



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Energy situation in the EU in the context of the war in Ukraine - Exchange of views

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**Background note — TTE (Energy) Council of 27 June 2022**

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, several instruments have been proposed to address the European Union's security of supply challenges, such as the joint gas purchasing platform and the regulation on gas storage. These are in addition to the coordination and solidarity mechanisms already in place, in particular in the context of the regulation on security of gas supply. The Gas Coordination Group and the Commission have carried out an initial analysis of the risks and of the preparedness of the Member States and at European level, to ensure alternative supplies or to reduce demand.

Views were exchanged on the state of supply and preparedness at EU level at the TTE (Energy) Council meetings on 28 February and 2 May. On 18 May the Commission presented the REPowerEU plan, which aims to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030 in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, by means of joint European action for more affordable, more secure and more sustainable energy. The European Council, meeting on 30 and 31 May 2022, stated that, in a spirit of European solidarity, preparedness for possible major supply disruptions and the resilience of the EU gas market should be improved, in particular through swiftly agreeing on bilateral solidarity agreements and a coordinated European contingency plan, which should ensure that major supply disruptions are mitigated. Taking into account the European Security of Supply Regulation and new coordinated actions already underway for alternative supplies and storage, this plan could, among other things, coordinate demand reduction to prevent a supply crisis and/or during a supply crisis.

This ministerial debate will be an opportunity to take stock of possible additional actions in terms of preparations in the natural gas sector, in particular with a view to the next heating season.

Ministers will be invited to express their views on two questions in particular:

- 1- How do you see your current situation and that of the EU in the light of the latest developments in the natural gas sector?
- 2- What additional actions would be useful to shore up the EU's preparedness in this sector, including ones that should be part of the coordinated European contingency plan for demand before and during a supply crisis, with a view to the next heating season?