



REGARDING THE HALT OF LNG IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

16 September 2024

Vilnius

We, the Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of our respective parliaments,

emphasizing that during Russia's war in Ukraine, energy has been used as a hybrid weapon against Europe and in Ukraine, energy sector has become a strategic target of military attacks, and it is therefore important that we all share a common understanding of this new security reality,

noting that Europe's previous dependence on Russian gas reflects short-sightedness and gave Russia tools to manipulate supply by limiting gas flows, which led to a significant energy crisis, causing European consumers and industry to suffer greatly, and undermining confidence in the EU,

recalling that the EU has already recognised energy independence and resilience as key components of its security framework and has made significant efforts in this regard, achieving notable results, while EU Member States have demonstrated unity and solidarity in phasing out gas imports from Russia in light of the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis in Europe,

recognising that, to achieve the ultimate goal of zero imports of energy supplies of Russian origin, the EU must take further action,

understanding that the necessary decisions are not easy and are complex to implement,

express deep concern that the goal of the European Commission, outlined in the *RePowerEU* Communication, to eliminate all energy imports from Russia by 2027 is off track. The biggest setback is the increase in LNG imports from Russia, which are rising instead of being reduced;

emphasise that by continuing to purchase LNG from Russia, the EU maintains its dependency on a country that uses energy as a hybrid weapon and a tool of manipulation; this undermines EU unity and diminishes public trust;

point out that every euro paid to Russia for energy helps finance its war against Ukraine and poses a direct threat to the EU. Each payment strengthens Russia's economic capacity to continue its aggressive actions, including the war in Ukraine;

remind that diversifying and expanding energy supply sources are crucial to ensuring energy security;

hold the view that a complete cessation of imports from Russia is essential and that the EU must achieve this as swiftly as possible, particularly by halting LNG imports from Russia through strong political will;

emphasise that existing LNG terminals and any additional LNG capacity to be built in Member States in the coming years should fulfil their initial purpose: diversifying gas import routes and enabling the EU to stop importing gas from Russia, not the other way around. These capacities must not become a backdoor for Russian gas entering Europe;

stress that the decision to cease energy imports from Russia must be a long-term commitment. We must remain steadfast in strengthening our security and resilience by seeking solutions that align with EU values, even if these solutions are challenging to implement;

note that the EU, especially when acting collectively, not only has the opportunity but also bears the responsibility for making value-based decisions. By halting LNG imports from Russia, the EU will strengthen a unified response to Russia's actions, demonstrate strong political will, and enhance EU security, while highlighting values rooted in peace and stability;

call on the European Commission, the European Parliament, national parliaments, and the governments of the EU Member States to:

1. focus on the growing threat to both EU and national energy security posed by Russian LNG imports.
2. Take specific measures to ensure that Russian LNG is not imported into the EU, particularly from the "Spot" market, a practice that should be halted immediately. Additionally, address the remaining long-term contracts as soon as possible.
3. Act urgently to meet the goal set by the European Commission and enforce the deadline of 1 January 2027 for the cessation of imports of gas, including LNG, from Russia.
4. Continue diplomatic efforts to strengthen relationships with reliable energy suppliers from other regions such as Central Asia, the Middle East, the US, and Norway. This will help ensure a stable and diversified energy supply, preventing the EU from replacing its dependency on Russian energy with reliance on other unstable suppliers.
5. Increase investment at the EU level in the development of new energy technologies of clean energy sources. This will enhance energy security, create sustainable long-term solutions, and bolster the global competitiveness of European industries.

6. Strengthen economic and social transition mechanisms to mitigate any short-term impacts on consumers and industry. Member States should be able to rely on solidarity mechanisms to ensure that no country is left devoid of energy sources due to this decision.

7. Enhance cooperation among Member States to address this issue more effectively by sharing best practices.

Agnieszka Pomaska

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee
Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Bogdan Klich

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee
Senat of the Republic of Poland

Edmunds Cepurītis

Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Peeter Tali

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee
Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia

Žygimantas Pavilionis

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Gusty Graas

Chair of the Committee on Foreign and
European Affairs, Cooperation, Foreign Trade
and the Greater Region
Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of
Luxembourg

Heikki Autto

Chairman of the Grand Committee
Eduskunta of the Republic of Finland

Harris Georgiades

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and
European Affairs
House of Representatives of the Republic of
Cyprus

Anton Hofreiter

Chairman of the Committee on European Union
Affairs
Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany

Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata

Chairman of the Committee on EU policies
Senate of the Republic of Italy

Ondřej Benešík

Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic

Caroline van der Plas

Chair of the European Affairs Committee
House of Representatives of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands