adjacent SBUs are linked by both formate ions and mdip linkers and each ligand
 205 connects four Ti-oxoclusters. The resulting 3D arrangement features large (ca. 1.1 nm) and
 206 accessible hexagonal channels that run along the *c*-axis, along with narrower channels (ca. 0.3
 207 nm) along the *a*-*b* plane [44]. The powder X-ray diffraction patterns for both MOFs are shown
 208 in Fig. 2a-b, which show high crystallinity and purity that are in line with previously reported
 209 examples [44,46]. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) shows a predominantly octahedral
 210 morphology for MIL-101(Cr) (Fig. 2c), which is expected for such a cubic crystal system,
 211 while for MIL-177(Ti) shows a hexagonal morphology (Fig. 2d). Fig. 2c shows that the average
 212 particle size of MIL-101(Cr) falls within ca. 20-70 nm, while the average MIL-177(Ti) is found
 213 around 100-200 nm (Fig. 2d). N_2 sorption isotherms at 77 K of crystalline MIL-101(Cr) and
 214 MIL-177(Ti) demonstrates a high uptake at very low relative pressures (Fig. 2e-f) that is typical
 215 of highly microporous materials, as defined by IUPAC [2]. The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
 216 surface areas (BET, Table 1) suggests that MIL-101(Cr) is significantly more porous than MIL-
 217 177(Ti), with values of $\sim 3270 \text{ m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ that lie within the typical range reported before [46,51,52],
 218 whereas MIL-177(Ti) has a BET of only $600 \text{ m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ which is also lower than those of the two
 219 matrix polymers, (PIM-EA-TB = $1028 \text{ m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$; PIM-TMN-Trip = $1034 \text{ m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$).

Table 1. Measured BET surface area, Fractional Free Volume (FFV), density, average particle size of the MOFs and the PIMs used in this work.

Materials	BET surface area, ($\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$)	FFV (%)	Density (g cm^{-3})	Av. Size (nm)	Ref.
MIL-101(Cr)	3270	-	0.44	20-70	This work
MIL-177(Ti)	600	-	-	100-200	This work
PIM-EA--TB	1028	27.6	1.03		[16]
PIM-TMN-Trip	1034	31.4	0.965		[17]

220

221

222 3.2 The “matrix” polymers: PIM-EA-TB and PIM-TMN-Trip

223 PIM-EA-TB (Fig. 1c) [16] is derived from an ethanoanthracene diamine moiety that underwent
 224 polymerization via Tröger’s base formation. The rigid bridged bicyclic TB linking unit is
 225 attractive due to the combination of its V-shape, which confers additional contortion, coupled
 226 with two basic nitrogen which provides affinity for slightly Lewis acidic gases, such as CO_2 .
 227 PIM-EA-TB has been exploited in for applications such as desalination[53], catalysis[54],
 228 electrochemistry [55] and gas separation [56]. PIM-TMN-Trip (Fig. 1d) [17] was synthesised

229 via the well-established nucleophilic aromatic substitution of bis-catechol moieties (in this case
230 the benzotriptycene) with tetra-fluorinated monomers, which is typical of the archetypal PIM-
231 1[57]. These extended triptycene structural units provided the first examples of “ultra-
232 permeable” PIMs, which have redefined the Robeson upper limits for CO₂ based gas pairs [21].

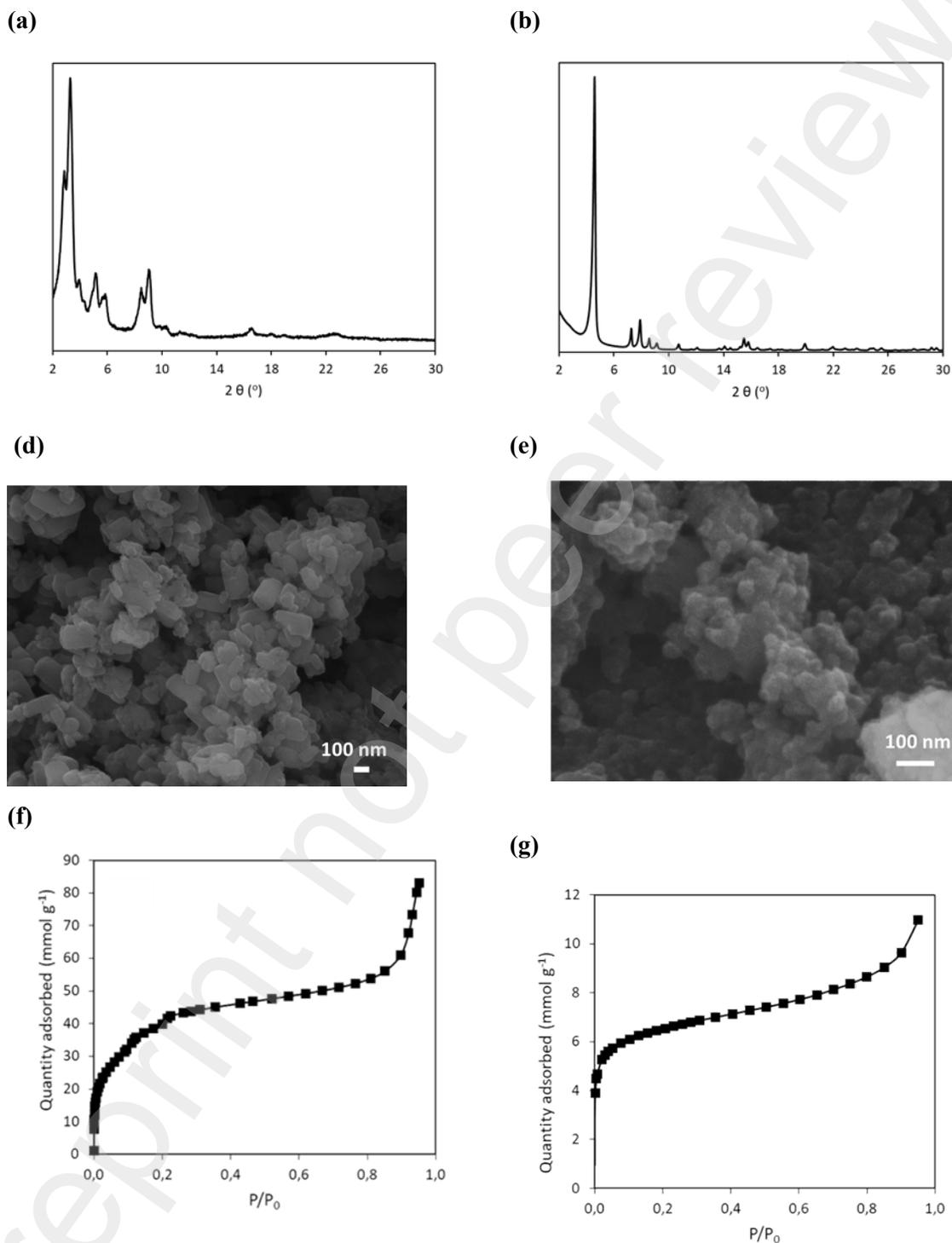


Fig. 2 (a-b) X-ray powder diffraction patterns, (c-d) SEM images, (e-f) 77 K N₂ sorption isotherms, of MIL-101(Cr) on the left and for MIL-177(Ti) on the right.

233

234 3.3 Chemical and Morphological characterization of the MMMs

235 All MMMs were obtained by sonicating a dispersion of the MOF in chloroform and pouring
 236 the appropriate amount into a chloroform solution of the matrix polymer. After casting the
 237 solution in a Petri dish and subsequent evaporation of the solvent, visually homogenous films
 238 were obtained (Fig. 3a).

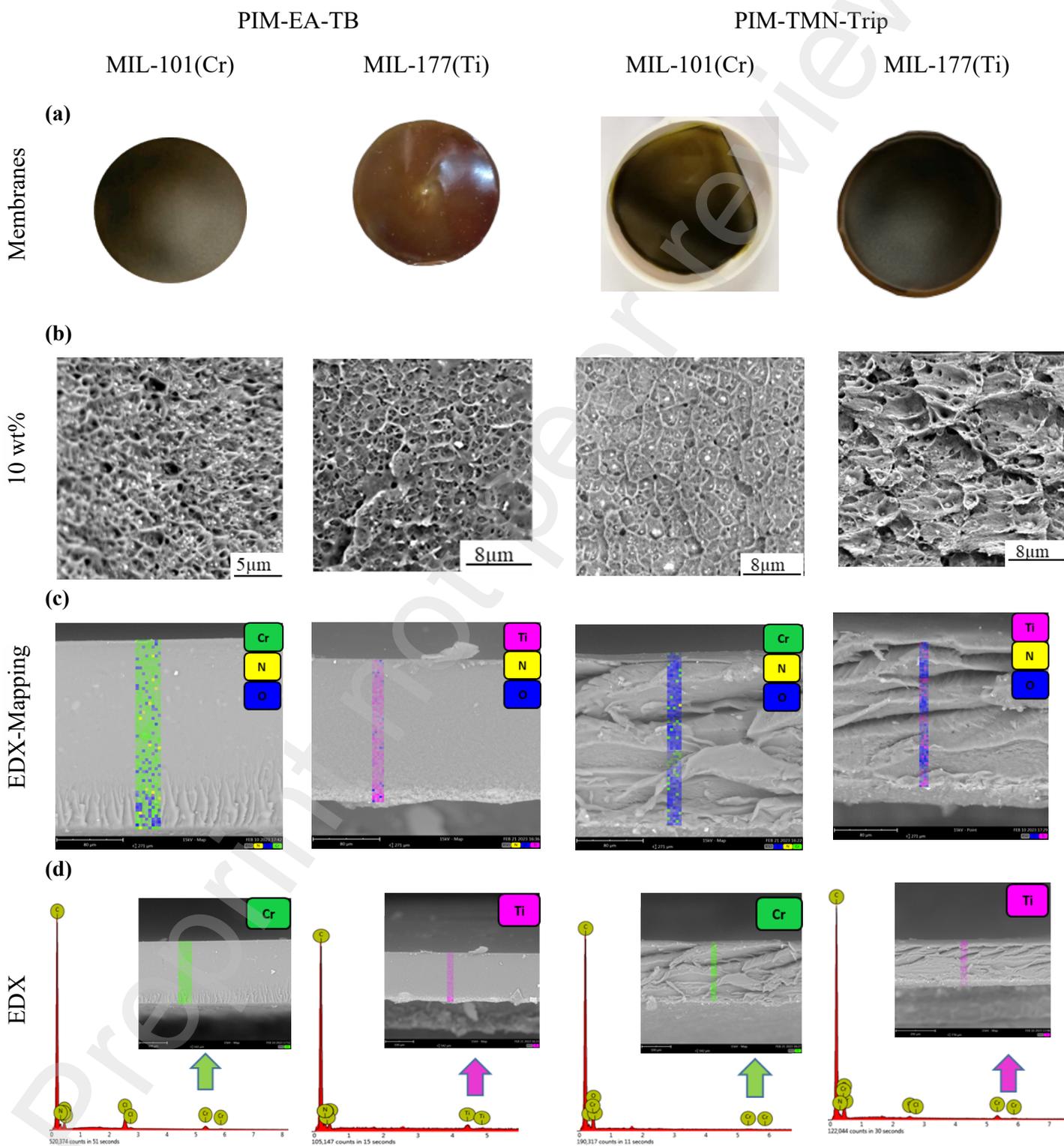


Fig. 3 (a) Films of MMMs. (b) SEM images of the MMMs at a magnification of 10,000 \times and an accelerating voltage of 10 kV. (c) Mapping and (d) EDX of the cross-section at magnification 500 \times and 1000 \times at an electron acceleration voltage of 15 kV for the MMMs made of PIM-EA-TB or PIM-TMN-Trip, with MIL-101(Cr) or MIL-177(Ti), respectively.

