

Fostering energy-independence and pushing for diversification of EU energy supply by investing in green energy

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Recognising that:

1. The Russian aggression towards Ukraine and the resulting war have a major impact on the energy supply of the European Union (EU).
2. The sanctions against Russia are both justified and necessary, and their negative impact on the EU and its citizens are ever-smaller compared to the harm the war is inflicting onto Ukrainian citizens.
3. Due to the flagrant violation of both the ethical and legal code governing international conduct, the EU must remain both steadfast in their current position vis-à-vis the Russian Federation as well as prepared to further escalate their sanction regime – for instance in the energy sector – as to be able to properly react to further military escalation by Russia.
4. While the EU's member states' payments for Russian oil and gas play a significant role in them being able to bankroll their war against Ukraine, an immediate stop of all energy imports from Russia would inflict a heavy economic toll on European citizens.
5. The Russian Federation has unilaterally decided to only accept payments for its energy exports in its national currency, rouble, which could greatly affect the EU's energy markets and economy. The EU is not yet able to generate enough energy through renewables as to be able to sufficiently replace energy imports from Russia. The green transition is simply not far enough developed yet.
6. The pandemic has shown that the EU is not resilient with regard to supply-chain disruptions and has to foster strategic autonomy in many areas, such as energy.
7. The EU needs to be as independent as possible from authoritarian regimes in order to have a better bargaining power in potential future global crisis.

Acknowledging that:

1. The EU imports 90% of its gas, 45,3% of which were imported from Russia in 2021¹.
2. The EU imports 25% of its oil and 45% of its coal from Russia².
3. The current deterioration in relations with Russia makes the need for a green transition even more necessary than before.
4. The programme REPowerEU is trying to reduce the EU's energy dependency by building on two pillars: Diversification of the EU energy supply and reducing the EU's dependency on fossil fuels.
5. Ensuring energy independence should not make the smaller income households and other vulnerable groups within society suffer due to increasing energy prices.
6. The EU can only diversify its supply and end the dependency on Russian fossil fuels if the green transformation and projects for green energy receive enough financial support.
7. Ensuring strategic autonomy is essential for the EU to be more resilient, especially with regard to energy.

YEPP calls on:

1. The EU and its member-states to foster energy-independence by investing more and efficiently in the green transition. Companies complain about administrative obligations that stop them from investing further³. The EU has to make sure that companies are motivated and incentivised to invest in green transition, by, for instance, reducing bureaucratic obligations.
2. The EU and Member States to speed up their permission granting processes for energy infrastructure and energy projects. The longer it takes to grant approval for such projects, the longer the EU as whole will be dependent on Russian oil and gas. Following the Article 4 (TFEU) energy is listed as shared competence with additional elements of Union policy on energy listed in Article 194 (TFEU). Therefore, realization on energy projects throughout the EU, with aim of overall strengthening of the Union energy resilience and independence, must include the MS level as well.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1511

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1511

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-03/REPowerEU_Communication_with_Annexes_EN.pdf



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3. The EU to diversify its gas supply and intensify talks with Norway, Libya, and Algeria for midterm energy security.
4. The EU to cooperate with partners within and outside the EU for green energy projects and supply. Thereby using existing expertise and call for rapid improvements of green hydrogen infrastructure & production on European soil. Short-term hydrogen alliances with third countries (Qatar & UAE), with whom several member states already initiated conversations, could be part of a short term solution.
5. A strengthened cooperation with such third countries should be bound on measures of improvement of compliance with human rights.
6. The EU to further push for a quick green transition and energy independence through projects like REPowerEU. Moreover, spending on Research & Development (R&D) has to be incentivised in order to gain more knowledge and bring about innovative technology.
7. The EU member states to speed up the green transition with efficient and emission-free energy sources as nuclear power, bio gas, wind and solar energy as well as hydropower. The production of these emission-free energy forms must quickly be increased to guarantee European energy independence.