

**Phasing-out the European Union's natural gas dependency vis-à-vis Russia:
transparency tools as a key enabler of a successful phase-out**

Non-paper from AUSTRIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FRANCE,
FINLAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, SWEDEN

We strongly support the phase-out of our dependency on Russian natural gas imports as soon as possible, as stated in the March 2022 EU leaders' Versailles Declaration.

As one of the building blocks of a broader action plan, transparency on imports of Russian natural gas would allow a high-quality assessment of the situation in the Union paving the way to a successful phase-out of Russian natural gas imports, as soon as possible.

AIS tracking of LNG carriers and customs data have shown a recent increase in imports of Russian LNG in EU LNG facilities. However, this public data does not give a complete picture of the situation. Indeed, in the internal market, responsibility for LNG imports rests with natural gas suppliers.

Some of these natural gas suppliers have booked capacity in EU LNG facilities to import increasing volumes of Russian LNG, but these natural gas suppliers are currently not properly identified.

We consider important to ensure full transparency on imports of Russian natural gas and to shed light on the identity of natural gas suppliers who import Russian LNG in order to design adequate solutions to effectively tackle our dependency on Russian natural gas imports.

We encourage the Commission to improve the transparency in the internal market by strengthening the notification obligation for unloading operations of Russian LNG foreseen in the 14th sanction package in order to require the following information:

- Identity of gas suppliers who import liquified natural gas originating in Russia or exported from Russia- ;
- Volumes of liquified natural gas originating in Russia or exported from Russia imported by each natural gas supplier.

We further encourage the Commission to ensure this transparency by publishing the information collected.

Further, to enable the execution of the 14th sanction package and pending application in 26 March 2025 of the prohibition to provide reloading services for Russian LNG, we are convinced of the necessity to improve without delay transparency on the origin of reloaded LNG cargoes. We encourage the Commission to submit a proposal in order to demand that LNG facility operators provide information on the proportion of LNG originating in Russia or exported from Russia in each reloaded LNG cargo, using rules and guidance established under article 3r, paragraph 4, of regulation (EU)

833/2014 and obliging the European LNG storage operators to monitor the origin of LNG.

We remain committed to work together to fully implement the 2022 Versailles Declaration. Transparency is a key enabler in this perspective, we trust the current and future Commissioner for Energy as well as Commission services for their work on the matter, as part of a broader roadmap to phase-out our dependency on Russian natural gas imports as soon as possible.