239

240 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) mapping of the
241 cross-section of the MMMs revealed a good dispersion of the MOFs within the PIM matrix
242 (Fig. 3d), with smaller network dimensions for MIL-10(Cr), which is in accord with its smaller
243 particle size (20-70 nm) compared to MIL-177(Ti) (between 100-200 nm) (Fig. 2c-d). Mapping
244 and EDX clearly demonstrated the homogeneous dispersion over the entire thickness of the
245 membranes (Fig. 3c-d). The presence of oxygen is more evident in MMMs based on PIM-
246 TMN-Trip compared to PIM-EA-TB, which is not surprising considering the presence of the
247 dioxane rings in the polymer's backbone of the former. Moreover, in some as-cast membranes
248 (i.e., prior methanol treatment), the EDX analysis clearly shown chlorine peaks, which are
249 attributed to residual chloroform casting solvent (Fig. 3d). This explains the main reasons why
250 the alcohol treatment is essential for PIMs, as the presence of residual casting solvent blocks
251 the diffusion of gases resulting in the underestimation of the permeability [37].

252 3.4 *Single gas transport properties comparison between different MMMs and pristine* 253 *PIMs*

254 Single gas permeation data were measured for all the MMMs at 35 °C following the order He,
255 H₂, O₂, N₂, CH₄ and CO₂. Detailed results of permeability, diffusivity and solubility are given
256 in the supporting information (Table S1-S4).

257 3.4.1 *PIM-EA-TB gas transport properties as function of MOF concentration*

258 The loading of MIL-101(Cr), from 0-25 wt%, produces a general increase of the permeability
259 for PIM-EA-TB (Fig. 4a). As anticipated, the higher permeability can be attributable to the
260 impact of the MOF's large cavities, which can provide a preferential pathway for gas diffusion.
261 The presence of pore windows of a well-defined size may help with fine-tuning of the
262 selectivity, especially for gas pairs with a large difference in kinetic diameters, such as H₂/N₂,
263 H₂/CH₄ and He/N₂ (Fig. 4c), alternatively the MOF may help to rigidify the PIM matrix
264 resulting in higher selectivity. On the other hand, the dispersion of MIL-177(Ti) in PIM-EA-
265 TB produced a very modest increase in permeability compared to the neat polymer for He and
266 H₂, and a weak decrease in permeability for gases with larger diameters (CO₂, O₂, CH₄, and
267 O₂). The increased size-sieving character upon addition of the MOFs in PIM-EA-TB is

268 confirmed by the steeper correlation of gas diffusion as function of gas diameters (Fig.S 3).
 269 For this reason, the relative selectivity for all gas pairs including He and H₂, was found to
 270 increase (Fig. 4f).

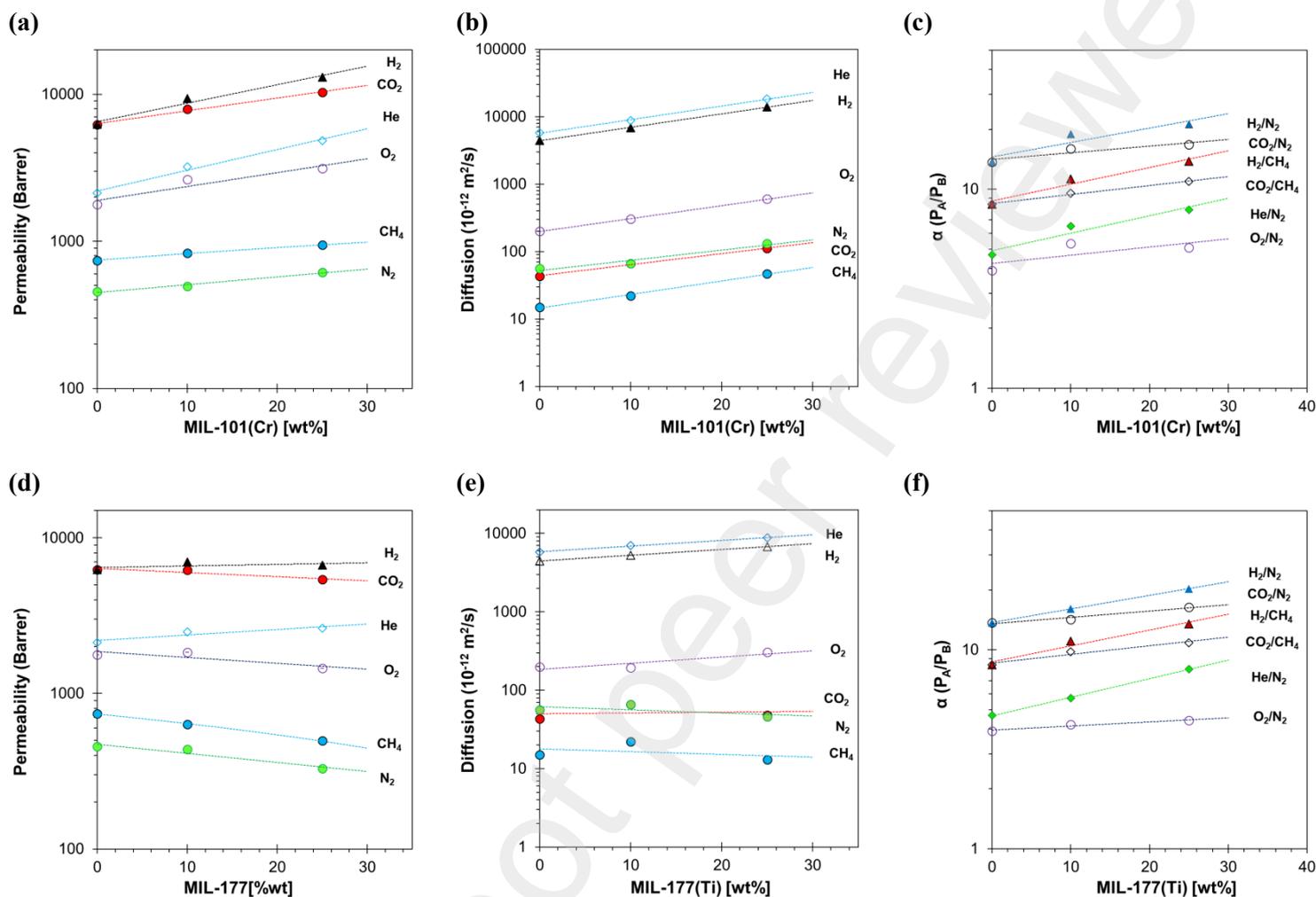


Fig. 4 Gas permeability, diffusion coefficient and permeability selectivity as function of MOF concentration (0 wt%, 10 wt%, and 25 wt%) for freshly MeOH treated PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr) MMMs (a, b, c) and for PIM-EA-TB/MIL-177(Ti) (d, e, f).

271 3.4.2 PIM-TMN-Trip gas transport properties as function of MOF concentration

272 The dispersion of 10wt% MIL-101(Cr) in the ultrapermeable PIM-TMN-Trip polymer led to a
 273 slight decrease in the permeability for all gases, except for H₂ and He (Fig. 5a). Consequently,
 274 we noted an increase in the selectivity for H₂/N₂, He/N₂, followed by H₂/CH₄, O₂/N₂, CO₂/CH₄
 275 and CO₂/N₂ (Fig. 5c). A similar but more pronounced effect was observed when MIL-177(Ti)
 276 (100–200 nm) was dispersed into PIM-TMN-Trip, (Fig. 5d) enhanced the overall selectivities,
 277 especially evident for gas pairs such as H₂/CH₄, H₂/N₂ and He/N₂ (Fig. 5f). In addition, He and
 278 O₂ showed a reverse order of permeation in the presence of MIL-177(Ti) (He>O₂) compared

279 to the pristine PIM-TMN-Trip ($O_2 > He$), evidencing a greater preference for the transport of
 280 smaller gases.

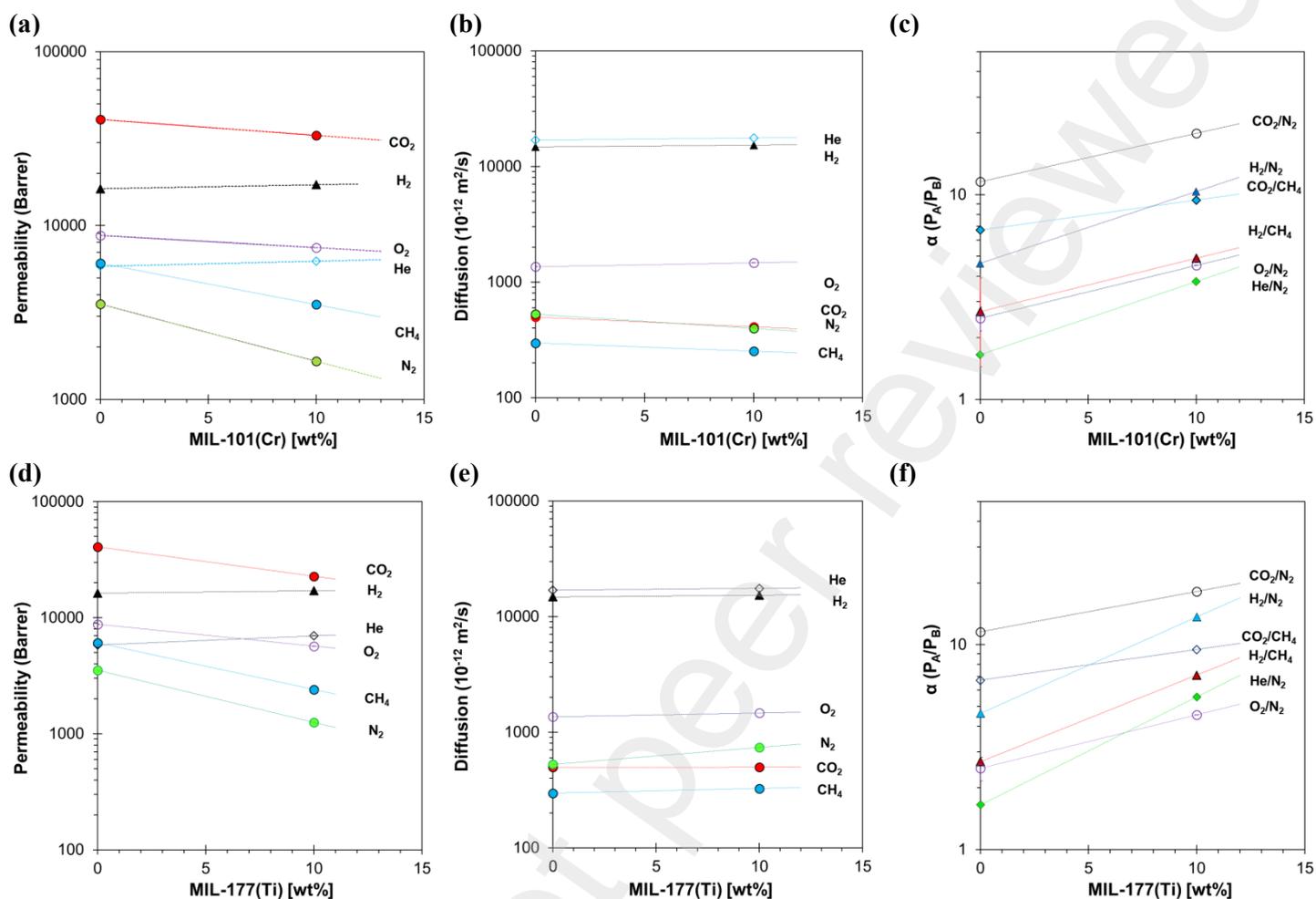


Fig. 5 Gas permeability, diffusion coefficient and selectivity as function of MOF concentration (0 wt% and 10 wt%) for freshly MeOH treated (a, b, c) PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr) and (d, e, f) PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-177(Ti) membranes.

