



# Policy Working Group

Meeting #3 – 31 March 2022



# Meeting Agenda

5 min

**1) Welcome and approval of Minutes**

10 min

**2) SUPEERA Developments**

15 min

**3) EERA Strategy Working Group**

20 min

**4) Latest EU and International Policy Developments**

20 min

**5) Tour de Table**

5 min

**6) Open Consultations**

5 min

**7) For Your Agendas**

5 min

**8) AOB**

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**1**

**Welcome and approval  
of the minutes of last  
POL WG meeting**

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# **SUPEERA**

## **developments**

# State-of-play from the policy side (Task 3.2)



## ► Objectives for year 2022 (M24 to M36)

- 2 Webinars
- 1 Dedicated session at the 2022 EERA Annual Strategy Meeting
- 4 Policy Briefs to be published

## ► Webinars

- 1<sup>st</sup>: 20 May 2022 on **Hydrogen** → **Mark your calendars!**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: November/December

## ► Policy Briefs

- 1<sup>st</sup>: **Recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive** → **Soon in your mailbox for review!**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: By end of April 2022: REPowerEU (**NEW!**)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: By end of September/mid-October 2022: Biodiversity
- 4<sup>th</sup>: By end of November/early December 2022: Sustainable Carbon Cycles

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# **EERA Strategy Working Group**

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**4**

# **Latest EU and international policy developments**

# Main points (1/2)

Share in EU natural gas imports, 2021

► 08/03/22: plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030, starting with gas. Link [here](#)

► 2 main focuses:

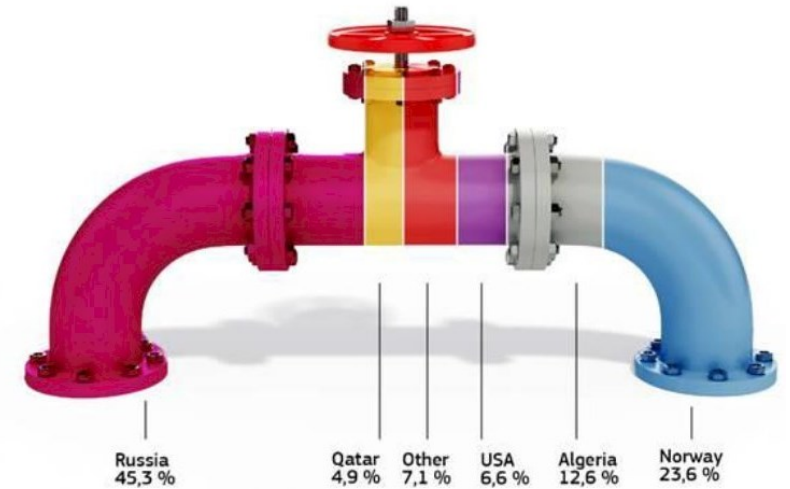
- 1) ensure gas supply security;
- **more renewables** and **energy efficiency**

► **Renewables:**

- Push for MS to simplify **permitting procedures**
- More **solar** & **wind**
- Double the yearly deployment of **heat pumps** → 10 million installations in the next 5 years

► **Securing gas supply:**

- More imports of LNG
- Increased supply of alternative gases, i.e., **biomethane** and **hydrogen**
- More diversification expected from **biogas** and **hydrogen** → Boost to **biomethane** production to 35bcm by 2030



