MEDIA BRIEF: EU'S RISING RELIANCE ON US LIQUEFIED GAS IS A SECURITY RISK – AND IT NEEDS URGENT ACTION

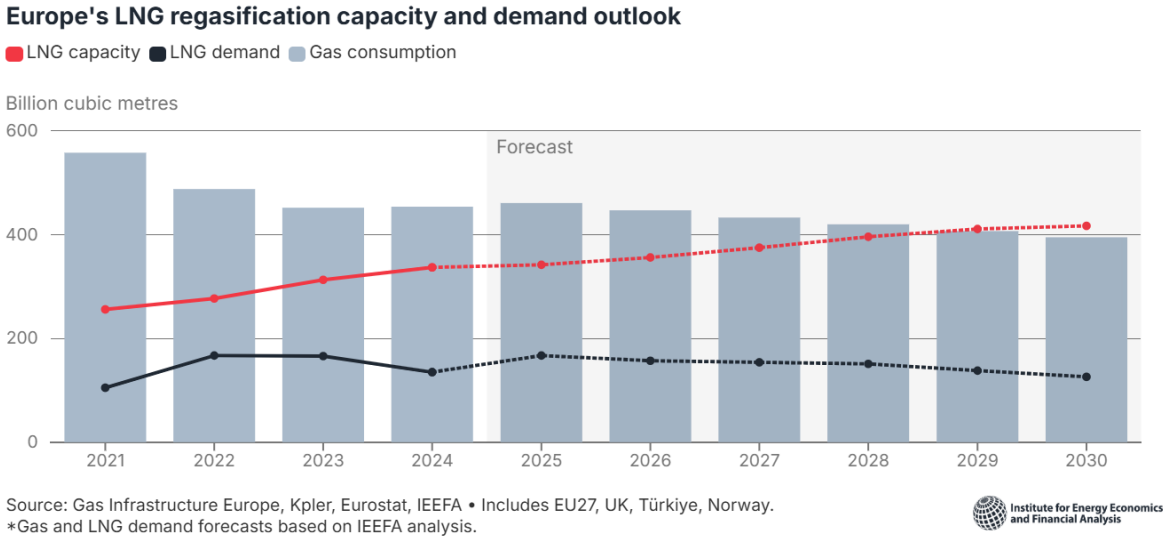
Summary

- The EU is heavily dependent on US gas. Since 2022, EU-headquartered companies have signed an estimated €190-€210 billion worth of US liquefied gas contracts. Many of these contracts have a duration far beyond 2035, the year by which the EU **must** completely phase out fossil gas in order to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.
- Since the start of 2026, 90 US liquefied gas (LNG) tankers have arrived in Europe. The EU already spent an estimated €2.8 billion in US liquefied gas in this timeframe.
- If the EU continues on its current path, IEEFA **forecasts** show it could become even more dependent on US gas, with as much as 40% of its total gas imports coming from the US by 2030 up from 27% in 2025.
- The Trump administration has shown that it is no longer a reliable partner, and the EU's overexposure to US liquefied gas markets and volatile politics is potentially a strategic liability that could become a trade weapon.
- The EU does not require additional US gas to ensure its energy security and replace Russian gas imports. It is already decreasing its gas consumption, and the implementation of its REPowerEU commitments will reinforce this trend, with fossil gas consumption reduced by more than 50% in 2030, from 2021 levels.
- With the Russian gas ban, the EU has demonstrated that, with determination, it can implement the necessary measures and regulate an early phase out of long-term supply contracts to disengage from an unreliable gas supplier.
- Heading towards the EU's energy independence through renewables and energy efficiency will create jobs, and shield Europe from political pressure, while helping prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

US liquefied gas overexposure and energy security

Last year, LNG made up close to half (45%) of all EU gas imports[1]. The European Union (EU) is substantially **overcontracted** in liquefied gas imports overall. The transatlantic relationships have taken a severe turn for the worse since Donald Trump started his second term as President of the United States. In this tense geopolitical moment, long-term purchase agreements between EU-headquartered companies and US liquefied gas suppliers risk locking Europe into increased dependency on US fossil gas.