281
 282 Comparing the gas transport properties across all reported MMMs emphasises the distinctive
 283 impact of the combination of MOFs with selected polymers, which results in a unique
 284 enhancement of the gas transport properties of the MMMs. The addition of the fillers
 285 influenced PIM-EA-TB with the creation of additional free volume, resulting in the increase of
 286 the permeability for several gases. On the other hand, the incorporation of MOFs into the
 287 ultrapermeable PIM-TMN-Trip produced a general reduction of the gas permeability, changing
 288 the bulk properties of the neat polymer by occupying its free space, and resulting in an increase
 289 of selectivities.

290 3.5 *Influence of the sample conditioning on the transport properties: methanol treatment*
291 *and thermal conditioning*

292 Analysis of permeability for all of the MMMs under different treatments were performed to
293 understand the dependence of gas transport properties on both sample conditioning and aging
294 time. Single gas permeation tests were carried out at the standard temperature of 35 °C after
295 methanol treatment which, as anticipated, is a crucial step to remove the residue of casting
296 solvent. Subsequently, the membrane was subjected to thermal treatment at 140 °C, which is
297 known to accelerate initial aging while stabilising the performance. Finally, re-analysis was
298 carried out after a long period of natural aging (approximately 5 years). For a more quantitative
299 evaluation of the effect of the filler and the sample treatment, the gas permeability of the
300 MMMs was assessed using the Maxwell model, which is one of the most commonly used
301 models to describes the effective permeability of a gas species in MMMs [58–61]. It expresses
302 the effective permeability as a function of the permeability of the polymer matrix and that of
303 the filler [62]:

$$304 \quad P_{MMM} = P_c \left| \frac{P_d + 2P_c - 2\Phi_d(P_c - P_d)}{P_d + 2P_c + \Phi_d(P_c - P_d)} \right| \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

305 where the P_{MMM} is the effective permeability of the mixed matrix membrane, P_c and P_d are the
306 gas permeabilities of the continuous phase (polymer matrix) and the dispersed phase (MOF),
307 respectively, and Φ_d is the volume fraction of the dispersed phase. The results were compared
308 with the two possible extreme cases: 1) the permeability of the dispersed phase (P_d) is much
309 lower compared to the pristine polymer ($P_d \ll P_c$) and 2) the dispersed phase has a much higher
310 permeability than the neat polymer ($P_d \gg P_c$) [37,40,63,64]. A more detailed discussion of the
311 Maxwell model is reported in the SI.

312 3.5.1 *Application of Maxwell model to PIM-EA-TB based MMMs*

313 Fig. 6a shows that CO₂ permeability of membranes based on MIL-177(Ti) in PIM-EA-TB
314 tends towards the lower limit of the Maxwell model ($P_d \ll P_c$), which suggests that MIL-
315 177(Ti), with its narrow windows of about 3.0 Å, obstructs the passage of CO₂ (which has a
316 diameter of 3.02 Å) [65] as well the passage of CH₄ and N₂ (3.18 Å and 3.04 Å respectively)
317 consistent with the prediction of Maxwell model for low values. On the other hand, MIL-
318 177(Ti) favouring the passage of H₂ and He, plots the permeability according to the predicted
319 values falling in the middle of Maxwell window (See SI Fig.S 1). It can be easily observed that
320 CO₂ deviation, from the lower limit towards permeable region, is higher than those of CH₄ and
321 the deviation becomes more significant with the decrease of gas diameter (O₂>CO₂>N₂>CH₄;

322 2.89Å> 3.02Å>3.04Å>3.18 Å). Thus implies that the gas transport performance is influenced
 323 by the presence of MOF's cavities with well-defined size (3 Å) and not by formation of voids
 324 at interface. The membranes containing MIL-177(Ti) also show a considerable reduction of
 325 CO₂ permeability upon thermal treatment for all MOF concentrations, neat polymer included.
 326 This indicates that the system was not able to compensate for the reduction of free volume of
 327 the neat polymer after the accelerated aging induced by the high temperature.

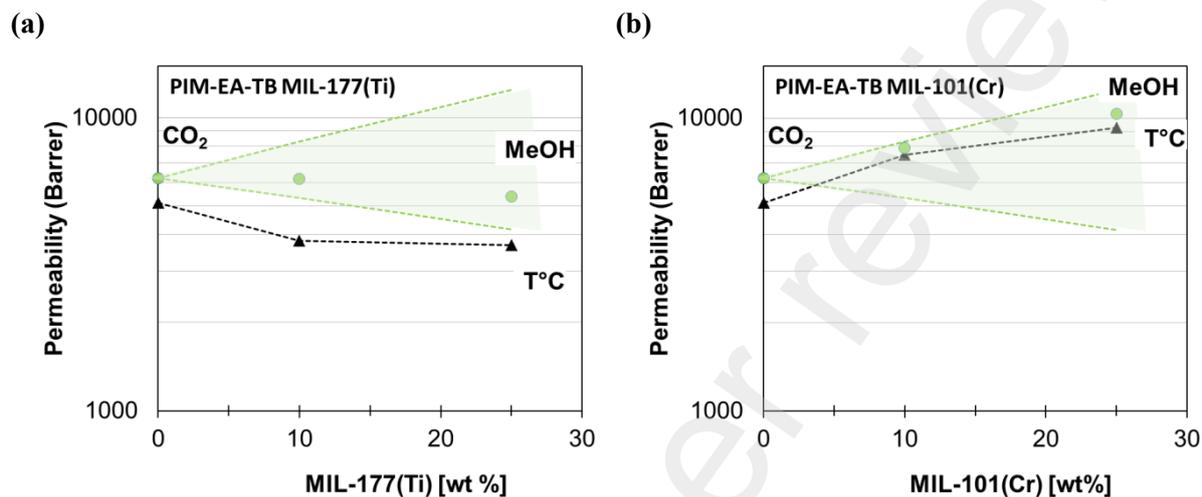


Fig. 6 Different trends of CO₂ permeability as function of (a) the MIL-177(Ti) and (b) MIL-101(Cr) content in PIM-EA-TB after MeOH treatment (○; MeOH) and thermal conditioning at 140 °C (△). The two green dashed lines represent the upper limit ($P_d=\infty$) and lower limit ($P_d=0$) of the Maxwell model [40].

328
 329 Conversely, the CO₂ permeability of PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr) MMMs is consistent with the
 330 prediction made by the Maxwell model for highly permeable fillers, showing a permeability
 331 close to the upper limit ($P_d \gg P_c$) for MeOH treated membranes, with only a slight reduction
 332 upon thermal treatment (the same was observed for other gases See SI Fig.S 1). This means
 333 that MIL-101(Cr) not only boosts the permeability of the membrane compared to the pristine
 334 polymer, but it also retains better the high permeability after thermal treatment (Fig. 6b). This
 335 positive effect may be ascribed to the ability of MIL-101(Cr) to prevent the collapse of the
 336 large free volume elements of PIM-EA-TB upon thermal conditioning, but also to the intrinsic
 337 high permeability of MIL-101(Cr) itself.

338 3.5.2 Application of Maxwell model to PIM-TMN-Trip based MMMs

339 PIM-TMN-Trip-based MMMs showed a CO₂ permeability below the lower limit of the
 340 Maxwell window ($P_d \ll P_c$) (Fig. 7a), implying that the data are not consistent with the
 341 predictions of this model. This can be attributed to the alteration of the bulk properties of the

342 polymer matrix by the fillers. The MOFs seem to affect the packing of the polymer chains by
 343 occupying a part of the free volume of the PIM-TMN-Trip or by a change of the polymer
 344 dynamics and a net stiffening, or both. This is especially evident for MIL-177(Ti), which
 345 possesses higher particle dimensions (100-200 nm) compared to MIL-101(Cr) (20-70nm) and
 346 where the thermal treatment produces a drastic decrease in permeability (Fig. 7a). The
 347 permeability reduction during accelerated aging at 140°C is similar for MMMs containing both
 348 MOFs, but is more pronounced in PIM-TMN-Trip than in PIM-EA-TB. Summarizing, the
 349 Maxwell analysis suggests that the larger free volume of PIM-TMN-Trip is more adversely
 350 influenced by the presence of filler particles than PIM-EA-TB. For the latter it appears that
 351 the MOFs serve as size-selective particles favouring the permeation of smaller H₂ and He,
 352 which show permeabilities in good accordance with those predicted by Maxwell model (for
 353 other gases see SI Fig.S 2), therefore, having a positive effect on selectivity for several gas
 354 pairs.

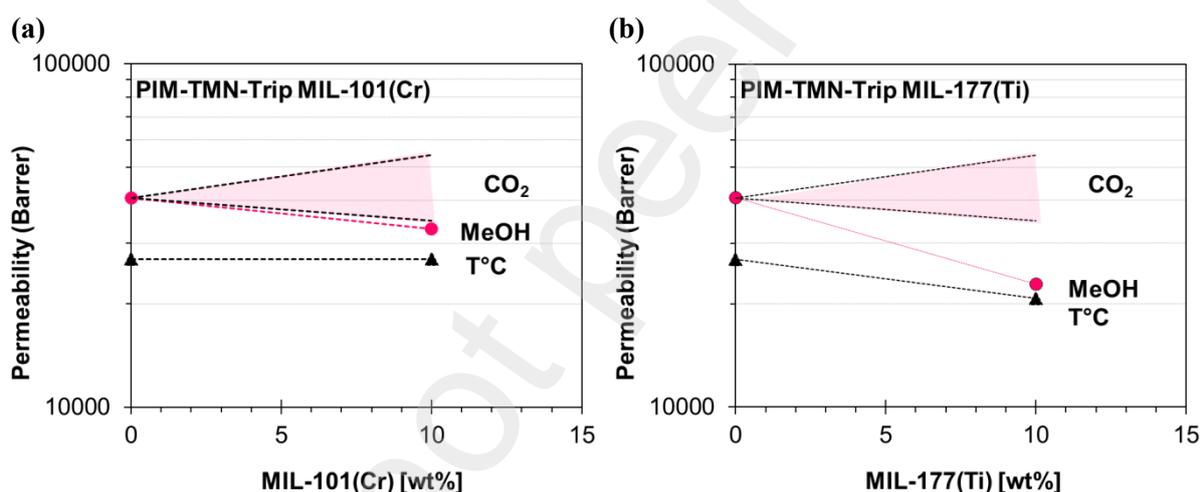


Fig. 7 Trends in CO₂ permeability as a function of the MIL-101(Cr) content and the MIL-177(Ti) content in PIM-TMN-Trip based MMMs after MeOH treatment (●, MeOH) and thermal conditioning at 140 °C (▲). The dashed purple lines represent the upper limit ($Pd=\infty$) and lower limit ($Pd=0$) of the Maxwell equation [40].

