

A 10-Point Plan to Reduce the European Union's Reliance on Russian Natural Gas

Measures implemented this year could **bring down gas imports from Russia by over one-third**, with additional temporary options to deepen these cuts to **well over half while still lowering emissions**.

Action 1



No new gas supply contracts with Russia

Impact: Taking advantage of expiring long-term contracts with Russia will reduce the contractual minimum take-or-pay levels for Russian imports and enable greater diversity of supply.

Action 2



Replace Russian supplies with gas from alternative sources

Impact: Around 30 bcm in additional gas supply from non-Russian sources.

Action 3



Introduce minimum gas storage obligations to enhance market resilience

Impact: Enhances the resilience of the gas system, although higher injection requirements to refill storage in 2022 will add to gas demand and prop up gas prices.

Action 4



Accelerate the deployment of new wind and solar projects

Impact: An additional 35 TWh of generation from new renewable projects over the next year, over and above the already anticipated growth from these sources, bringing down gas use by 6 bcm.

Action 5



Maximise generation from existing dispatchable low-emissions sources: bioenergy and nuclear

Impact: An additional 70 TWh of power generation from existing dispatchable low emissions sources, reducing gas use for electricity by 13 bcm.

Action 6



Enact short-term measures to shelter vulnerable electricity consumers from high prices

Impact: Brings down energy bills for consumers even when natural gas prices remain high, making available up to EUR 200 billion to cushion impacts on vulnerable groups.

Action 7



Speed up the replacement of gas boilers with heat pumps

Impact: Reduces gas use for heating by an additional 2 bcm in one year.

Action 8



Accelerate energy efficiency improvements in buildings and industry

Impact: Reduces gas consumption for heat by close to an additional 2 bcm within a year, lowering energy bills, enhancing comfort and boosting industrial competitiveness.

Action 9



Encourage a temporary thermostat adjustment by consumers

Impact: Turning down the thermostat for buildings' heating by 1°C would reduce gas demand by some 10 bcm a year.

Action 10



Step up efforts to diversify and decarbonise sources of power system flexibility

Impact: A major near-term push on innovation can, over time, loosen the strong links between natural gas supply and Europe's electricity security. Real-time electricity price signals can unlock more flexible demand, in turn reducing expensive and gas-intensive peak supply needs.