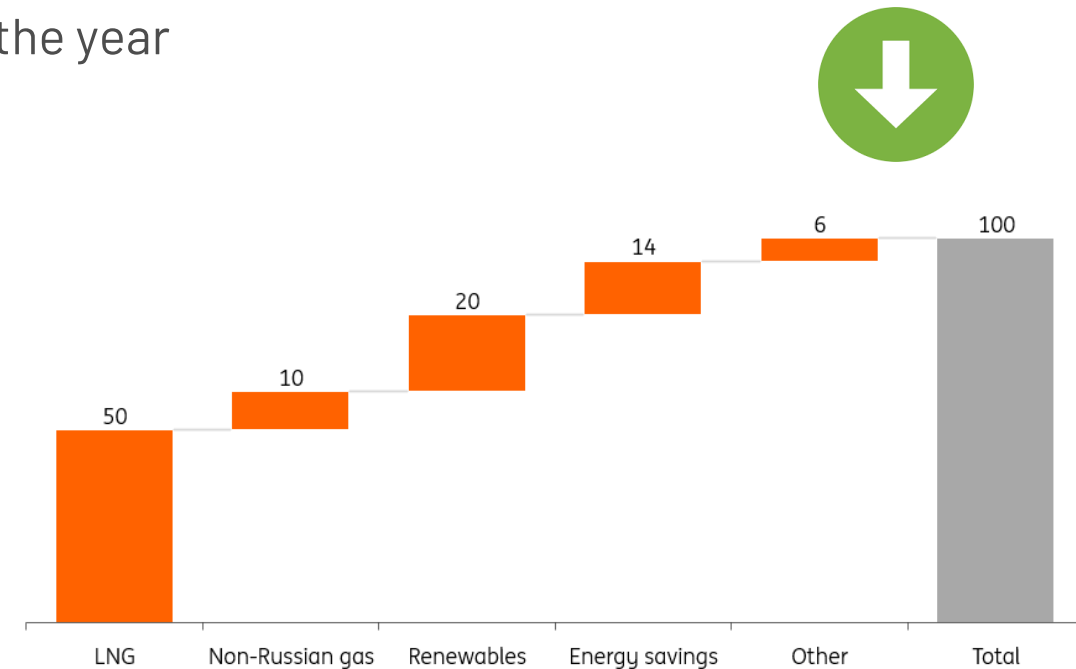
Source: European Commission



## Main Points (2/2)

- ▶ Focus possibly extended to **phasing out dependence on Russian oil** (20% of EU consumption) **and coal**
- ▶ Always on last 08/03:
  - ▶ US: ban for Russian fossil fuels
  - ▶ UK: phase out of Russian imports of oil by the end of the year
- ▶ **Germany → against any sanctions on Russian energy** as this would **endanger “social peace”** in the country
- ▶ Countries in **central and eastern Europe →** were betting on gas as a stepping stone away from coal but now the EC is saying that **countries could burn coal for longer provided** it is part of a wider transition to renewables
- ▶ **Possibility for EU countries to regulate prices** in exceptional circumstances and **tax energy companies** that make windfall profits from the current high energy prices

REPowerEU proposes to reduce Russian natural gas imports by 2/3 this year (100bn cubic meter) - Alternative solutions to Russian natural gas pipeline flows, in bcm