355 3.6 Investigation of natural physical aging

356 It is known that PIMs undergo a physical aging, which reduces the internal free volume [23].
 357 To test any improvements due to the incorporation of the MOF fillers, gas permeation tests
 358 were performed on the membranes after prolonged natural aging (Fig. 8a and Fig. 8b).

359

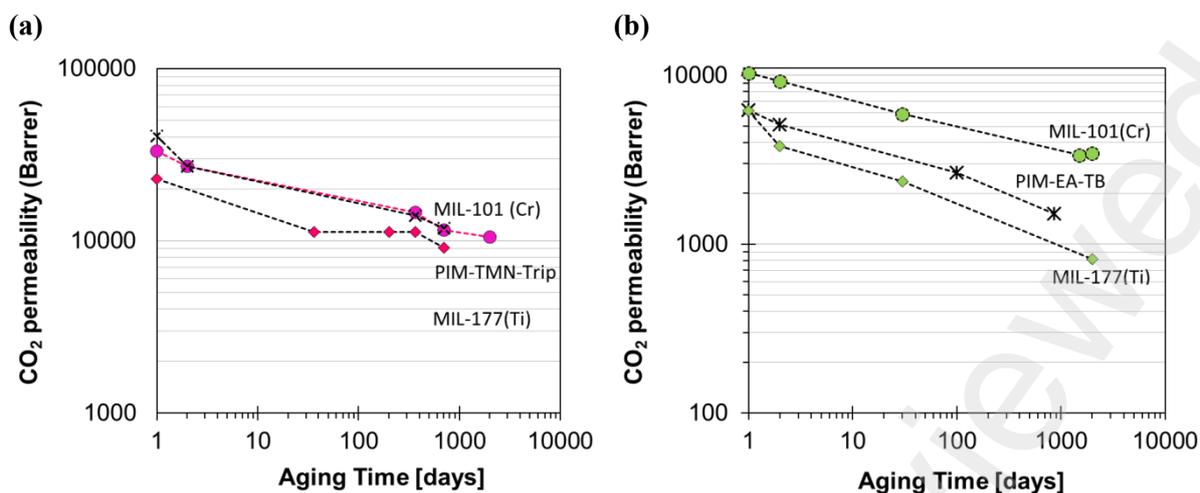


Fig. 8 Change in CO₂ permeability over time for: (a) neat PIM-TMN-Trip (×) and (b) neat PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB (×) for both with MIL-101(Cr) (●) and MIL-177(Ti) (◆)

360
 361 **Fig. 8A** shows the changes in CO₂ permeability over an extended ageing period, for pristine
 362 PIM-TMN-Trip and PIM-EA-TB, and for their corresponding MOFs based MMMs. The
 363 results suggest that MIL-101(Cr) neither affect the CO₂ permeability of neat PIM-TMN-Trip,
 364 nor does it contribute to mitigating the loss of free volume compared to the neat polymer (Fig.
 365 8a). This behaviour is attributed to the extremely high initial free volume of PIM-TMN-Trip,
 366 which is less likely to be affected by the presence of a porous filler such as MIL-101(Cr) and
 367 MIL-177(Ti). The same effect was observed for the dispersion of the smaller MIL-177(Ti) into
 368 the PIM-EA-TB. On the other hand, the MMM formed by the combination of PIM-EA-TB and
 369 MIL-101(Cr) shows an initial increase of the CO₂ permeability that is maintained for over 2000
 370 days with the reduction of CO₂ permeability at the same rate for this MMM as for the pristine
 371 polymer. These results demonstrate the positive effect that the incorporation of MIL-101(Cr)
 372 has for enhancing gas permeability for MMMs based on this polymer even with extended
 373 aging.

374 3.7 Mixed gases transport properties

375 Due to their impressive results using single gases, mixed gas permeation measurements for the
 376 MMMs containing MIL-101(Cr) were performed for three important gas separations, namely
 377 biogas upgrading (CO₂/CH₄), CO₂ capture from flue gas (CO₂/N₂) and oxygen/nitrogen
 378 enrichment of air (O₂/N₂) (Fig. 9).

379

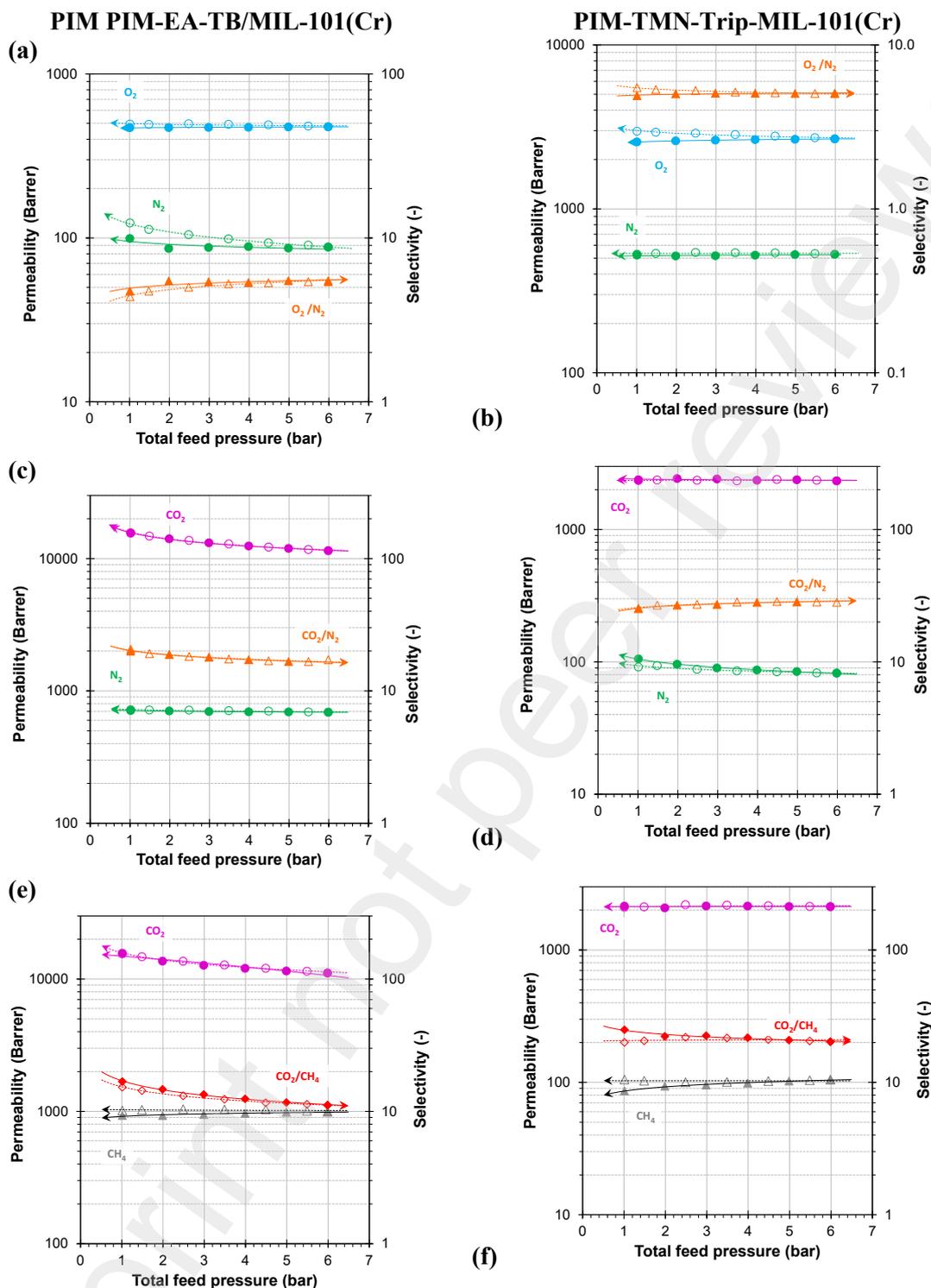


Fig. 9 (a-b) Pressure dependence of O_2 and N_2 permeabilities and O_2/N_2 selectivity in binary mixture conditions for O_2/N_2 (20:80 vol%); (c-d) Pressure dependence of CO_2 and N_2 permeabilities and CO_2/N_2 selectivity in binary mixture conditions for CO_2/N_2 (15:85 vol%); (e-f) Pressure dependence of CO_2 and CH_4 permeabilities and CO_2/CH_4 selectivity using the binary CO_2/CH_4 (35:65 vol%) mixture for the PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr) and PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr) aged for 2000 days. Closed symbols for stepwise increase of the pressure and open symbols for the subsequent stepwise decrease of the pressure.

382 Measurements were performed under pressures ranging from 1 to 6 bar(a). PIM-EA-TB/MIL-
383 101(Cr) showing a gentle decrease of CO₂ permeability as a function of increased feed pressure
384 typical of dual-mode behaviour observed for CO₂/CH₄ (Fig. 9e) and CO₂/N₂ mixtures (Fig. 9c).
385 This also causes a simultaneous decrease of CO₂/CH₄ and CO₂/N₂ selectivity. Interestingly, we
386 noticed some hysteresis of CO₂ and CH₄ permeability when the pressure is reduced back to 1
387 atm after the initial pressure increase. This can be attributed to a slight CO₂-induced dilation
388 of the polymer (swelling), which induces the formation of a larger amount of free volume in
389 the polymer matrix, which remains when the pressure is decreased. This leads to a higher CH₄
390 permeability and a slightly lower selectivity. In the separation of the CO₂/N₂ mixture no
391 hysteresis is noticed, most likely due to the lower partial pressure of CO₂. For the O₂/N₂
392 separation, the O₂ permeation appears pressure-independent while the permeation of N₂
393 decreases as a function of the pressure (Fig. 9a). This suggests a strong size sieving character
394 of MIL-101(Cr), when loaded into PIM-EA-TB, which in the presence of real mixtures
395 facilitates the passages of smaller molecules like O₂ whilst hampering the permeation of N₂
396 and CO₂, especially at high pressure. MMMs based on the system PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-
397 101(Cr) show very little pressure dependence for both permeability and selectivity for all
398 measured gas mixtures (Fig. 9b-d-f).

399 3.8 Performance overview

400 Fig. 10 gives a complete overview of gas permeability and selectivity of all MMMs, and for
401 their corresponding pristine polymers, after methanol and natural aging conditioning.

