

Europe renewable energy brussels

Do you want to help improving EUR-Lex ? This is a list of experimental features that you can enable. These features are still under development; they are not fully tested, and might reduce EUR-Lex stability. Don't forget to give your feedback!

In response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission is implementing its REPowerEU Plan to phase out Russian fossil fuel imports.

Thanks to REPowerEU, we've safeguarded EU citizens and businesses from energy shortages, supported Ukraine by weakening Russia's war chest, accelerated the transition to clean energy and stabilised prices.

Thanks to the actions of citizens, businesses and EU countries alike, the EU has overachieved its voluntary target to reduce gas demand by 15%. Natural gas demand declined by 18% between August 2022 and March 2024. This helped the EU save 125 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas.

In 2022, EU Member States agreed to fill underground gas storage to 80% of capacity by 1 November 2022. By working together, EU countries surpassed this, instead reaching 95% of gas storage capacity.

Ensuring greater diversity in our supply of energy means that if one source suddenly gets cut off, the effects are felt less acutely. Trading with reliable energy partners while producing more home-grown renewables greatly improves the resilience of our energy system.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, it became clear that the EU needed alternative ways to ensure its energy supply. At the outbreak of the invasion, almost half of EU gas imports were sourced from Russia, and Russia weaponised this over-reliance to try and harm our economy and undermine our support for Ukraine.

Since the adoption of the REPowerEU Plan, the EU has drastically phased down Russian fossil fuel imports and diversified its supplies. EU sanctions have banned seaborne imports of Russian crude oil and refined petroleum products as well as Russian coal. Imports of Russian gas have significantly dropped, setting the EU on track to phase them out completely in the coming years.

Energy prices in Europe have declined substantially compared to the peaks in 2022, thanks to the coordinated European response and the REPowerEU Plan. Europe is investing in producing clean and affordable energy and securing its energy independence.

Following the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the EU proposed common gas procurement to make sure that Europeans have access to affordable energy and avoid any energy supply disruptions. This system allowed us to start buying a share of our gas needs together, as Europeans, and not competing among



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ourselves for scarce supplies.

In place since April 2022, the EU Energy Platform plays a crucial role in helping to diversify our energy supply. The Platform helps coordinate infrastructure investments and negotiations with external gas suppliers to prevent EU countries from outbidding each other. The Platform also leverages the weight of the EU single market to achieve better conditions for all EU consumers.

This initiative pools gas demand from EU and Energy Community companies and matches this demand with competitive supply offers from the global market. Following a call for matching rounds, companies can voluntarily conclude purchasing contracts with gas suppliers, either individually or jointly.

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