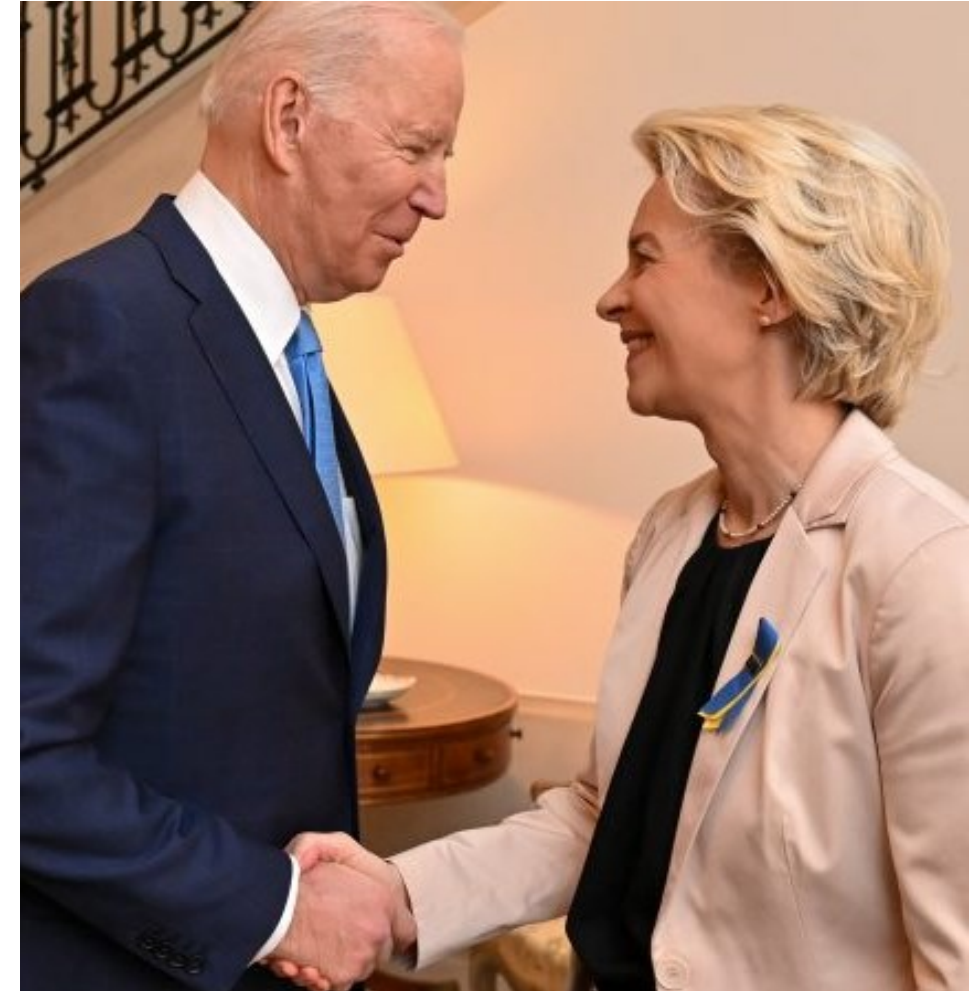


# Next steps & Follow-Ups

- ▶ **Versailles Declaration**, 10-11/03/2022 → EU leaders [agreed](#) to phase out the EU dependency on Russian gas, oil and coal imports ASAP and invited the EC to put forward a plan to ensure security of supply and affordable energy prices during the next winter season by end of March.
- ▶ 23/03/2022 → **response by the EC to the Versailles declaration**:
  - ▶ [Legislative Proposal](#) introducing a **minimum 80% gas storage level** obligation for next winter to ensure security of energy supply, rising to 90% for the following years
  - ▶ [Communication](#) setting out the **options for market intervention** at European and national level, and assessing the pros and cons of each option.
- ▶ 24/03/2022 → Biden at Nato summit, G7 summit and meeting of the European Council in Brussels. Announcement of the EU-US Task Force on Energy Security on 25/03/22 **(in depth in next slides)**
- ▶ EERA Action:
  - ▶ Quick reaction with [article](#) on the website + [infographic](#)
  - ▶ Extensive debate in Task Forces
  - ▶ Currently elaborating more articulated responses via the SUPEERA project (Policy Brief and Survey) and at EERA JP level

# EU-US Task Force on Energy Security (1/2)

- ▶ 25 March: EC and USA announced the establishment of a joint Task Force on Energy Security.
- ▶ **Main focus:**
  - ▶ Ensuring increased levels of LNG imports to the EU (at least 15 bcm in 2022, more in the future)
  - ▶ Reducing GHG intensity of LNG infrastructures and pipelines,
  - ▶ Speeding up bureaucracy related to LNG imports
  - ▶ Accelerating the setup of a hydrogen-ready infrastructure
  - ▶ Pool demand through a newly established EU Energy platform for imports of larger quantities of LNG
  - ▶ Ensuring stable demand for additional U.S. LNG until at least 2030 of approximately 50 bcm/annum