402 Almost all methanol-treated MMMs showed high permeability and modest selectivity
403 generally moving data towards the right-hand side of the Robeson plots relative to the data for
404 the polymer. This suggests that the polymer matrix still provides the main resistance to
405 transport, while the fillers offer a preferential diffusion pathway. After MeOH treatment, all
406 MMMs based on PIM-EA-TB (green circle open symbols), exhibit an increased selectivity
407 compared to the neat polymer (green circle filled symbol), with a further increase in
408 permeability for MIL-101(Cr) (Fig. 10 left column). On the other hand, MIL-177(Ti) shows a
409 slight increase in permeability only for the small H₂ (Fig.8 right column). Almost all MeOH
410 MMMs based on PIM-TMN-Trip (violet open circle symbol) show an increased selectivity for
411 both MOFs, although at expenses of their permeability.

412

413

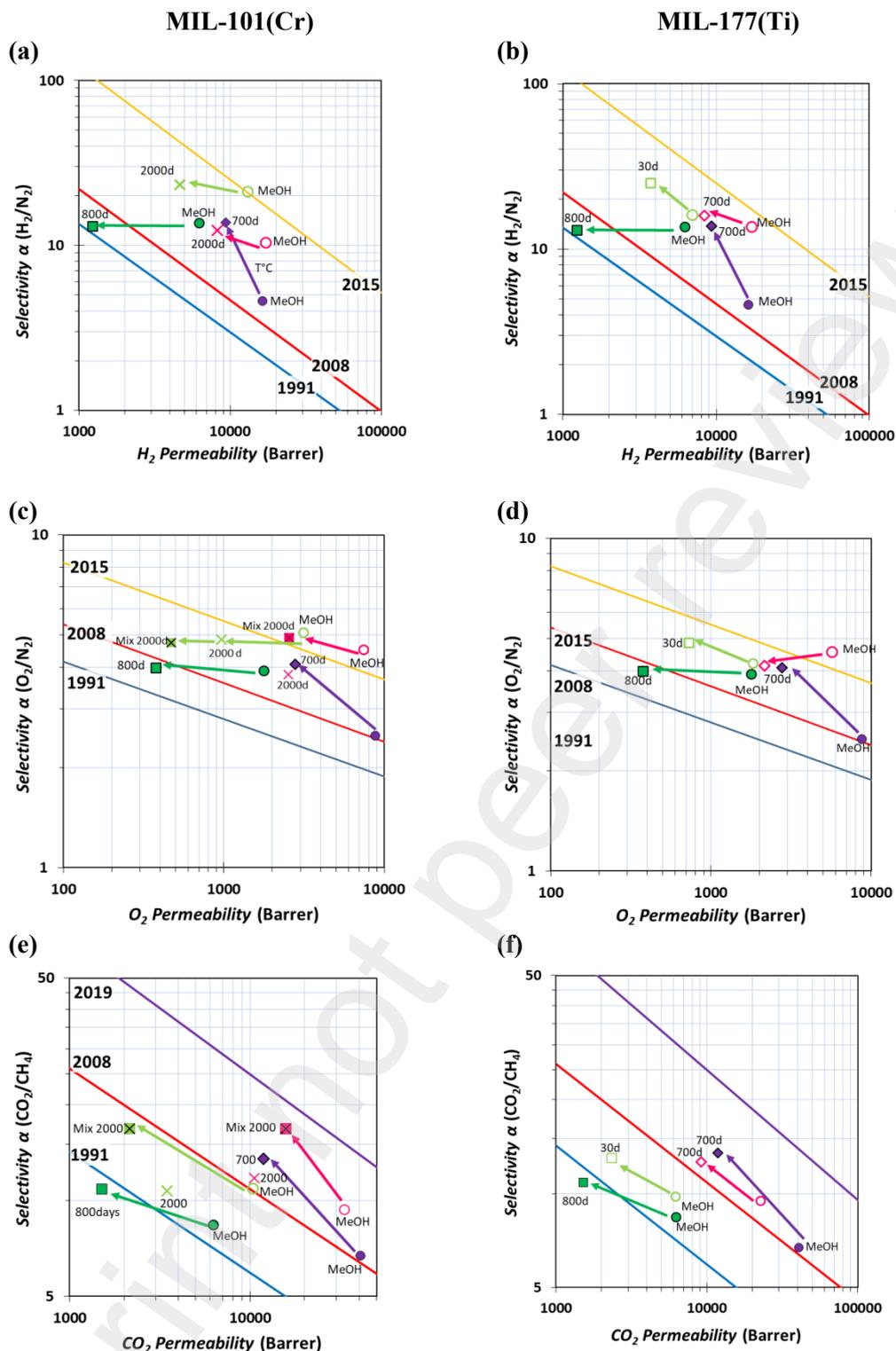


Fig. 10 Robeson's plots for H_2/N_2 , O_2/N_2 , CO_2/CH_4 gas pairs, showing the data for methanol (● circle), aging (■ square) and extended aging (◆ diamond) for neat PIM-EA-TB (green filled symbols), neat PIM-TMN-Trip (violet filled symbols) and for respectively MMMs (open symbols). The × open symbol and ▴ filled symbol are the data for 2000 aging single and under mixed gas, respectively for MMMs. The arrows serve as a guide to the eye for following the typical effect of aging. Blue line 1991 upper bound, red line 2008 upper bound ; yellow line 2015; violet line 2019 upper bound [9,21,66,67]

For the H₂/N₂ gas pair, a good compromise between permeability and selectivity was achieved using PIM-TMN-Trip with MIL-177(Ti), resulting in an increase in selectivity from 4 to 10, coupled with a small increase in P_{H_2} permeability (from ~ 16000 to 17000 Barrer), approaching the 2015 upper bound (Fig. 10b). The performance remains consistent even after 700 days of aging, with an increase in selectivity and a decrease in permeability (P_{H_2} ~8300; α_{H_2/N_2} = 16). This performance is within the range of TPIM-2/PAF MMMs, one of the best performing MMM for H₂/N₂ separation reported so far (P_{H_2} ~ 4800; α_{H_2/N_2} = 27)[68], but with twice the hydrogen permeability, while maintaining selectivity. PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101 also exhibits an excellent trade-off between permeability and selectivity, with an increase in selectivity from 14 to 21 and a remarkable increase P_{H_2} from ~ 6000 to 13000 Barrer, which approaches the 2015 upper bound (Fig. 10a). This further improves after 2000 days of aging, following the typical aging behaviour with a reduction in permeability compensated by an increase in selectivity (P_{H_2} ~4600; α_{H_2/N_2} = 23).

For the O₂/N₂ gas pair, the best initial performance was obtained for PIM-TMN-Trip in combination with both fillers, with a modest reduction of the O₂ permeability (from ~ 9000 to 7000 for MIL-101(Cr) and from 9000 to ~ 6000 Barrer for MIL-177(Ti)), compensated by a significant two-fold increase of selectivity (from 2.5 to 4.5), which produced data that surpassed the 2015 upper bound (Fig. 10c-d, pink open circle). The long aging resulted in a slight reduction of both permeability and selectivity, mirroring the aging behaviour of the neat polymer. Conversely, the MIL-101(Cr) into PIM-EA-TB showed an increase in O₂ permeability compared to the neat polymer (from ~ 1700 to 3000), with a further increase in O₂/N₂ selectivity (from 4 to 5), surpassing the 2015 upper bound. This MMM demonstrate less pronounced aging relative to the pristine polymer (Fig. 10c, green symbols), as even after 2000 days of aging it still outperformed the neat polymer aged for 800 days, even when exposed to a mixture of O₂/N₂ (20:80 vol%) at 1 bar. These permeability and selectivity values surpassed the impressive results recently reported by Zhao et al., who prepared MMMs based on the combination of PIM-1 with magnetic responsive cobalt-based ionic liquid, and tested for O₂/N₂ separation obtaining α_{O_2/N_2} = ~5 with a P_{O_2} of ~140 Barrer)[69].

Finally, for the CO₂/CH₄ gas pair the best improvement shown by an MMM over pristine polymer was obtained for PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr), with only a slight reduction of the ultra-permeability (P_{CO_2} from 40000 to 32000 Barrer) (Fig. 10e), which is high compared to the recently reported value of 7000 Barrer by Huang et al.[70], combined with an increase in selectivity (from 7 to 9.5) for these difficult to separate gases. The CO₂/CH₄ selectivity

continued to increase after 2000 aging days, especially evident for a CO₂/CH₄ binary mixture (35:65 vol%), reaching a remarkable $\alpha_{\text{CO}_2/\text{CH}_4}=17$, exceeded that obtained with the single gases and showing the size-sieving character of the MOF. The MMMs based on the dispersion of MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) into PIM-EA-TB exhibited an improvement of selectivity when compared to the neat PIM-EA-TB (from 8 to 11), which was retained after the aging period of ca. 2000 days (Fig. 10e-f)). In addition, for the binary mixture of CO₂/CH₄ (35:65 vol%) at 1 bar, the selectivity further increased up to $\alpha_{\text{CO}_2/\text{CH}_4}=17$ for both MMMs.

4 Conclusions

MMMs based on MIL-101(Cr) or MIL-177(Ti) using highly permeable PIM-EA-TB or PIM-TMN-Trip matrices were successfully obtained. SEM and EDX analysis of cross-sections of the MMMs confirmed good dispersions of the MOFs without evident defects or agglomeration. Following the typical MeOH treatment, all MMMs showed either increased selectivity, increased permeability, or both as compared to their pristine polymer counterparts. MIL-177(Ti) helped improve the selectivity for all gas pairs in both polymers, at the cost of a slight decrease in permeability for PIM-TMN-Trip. The selectivity of PIM-TMN-Trip was also increased by MIL-101(Cr), although accompanied by a slight decrease in permeability for gases of larger kinetic diameter. The combination of MIL-101(Cr) with PIM-EA-TB formed a MMM that enhanced both selectivity and permeability with values ranging from, P_{H_2} from 6000 to 13000 Barrer with $\alpha_{\text{H}_2/\text{CH}_4}$ from 8 to 14; P_{O_2} 1700 to 3000 Barrer and $\alpha_{\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2}$ from 4 to 5; P_{CO_2} from 6000 to 10000 and $\alpha_{\text{CO}_2/\text{CH}_4}$ from 8 to 11, all approaching the 2015 upper bound. The comparison of experimental permeabilities with the predicted values by the Maxwell model for polymer PIM-EA-TB with MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) confirms the good dispersion and the absence of anomalies, whereas the deviation from the Maxwell model of the low CO₂ permeability for PIM-TMN-Trip with both MOFs suggests that the filler affects the bulk polymer properties, likely by occupying part of the polymer's free volume or due to increasing the rigidity of the matrix. The decrease in permeability due to aging, for the MMMs based on PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) is compensated by an increase in selectivity even by using gas mixtures. On the other hand, the MMMs based on PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr) showed good retention of the initially high permeability and selectivity upon aging, when compared to the neat polymer. Finally, for mixed gas analysis, the 2000 days aged PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr) showed greater selectivity for CO₂/CH₄ (from 10 to 25) and CO₂/N₂ (from 17 to 23) than calculated from single gas permeabilities. The 2000 days aged PIM-

TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr) retained high PCO_2 of 15000 Barrer and moderate α_{CO_2/CH_4} (from 12 to 17) and α_{CO_2/N_2} selectivity (from 16 to 22), in both cases approaching the 2019 upper bound.

