

7 STEPS FOR EUROPE TO REPLACE RUSSIAN ENERGY

As war unfolds in Ukraine there is one question on everyone's mind: How can Europe gain energy independence from Russia?

The Commission's upcoming Communication titled "Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy" was postponed for a week due to the ongoing situation in Ukraine, with the new adoption date set for 8 March.

Here is what we expect from the Commission.

RUSSIA CONTROLS

41%

OF EUROPEAN GAS IMPORTS

"We simply cannot rely so much on a supplier that explicitly threatens us."

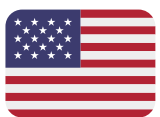
- President von der Leyen

1

LNG DELIVERIES



particularly from the US and Qatar. In January, Europe had a record supply of LNG delivered. However, LNG is not a silver bullet as there is no single country that can replace Russia's supply to Europe, and Qatari Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi has already made it clear that Qatar's LNG is tied up in long-term contracts, particularly with Asian countries.



According to Commissioner Simson, the Commission will set up a platform to facilitate EU-level coordination to maximise the use of LNG infrastructure and ensure that supplies will go where they are most needed.

2

STRENGTHENING GAS STORAGE

by introducing a minimum required level to be reached by the end of September of each year. By 30 September 2022, levels should reach 80% according to a leak of the upcoming Communication. Using gas from storage is another immediate action being taken to mitigate the crisis.

"It is our current assessment that the EU can get through this winter safely."

- Commissioner Simson

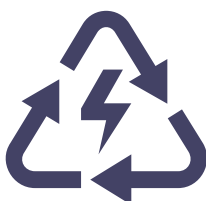


Gas market rules are already currently undergoing revision in the December 2021 'gas markets and hydrogen package', which includes the proposed revision of the EU gas regulation and EU gas directive. Commissioner Simson has called for progress on this package to be made as quickly as possible.

3

BOOSTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

including electrification and renewable power, through a "New Energy Compact". Investments in renewables can come from additional revenues from Europe's emissions trading scheme (ETS) which came as a result of the unexpectedly high carbon price.



In a recent debate, MEP Markus Pieper (EPP, Germany), Rapporteur on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive, suggested increasing the share of renewable energies in energy consumption to 45% (the Commission proposed a target of 40%). Pieper declared, "This is the only way we can become more independent and show Putin that we can do without him".

"Every kilowatt-hour of electricity Europe generates from solar, wind, hydropower or biomass reduces our dependency on Russian gas and other energy sources."

- President von der Leyen



4

BOOSTING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE GASES



including biogas and hydrogen. A "Hydrogen Accelerator" is planned, and it will be essential to treat state aid approval for hydrogen projects as a matter of priority.

The [IEA's 10-Point Plan](#) to Reduce the European Union's Reliance on Russian Natural Gas sees this as a long-term solution as "there is limited potential to scale up biogas and biomethane supply in the short term because of the lead times for new projects," which brings us to Step 5.

5

TACKLING OVERLY-COMPLEX ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES



Investments in renewables and related grid infrastructure must be given the most favourable planning and permitting procedures possible. Permitting is currently a major obstacle causing bottlenecks in renewable energy projects.

[According to the IEA](#), a concerted policy effort to fast-track further renewable capacity additions could deliver another 20 TWh over the next year, mostly in utility-scale wind and solar PV projects. The IEA notes that it is necessary to clarify and simplify responsibilities among various permitting bodies, build up administrative capacity, set clear deadlines for the permitting process, and digitalise applications.

"We need to reduce the time for constructing new renewable installations."
-[Commissioner Simson](#)

6

SPEEDING UP JOINT PROCUREMENT EFFORTS



The Commission is also considering a pilot project to support Member States in joint procurement efforts. This is also a key aspect of the December 2021 'gas markets and hydrogen package' and would help Member States to address high energy prices and build up strategic stocks to be used in case of emergency.

7

REDUCING OVERALL ENERGY CONSUMPTION



The [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (EED), which is being revised as part of the Fit for 55 package, will raise the energy efficiency targets for primary and final energy consumption to 39% and 36%, respectively, compared to the 2007 reference scenario.

"In the longer-term, high quality information on energy efficiency, including via eco-labels, helps consumers save money, cut energy bills and alleviate energy poverty."
-[Commissioner Simson](#)



"Less dependency on Russian gas and other fossil fuel sources also means less money for the Kremlin's war chest"
-[President von der Leyen](#)



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