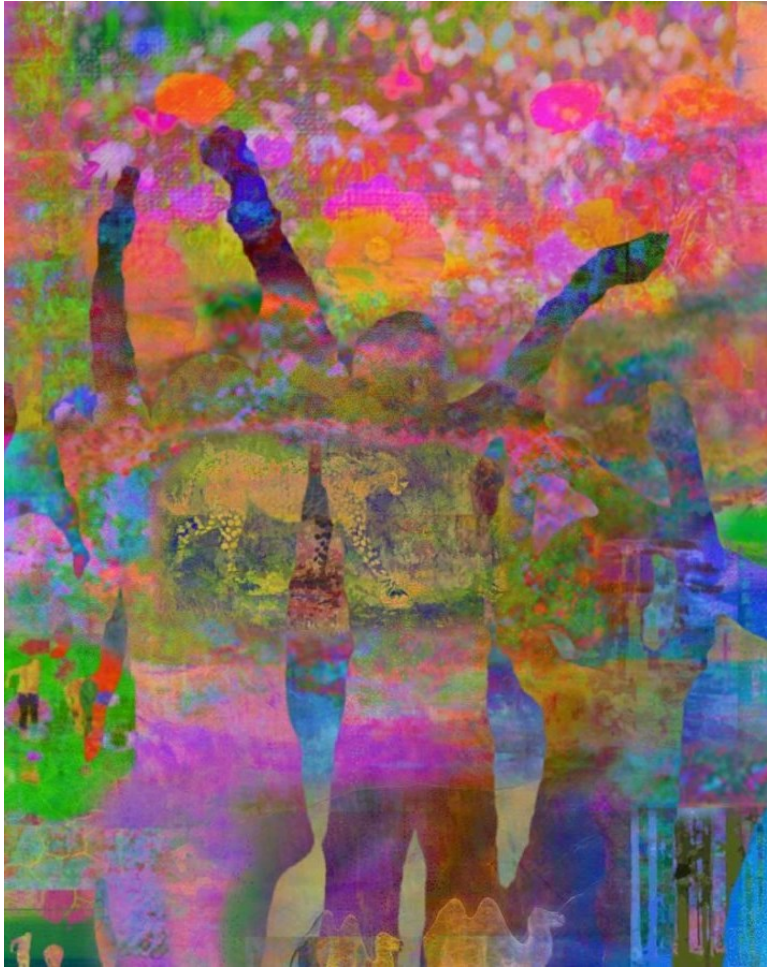


# EU-US Task Force on Energy Security (2/2)

## ► The agreement includes other provisions:

- The EU is preparing an upgraded regulatory framework for energy security of supply and storage, to **enhance certainty and predictability regarding security of supply** and storage needs
- Engagement of stakeholders, including private ones, to formulate immediate recommendations to reduce overall gas demand through accelerating **market deployment and utilization of clean energy technologies**
- Partnering on technologies and energy efficiency solutions: ramping up demand response devices (such as smart thermostats) and heat pump deployment and installations
- Expediting planning and approval for renewable energy projects and strategic energy cooperation including in offshore wind technologies.
- Collaborating to advance the production and use of clean and renewable hydrogen to displace unabated fossil fuels

# IPCC 6° Assessment Report – Part II (1/2)



- ▶ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its second part of the Sixth Assessment on climate change
- ▶ It looks at the impacts of climate change in **ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities** at global and regional levels – “an atlas of human suffering” (UN Sec Gen Antonio Gutierres)
- ▶ Main conclusion: “*The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a **threat to human well-being** and planetary health. **Any further delay** in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation **will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.***”

# IPCC 6° Assessment Report – Part II (2/2)

## ► Key observations:

- As much as **40% of the world population**, or a staggering 3.5 billion people, are “**highly vulnerable**” to **climate impacts**, expected to reach 50% or even 75% by the end of the century.
- “Substantive” falls in crop production are expected in Europe this century. Africa has already suffered a 34% plunge in agricultural productivity since 1961 due to climate change
- The “existential threat” to communities from flooding is expected to increase ten-fold by 2100
- Observed adaptation is unequally distributed across regions, and gaps are partially driven by widening disparities between the estimated costs of adaptation and documented finance allocated to adaptation