Supplementary Materials

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Supplementary Information

Mixed matrix membranes based on MIL-101(Cr) and MIL-177(Ti) metal–organic frameworks in Polymers of Intrinsic Microporosity

Maxwell model

The Maxwell model is usually employed to describe the gas transport in mixed matrix membranes [58–61]:

$$P_{MMM} = P_c \left| \frac{P_d + 2P_c - 2\Phi_d(P_c - P_d)}{P_d + 2P_c + \Phi_d(P_c - P_d)} \right| \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

where the P_{MMM} is the effective permeability of the mixed matrix membrane, P_c and P_d represent the gas permeabilities in the continuous and dispersed phase, respectively and Φ_d is the volume fraction of dispersed phase. The gas transport in an MMM can occur in different ways and several, fundamentally different, cases may occur at the same time, as it was described in detail by Koros et. al. [71].

Case 0

Generally, the permeability of the gases through the dispersed phase lies between the two extreme cases discussed above, and $0 \ll Pd \ll \infty$. The fillers exhibit an intrinsic finite permeability and, as a result, the MMM will have an effective permeability, different from that of the polymer matrix. This requires that the MOFs particles are well distributed within the polymer matrix and they adhere to the polymer without blocking the pores.

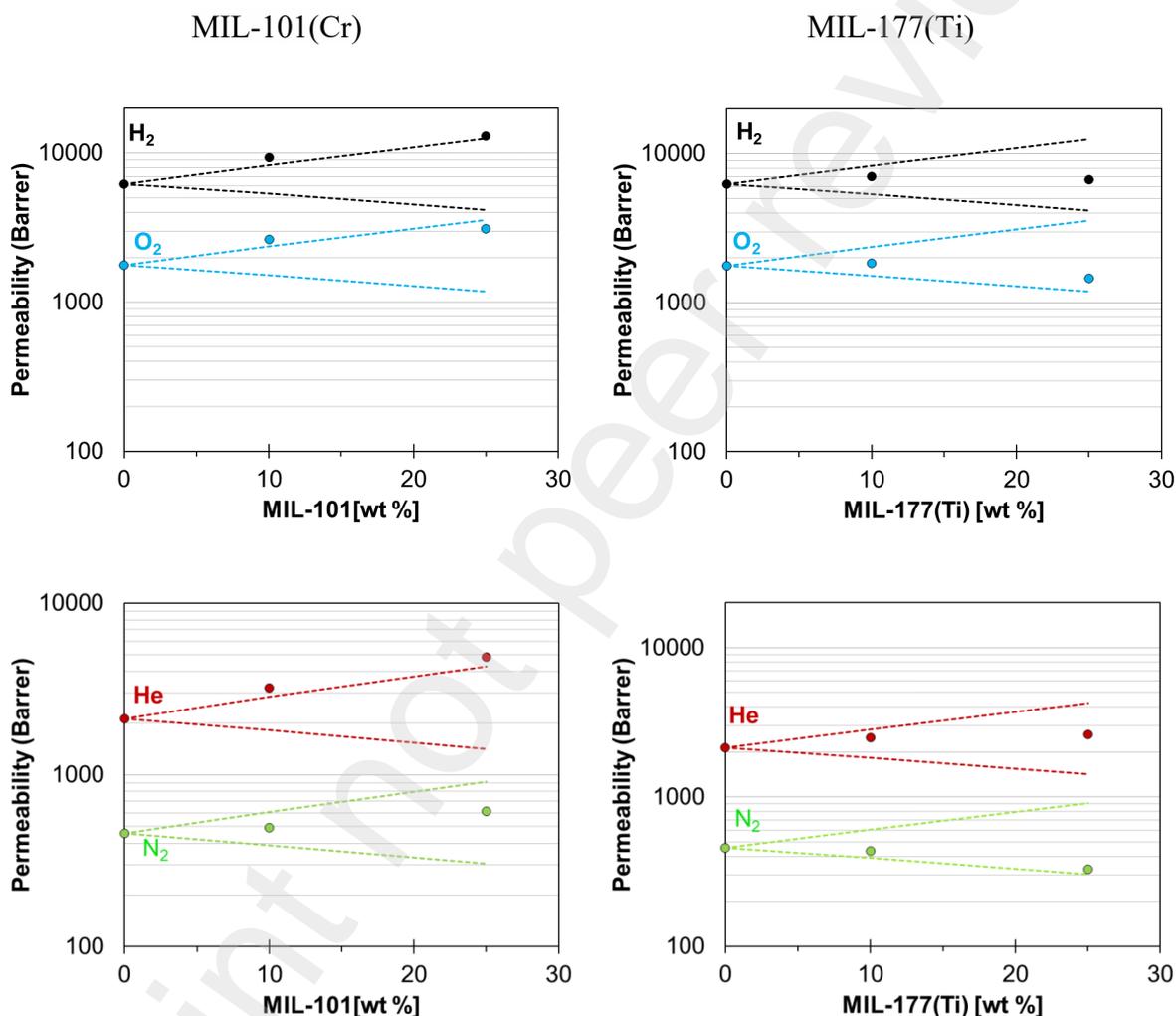
Case I

In this situation, the permeability of the gas in the dispersed phase is much lower than that of the continuous phase: $P_d \ll P_c$. This can happen for two different reasons, when occurs a partial blockage of the MOF by the polymer phase or when the fillers behave as impermeable obstacles and they can affect the total free volume of the polymer matrix, typically decreasing its permeability.

Case II

In this case, the permeability of the gas in the dispersed phase, and around the particles, is much higher than that of the continuous phase: $P_d \gg P_c$. This occurs when the interaction between the

polymer and filler particles is poor. The polymer chains do not completely adhere to the surface of the fillers giving rise to the formation of undesirable channels between both phases. At low filler loadings, this result in a higher permeability but constant selectivity, also described by Koros as case II. At relatively high filler loadings, continuous channels are formed across the membrane, which also deteriorates the selectivity of the MMM, this is described by Koros as case III [71].



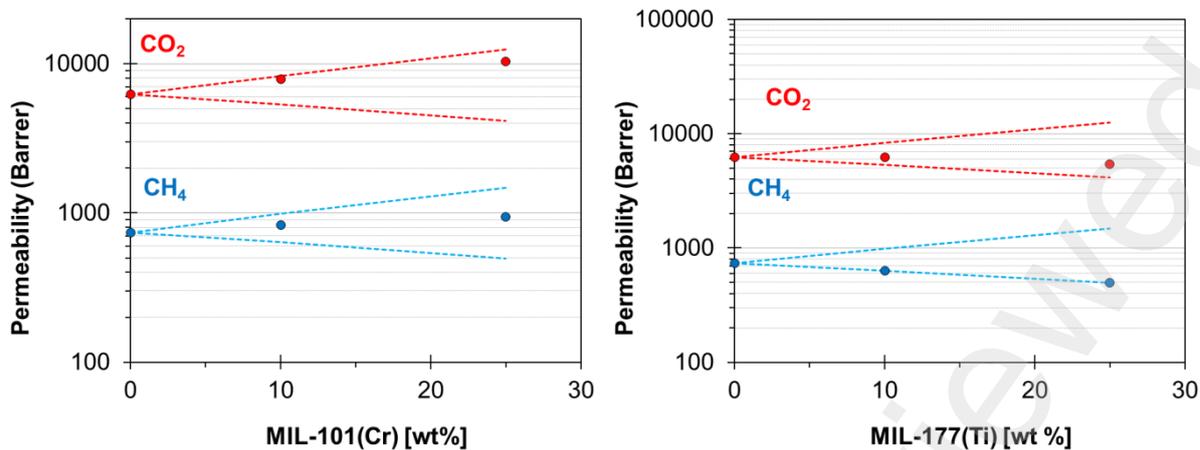
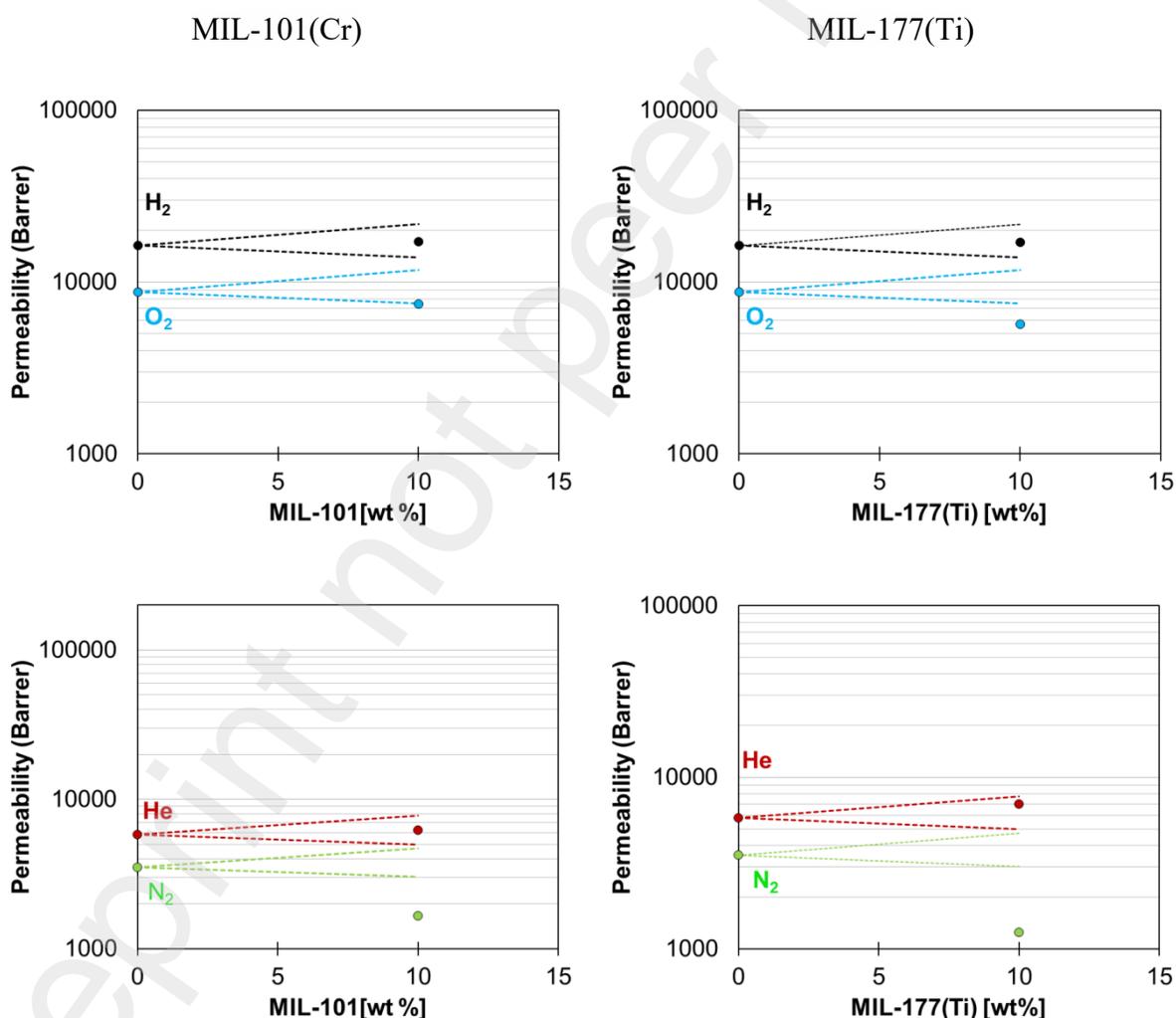


