



European Commission

Save Gas for a Safe Winter



JULY 2022

Russia is weaponising its gas supplies as part of its war of aggression against Ukraine. Deliveries to Europe have been volatile and storage facilities managed by Gazprom have been under-filled. Europe needs to **prepare now for further disruptions - including for a complete stop of Russian gas deliveries.**

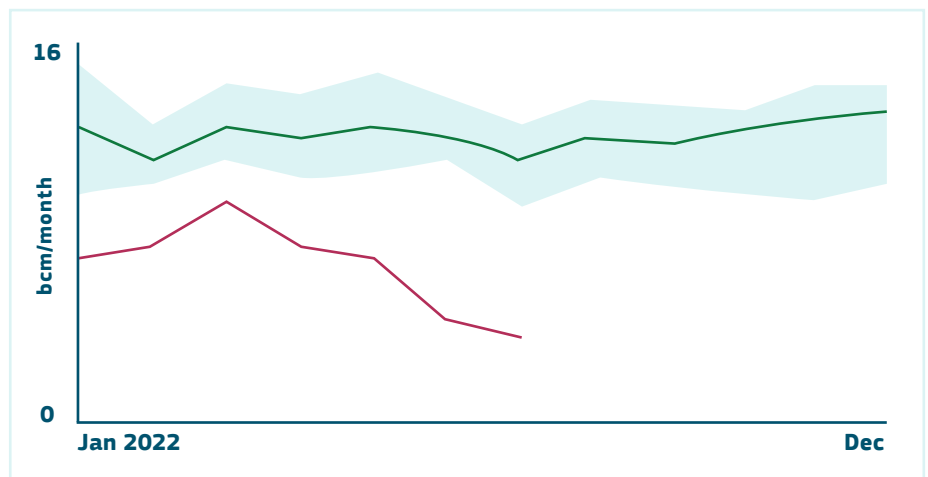
By acting now jointly and with solidarity, we can reduce risks for the months ahead. **Energy saved in summer, is energy we can use in the winter.**



FALLING RUSSIAN GAS SUPPLIES

12 Member States already suffer from full or partial disruption of supply. In June 2022, Russian gas supplies were below 30% of the average for the past 5 years.

Flows of Russian gas in 2022 compared with previous years



— 2022 — Average 2016- 2021 — Range 2016- 2021

SAVING NOW FOR THE WINTER AHEAD



Saving energy now allows Europe to store more gas for the winter, when demand is higher. The Commission therefore proposes **that all Member States reduce gas demand by 15% from 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**. These measures will be voluntary at first.

If a gap emerges between supply and demand, the new **Regulation on coordinated gas demand reduction measures** creates the possibility to call a 'Union Alert' and impose mandatory reductions on all Member States.

Acting now will :

- **Reduce the negative GDP impact**
- **Help reach our 80% gas storage target** by 1 November, to maintain safe levels for this winter and beyond
- **Ease the burden on the economy and employment by allowing** planned and coordinated measures
- **Reduce market pressures** by sending the right signals about Europe's preparedness

To achieve the 15% target, the Commission has adopted a **European Gas Demand Reduction Plan** with guidelines to protect households, essential users and industries from a gas shortage and help Member States to reduce gas demand.

The plan will :

- **Encourage fuel switching away from gas**, with a priority for renewables and cleaner fuels
- **Promote saving of non-critical gas for electricity and heat production**
- **Incentivise consumption reduction by industry**, for example through tenders or auctions for reduced gas use, interruptible contracts, and contract swaps
- **Promote reduced heating and cooling in buildings**, including through Member State awareness raising campaigns and action by individual citizens
- **Provide guidance to Member States** on prioritisation of industry sectors in case of curtailments



What has the EU done to secure energy supplies for all Member States?

The EU has been building an interconnected Energy Union for many years, reducing the exposure of individual Member States to supply interruptions and diversifying our sources of supply and import routes.



Diversified gas supplies and routes

from EU investments in LNG import terminals, cross-border infrastructure, and reverse pipeline flows



Interconnected energy infrastructure

capable of bringing gas where it is needed across Europe, from multiple sources



Solid regulatory framework for security of supply

with national contingency plans and obligatory solidarity arrangements to protect the most vulnerable consumers



REPowerEU Plan

to end the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels as soon as possible through: **diversification** of energy supplies, accelerated rollout of **renewable energy**, energy savings and **energy efficiency**.



New gas storage regulation

requiring Member States to fill **80%** of underground gas storage by 1 November



EU Energy Platform

to coordinate demand needs, infrastructure capacity, and voluntary joint purchases of gas, at EU level and through 5 regional groups