## ► Measures

- Restoration of degraded ecosystems and conservation of 30-50% of land, freshwater and ocean habitats
- Investments in adaptation, adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to climate change, and a push for “smart” cities are crucial to the solution
- Within energy system transitions, the most feasible adaptation options support infrastructure resilience, reliable power systems and efficient water use for existing and new energy generation systems. Energy generation diversification can reduce vulnerabilities to climate change, the experts say



# EU Clean Hydrogen Partnership

► **The EU CHP has launched the first call for proposals under its scope, with these among the main topics:**

- Hydrogen production processes
  - The efficiency of solar thermochemical water splitting
  - Low temperature water electrolyzers for highly pressurised hydrogen production
  - Use of hydrogen in transport (and mainly, heavy-duty transport), heating and power
  - Cross-cutting projects
  - “Hydrogen valleys” → Geographical area, city, region or industrial area where several hydrogen applications are combined together and integrated within an FCH ecosystem
- While the total mobilisation of public funds will amount to €1 billion over the course of the partnership, this first call for proposals will channel €300 million that shall be equalised by private sector participants, aiming to reach a total of €600 million in funds.



# Renewable Energy Directive III – EP endorsement

- ▶ **RED III: Tabled in July 2021 to support the new 55% GHG emissions reduction goal (part of the FF55 Package)**
- ▶ **15/02/22: MEP Markus Pieper (DE) has put forward amendments to the proposal with the view to:**
  - ▶ **Bolster the single market** → each EU country to prioritise at least two cross-border energy projects related to clean energy supply or transmission
  - ▶ **Simplify permitting processes** for wind farms or the expansion of the electricity grid networks
  - ▶ **Boost imports of renewable electricity and green hydrogen**
  - ▶ **Increase the greenhouse gas reduction targets in transportation** from 13% to 20%
  - ▶ **Scrap the “cascading principle” for biomass**, which prioritises the usage of wood and forest-based products depending on their environmental benefits. These standards cannot be defined uniformly throughout the EU → it should be the responsibility of MS to regulate sustainable forest management
  - ▶ **Reduce the administrative burden** (ex. requirements and reporting obligations) imposed on European companies when similar rules exist at the national level
  - ▶ Amendments discussed on 03/03/22 by the EP ITRE Committee → **widespread support in the EU Parliament**, especially in reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- ▶ **A vote in plenary is expected to take place in September 2022**



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# **Tour de table**

# Discussion



**What are members currently working on in their respective organizations, especially with relevance to the EU and international policy agenda?**

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# **Open consultations**

## ► EC public consultations

Policy Topic	Stage	Close by	
Gas networks – revision of EU rules on market access	Open	12 April 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>
EU Solar Energy Strategy	Open	12 April 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>
Renewable energy projects – permit-granting processes & power-purchase agreements	Open	12 April 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>
Gas networks – revision of EU rules on market access	Open	13 April 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>
Climate Change – new rules to prevent methane leakage in the energy sector	Open	18 April 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>
Certification of carbon removals – EU rules	Open	2 May 2022	<a href="#">Link</a>
Gas Storage – Proposal for a regulation	Open	24 May 2022	<a href="#">Submit feedback</a>

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**For your agendas**

# For your agendas

## EERA Events

- ▶ 04 May – EERA General Assembly
- ▶ 20 May – SUPEERA Webinar on Hydrogen
- ▶ 22 & 23 June – EERA Annual Strategy Meeting

## External events

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  EU Commission |  Think Tank    |
|  EU Presidency |  Media Outlets |

- ▶ **27 & 28 April** – [Science advice under pressure: a conference by the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism](#)
- ▶ **11-13 May** – [Europe as a Leader in Disruptive Innovation](#)
- ▶ **30 May to 05 June** – [EU Green Week](#)
- ▶ **26-30 September** – [EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)
- ▶ **19-21 October** – [International Conference on Research Infrastructures \(ICRI\)](#)

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**AOB**



# Thank you

[www.eera-set.eu](http://www.eera-set.eu)

[r.zilli@eera-set.eu](mailto:r.zilli@eera-set.eu)