Fig.S 1 The H₂, N₂, He, N₂, CO₂ and CH₄ permeabilities as a function of the MOFs concentration for MIL-101(Cr) (on the left) and MIL-177(Ti) (on the right) loaded into the PIM-EA-TB after methanol treatment. The lines correspond to the fit of the experimental data with Maxwell equation for the lower limit and the upper limit with Pd = 0 and Pd = 1, respectively



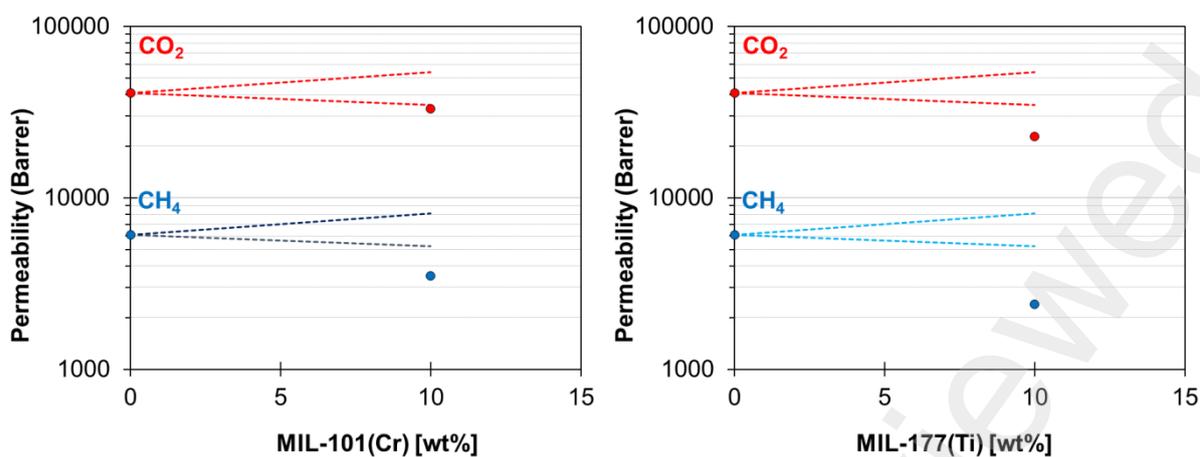


Fig.S 2 The H₂, N₂, He, N₂, CO₂ and CH₄ permeabilities as a function of the MOFs concentration for MIL-101(Cr) (on the left) and MIL-177(Ti) (on the right) loaded into the PIM-TMN-Trip after methanol treatment. The lines correspond to the fit of the experimental data with Maxwell equation for the lower limit and the upper limit with Pd = 0 and Pd = 1, respectively.

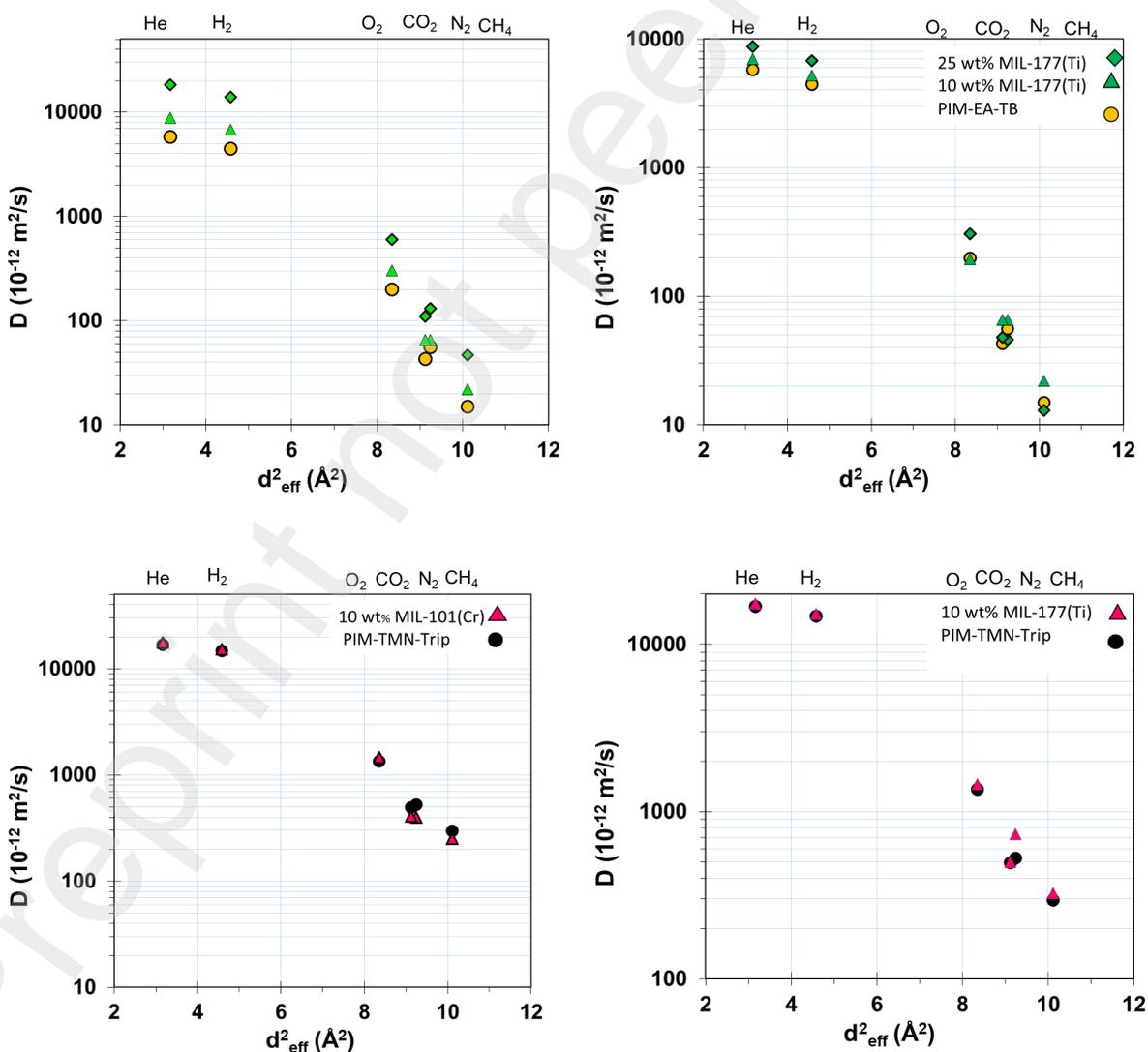


Fig.S 3 Correlation of the diffusion coefficient with the square of the Teplyakov-Mearres gas diameter for MMMs based on PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB and PIM-TMN-Trip and their respective neat polymers.

Table S-1 Permeability, diffusion and solubility coefficients, and respective selectivity of neat PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB and PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB/MIL-101 for MeOH, thermal and aging conditioning of membranes.

PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr)_MeOH											
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	455	1776	6231	741	6232	2128	13.7	8.41	8.41	13.7	3.91
10	494	2636	7908	830	9346	3216	16.0	9.5	11.3	18.9	5.34
25	615	3126	10313	944	13041	4845	16.8	10.9	13.8	21.2	5.08
MIL-101(Cr)	Dx [10 ⁻¹² m ² s ⁻¹]						$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	56	199	43	15	4459	5780	0.77	2.86	299	80	3.59
10	66	305	66	22	6804	8783	1.00	3.02	313	104	4.66
25	131	599	111	47	13967	18341	0.85	2.34	294	106	4.56
MIL-101(Cr)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]						$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	6.14	6.69	110	37.3	1.05	0.28	17.9	2.94	0.03	0.17	1.09
10	4.28	4.61	76.7	22.8	0.69	0.17	18.0	3.37	0.03	0.16	1.08
25	3.51	3.92	69.6	14.9	0.70	0.20	19.8	4.67	0.05	0.20	1.11
PIM-EA-TB/ MIL-101(Cr)_T°C											
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	375	1636	5125	622	5500	1940	13.7	8.2	8.8	14.658	4.4
10	510	2277	7495	775	7979	2794	14.7	9.7	10.3	15.62	4.5
25	610	2891	9238	911	11176	4139	15.2	10.1	12.3	18.3	4.7
MIL-101	Dx [10 ⁻¹² m ² s ⁻¹]						$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	36	160	36	14	4260	4899	1.00	2.54	297.8	117.9	4.43
10	25	128	30	8	3270	4678	1.22	3.95	425.8	131.1	5.12
25	117	525	121	41	12992	15981	1.04	2.93	314.8	111.2	4.50
MIL-101(Cr)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]						$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	7.8	7.7	105.8	32.6	1.0	0.3	13.6	3.24	0.03	0.12	0.98
10	6.0	5.6	84.6	27.2	0.9	0.2	14.1	3.11	0.03	0.16	0.94
25	3.9	4.1	57.3	16.6	0.6	0.2	14.6	3.46	0.04	0.16	1.05
PIM-EA-TB/ MIL-101(Cr)_Aged											
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0 (860d)	94	375	1511	139	1225	478	16.1	10.9	8.8	13	4.0
25 (30d)	431	1820	5891	535	8109	3192	13.7	11.0	15.2	19	4.2
25(2000d)	200	965	3463	323	4650	1746	17.35	10.73	14.4	23.30	4.84

MIL-101(Cr)		Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]					$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	20	73	21	6	1885	2777	1.06	3.34	298	94.5	3.67
25 (30d)	82	311	70	25	7941	10303	0.85	2.80	319	97.2	3.80

MIL-101(Cr)		Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]					$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	3.54	3.84	53.81	16.46	0.49	0.13	15.2	3.27	0.03	0.14	1.08
25 (30d)	3.95	4.39	63.30	16.11	0.77	0.23	16.0	3.93	0.05	0.19	1.11

Table S-2 Pure gas permeability, solubility and diffusion coefficients, and respective selectivity of neat PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB and PIM-EA(Me₂)-TB/MIL-177(Ti) for MeOH, thermal and aging conditioning of membranes.

PIM-EA-TB/ MIL-177(Ti)_MeOH											
MIL-177(Ti)		Permeability [Barrer]					$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	455	1776	6231	741	6232	2128	13.7	8.41	8.41	13.7	3.91
10	436	1837	6198	633	7001	2492	14.2	9.80	11.1	16.1	4.21
25	329	1451	5389	496	6674	2632	16.4	10.9	13.5	20.2	4.4

MIL-177(Ti)		Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]					$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	56	199	43	15	4459	5780	0.77	2.86	299	80	3.59
10	66	305	66	22	6804	8783	1.00	3.02	313	104	4.66
25	46	194	48	13	5234	4341	1.06	3.67	398	115	4.26

MIL-177(Ti)		Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]					$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	6.14	6.69	109	37.0	1.05	0.28	17.8	2.93	0.03	0.17	1.10
10	4.95	7.10	70.4	21.6	1.00	0.27	14.2	3.26	0.05	0.20	1.43
25	5.36	3.57	84.21	28.61	0.73	0.22	15.7	2.94	0.03	0.14	0.67

PIM-EA-TB/ MIL-177(Ti)_T°C											
MIL-177(Ti)		Permeability [Barrer]					$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	375	1636	5125	622	5500	1940	13.7	8.24	8.84	14.7	4.36
10	252	1188	3803	349	5184	1948	15.1	10.9	14.9	20.6	4.71
25	255	1098	3681	370	4450	1765	14.4	10.0	12.0	17.4	4.30

MIL-177(Ti)		Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]					$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	36	160	36	14	4260	4899	1.00	2.54	298	118	4.43
10	25	128	30	8	3270	4678	1.22	3.95	426	131	5.12
25	38	156	45	13	3681	3921	1.19	3.53	290	98	4.14

MIL-177(Ti)		Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]					$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	7.79	7.67	106	32.6	0.97	0.30	13.6	3.24	0.03	0.12	0.98
10	6.01	5.65	84.6	27.2	0.94	0.22	14.1	3.11	0.03	0.16	0.94
25	5.04	5.28	61.3	21.3	0.91	0.34	12.1	2.88	0.04	0.18	1.05

PIM-EA-TB/ MIL-177(Ti)_Aged											
MIL-177(Ti)		Permeability [Barrer]					$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂

[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0 (800d)	94	375	1511	139	1225	478	16.1	10.91	8.84	13.0	3.98
25 (30d)	150	729	2347	181	3750	1473	15.6	13.0	20.8	24.9	4.85
MIL-177(Ti)			D _x [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]				α (D_A/D_B)				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	20	73	21	6	1885	2777	1.06	3.34	299	94.5	3.67
20	30	130	35	9	3815	6405	1.17	3.89	423	127	4.33
MIL-177(Ti)			S _x [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]				α (S_A/S_B)				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	3.53	3.85	53.9	17.3	0.49	0.13	15.2	3.27	0.03	0.14	1.08
25	3.76	4.21	50.3	15.0	0.74	0.17	13.4	3.34	0.05	0.20	1.12

Table S-3 Pure gas permeability, solubility and diffusion coefficients, and respective selectivity of neat PIM-TMN-Trip and PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101 MMMs for MeOH, thermal and aging conditioning of membranes

PIM-TMN-Trip/ MIL-101(Cr)_MeOH												
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]							$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	3525	8777	40728	6071	16279	5823	11.6	6.71	2.68	4.62	2.49	
10	1656	7462	32997	3508	17141	6228	19.9	9.41	4.89	10.4	4.51	
MIL-101(Cr)	Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]							$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	526	1355	497	297	14746	16900	0.95	1.67	49.6	28.0	2.58	
10	397	1465	410	252	15252	17611	1.03	1.63	50.5	38.4	3.70	
MIL-101(Cr)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]							$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	5.03	4.86	61.4	15.3	0.83	0.26	12.2	4.01	0.05	0.16	0.97	
10	3.13	3.82	60.4	10.4	0.84	0.26	19.3	5.78	0.08	0.27	1.22	
PIM-TMN-Trip/ MIL-101(Cr)_T°C												
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]							$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	1833	5950	26983	2591	13413	4876	14.7	10.4	5.18	7.32	3.25	
10	2047	6156	27001	3609	13249	5194	13.2	7.48	3.67	6.47	3.01	
MIL-101(Cr)	Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]							$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	278	882	357	114	11517	12299	1.28	3.13	101	41.4	3.17	
10	590	1267	477	329	12962	13256	0.81	1.45	39.4	22.0	2.15	
MIL-101(Cr)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]							$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0	4.94	5.06	56.7	17.1	0.87	0.30	11.5	3.32	0.05	0.18	1.03	
10	2.60	3.64	42.4	8.24	0.77	0.29	16.3	5.15	0.09	0.29	1.40	
PIM-TMN-Trip/ MIL-101(Cr)_Aged												
MIL-101(Cr)	Permeability [Barrer]							$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂	
0 (700d)	680	2774	11856	877	9353	3788	17.43	13.53	10.67	13.75	4.08	
10 (700d)	690	2658	11529	927	8543	3596	16.70	12.44	9.22	12.37	3.85	
(2000d)	665	2531	10528	895	8207	3453	15.84	11.76	12.3	12.3	3.81	

Table S-4 Pure gas permeability, solubility and diffusion coefficients, and respective selectivity of neat PIM-TMN-Trip and PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-177(Ti) MMMs for MeOH, thermal and aging conditioning of membranes

PIM-TMN-Trip/ MIL-177(Ti)_ MeOH											
MIL-177(Ti)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	3525	8777	40728	6071	16279	5823	11.6	6.71	2.68	4.62	2.49
10	1253	5692	22777	2405	17084	6969	18.2	9.47	7.10	13.6	4.54
MIL-177(Ti)	Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]						$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	526	1355	497	297	14746	16900	0.95	1.67	49.6	28.0	2.58
10	737	1464	498	326	15253	17516	0.68	1.53	46.8	20.7	1.99
MIL-177(Ti)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]						$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	5.03	4.86	61.45	15.32	0.83	0.26	12.2	4.01	0.05	0.16	0.97
10	1.27	2.92	34.29	5.54	0.84	0.32	26.9	6.20	0.15	0.66	2.29
PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-177 (Ti)_ T°C											
MIL-177(Ti)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	1833	5950	26983	2591	13413	4876	14.7	10.4	5.2	7.32	3.2
10	1309	-	20745	2236	12322	5152	15.9	9.28	5.51	9.41	-
MIL-177(Ti)	Dx [10-12 m ² s ⁻¹]						$\alpha (D_A/D_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	278	882	357	114	11517	12299	1.28	3.13	101	41.4	3.17
10	662	-	481	461	11929	13139	0.73	1.04	25.9	18.0	-
MIL-177(Ti)	Sx [cm ³ (STP) cm ⁻³ bar ⁻¹]						$\alpha (S_A/S_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0	4.94	5.06	56.7	17.0	0.87	0.30	11.5	3.33	0.05	0.18	1.03
10	1.48	-	32.3	3.64	0.77	0.29	21.8	8.89	0.21	0.52	-
PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-177(Ti)_ Aged											
MIL-177(Ti)	Permeability [Barrer]						$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$				
[wt%]	N ₂	O ₂	CO ₂	CH ₄	H ₂	He	CO ₂ /N ₂	CO ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /CH ₄	H ₂ /N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
0 (700d)	680	2774	11856	877	9353	3788	17.43	13.53	10.67	13.75	4.08
10 (700d)	524	2169	9126	721	8373	3823	17.41	12.66	11.61	15.98	4.14

Table S-5 CO₂ permeability over an aging time of an almost 2 years for neat polymers and their respective MMMs.

PIM-TMN-Trip		10%MIL-101(Cr)		10%MIL-177(Ti)	
Aging days	PCO ₂	Aging days	PCO ₂	Aging days	PCO ₂
1	40728	1	32997	1	22777
2	26983	2	27001	36	11278
365	14054	464	14610	200	11250
700	11856	700	11529	365	11278
-	-	2000	10528	703	9126
PIM-EA-TB		20%MIL-101(Cr)		10%MIL-177(Ti)	
Aging days	PCO ₂	Aging days	PCO ₂	Aging days	PCO ₂
1	6231	1	10313	1	6198
2	5125	2	9238	2	3803
100	2644	30	5891	30	2347
860	1512	1500	3379	-	-
-	-	2000	3463	2000	816

Table S-6 Mixed gas permeability and selectivity for the PIM-TMN-Trip/MIL-101(Cr) and PIM-EA-TB MMMs in binary mixtures CO₂/CH₄ (35:65 Vol%), CO₂/N₂ (15:85 Vol%) and O₂/N₂ (20:80 Vol%)

PIM-TMN-Trip/ MIL-101(Cr)_aged 20159 days			
Mixture CO ₂ /CH ₄ (35:65 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]		$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$	
Pressure [bar]	CO ₂	CH ₄	CO ₂ /CH ₄
1	15671	932	16.8
2	13638	929	14.7
3	12702	946	13.4
4	12037	966	12.5
5	11503	986	11.7
6	11104	995	11.2
5.5	11431	1010	11.3
4.5	12036	1036	11.6
3.5	12770	1033	12.4
2.5	13621	1039	13.1
1.5	14743	1028	14.3
1	15481	1015	15.2
Mixture CO ₂ /N ₂ (15:85 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]		$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$	

Pressure [bar]	CO ₂	N ₂	CO ₂ /N ₂
1	15529	710	21.9
2	14088	705	20.0
3	13150	698	18.8
4	12449	694	17.9
5	11923	693	17.2
6	11470	689	16.6
5.5	11698	694	16.9
4.5	12219	703	17.4
3.5	12881	709	18.2
2.5	13701	715	19.2
1.5	14792	717	20.6
1	15646	720	21.7

Mixture O ₂ /N ₂ (15:85 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]			$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$
Pressure [bar]	O ₂	N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
1	2559	522	4.90
2	2597	516	5.03
3	2624	518	5.07
4	2643	521	5.07
5	2658	526	5.05
6	2671	528	5.06
5.5	2717	533	5.10
4.5	2778	539	5.16
3.5	2843	540	5.27
2.5	2898	542	5.35
1.5	2936	535	5.49
1	2973	529	5.62

PIM-EA-TB/MIL-101(Cr)_MeOH			
Mixture CO ₂ /CH ₄ (35:65 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]			$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$
Pressure [bar]	CO ₂	CH ₄	CO ₂ /CH ₄
1	2146	86	16.8
2	2079	93	14.7
3	2149	95	13.4
4	2146	99	12.5
5	2132	102	11.7
6	2126	105	11.2
5.5	2132	104	11.3

4.5	2158	102	11.6
3.5	2180	101	12.4
2.5	2197	100	13.1
1.5	2118	103	14.3
1	2103	105	15.2

Mixture CO ₂ /N ₂ (15:85 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]			$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$
Pressure [bar]	CO ₂	N ₂	CO ₂ /N ₂
1	2372	105	22.6
2	2425	96	25.3
3	2408	90	26.8
4	2357	87	27.2
5	2372	84	28.1
6	2330	82	28.4
5.5	2355	82	28.6
4.5	2384	84	28.3
3.5	2328	86	27.2
2.5	2353	88	26.8
1.5	2364	94	25.3
1	2343	91	25.6

Mixture O ₂ /N ₂ (15:85 Vol%)			
Permeability [Barrer]			$\alpha (P_A/P_B)$
Pressure [bar]	O ₂	N ₂	O ₂ /N ₂
1	470	99	4.74
2	470	86	5.46
3	472	87	5.40
4	473	88	5.34
5	475	87	5.49
6	476	88	5.41
5.5	481	90	5.33
4.5	489	93	5.24
3.5	493	99	5.00
2.5	496	105	4.74
1.5	493	113	4.38
1	494	123	4.00