[1] European Commission data on liquefied gas, Bruegel's dataset on European gas imports



Source: IEEFA https://ieefa.org/european-lng-tracker

The US is already the dominant source of Europe's liquefied gas imports. In 2025, liquefied gas from US export terminals accounted for roughly 57% of the EU's liquefied gas imports and 27% of the bloc's total gas imports. In **January 2026**, 60% of total EU liquefied gas imports were from the US. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) **projects** that US liquefied gas could account for as much as 80% of liquefied gas imports and 40% of total gas imports to the EU by 2030 if new contracts are fulfilled and gas demand does not fall. This overexposure is potentially a strategic liability that could become a trade weapon. The supply of US liquefied gas imports may be seen as a source of leverage for US interests looking to resolve unrelated political and foreign policy disputes.

Value of US liquefied gas contracts with EU countries

IEEFA collected a list of **existing** contracts and agreements of EU-headquartered companies with US liquefied gas suppliers signed since 2022. Based on this list, we estimate the total value of US liquefied gas contracts signed since 2022 with EU-headquartered companies across contract durations is roughly €190-210 billion[2]. Many of them have a duration far beyond 2035, the year by which the EU **must** completely phase out fossil gas in order to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

Between 1 January and 11 February 2026 alone, EU countries imported €2.8 billion worth of US gas. The material impact of the extensive deals is also seen in liquefied gas tankers arriving from the US. Since the beginning of 2026, 90 tankers have arrived in the EU: that's an average of two tankers carrying liquefied gas from the US arriving in Europe every day.[3]

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[2] This is based on total liquefied gas volume of 581bcm from IEEFA analysis and just for EU countries, assuming 0.036 MMBTU Energy value / m3 gas; 2.89 EUR/MWH = 1 $/MMBTU and at current Title Transfer Facility (TTF) gas prices as of 9 February 2026. These volumes likely show an underestimation as the contract list is not comprehensive and there are variations in other available contract databases like the Sierra Club US LNG export tracker and BNEF's database.

[3] According to data extracted from LSEG Data & Analytics on 12 February 2026, from 1 January 2026 to 12 February 2026, 90 US gas tankers arrived in EU countries. In this timeframe, EU countries imported 8.3 billion m3 of US gas, with an estimated value of €2.8 billion, based on the daily gas spot market price on the date of arrival as represented in the Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures.

This data illustrates the extent of the EU's dependence on US liquefied gas. The Trump administration's **threats** against individual EU member states and punitive use of tariffs are already a threat to various industries like automobiles and pharmaceuticals. If the EU continues signing long-term liquefied gas contracts amid an atmosphere of trade coercion, it is voluntarily expanding a vulnerability.

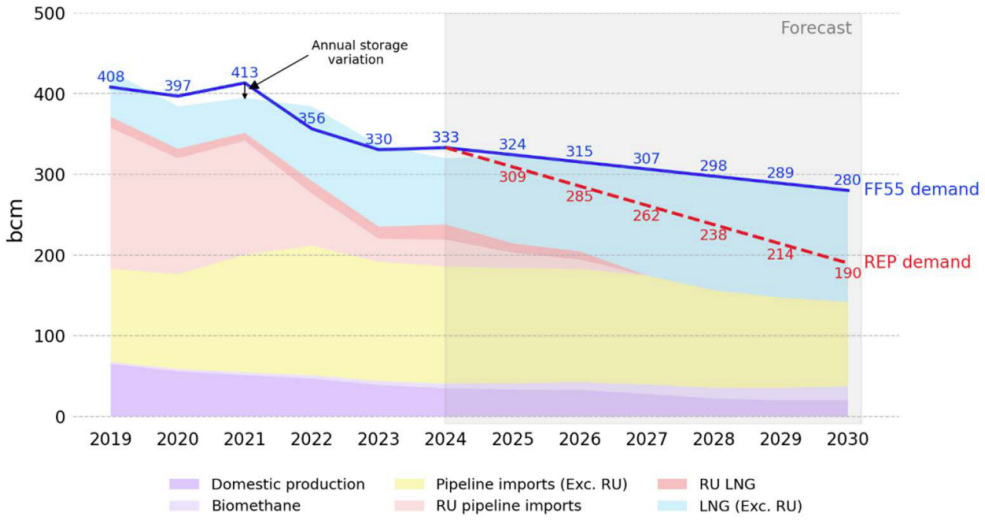
RePowerEU as the way forward

The European Commission and member states have an opportunity to decouple the EU from increased imports of liquefied gas from the US without increasing reliance on other, often autocratic sources of gas. The EU Commissioner for energy Dan Jørgensen has **already confirmed** the bloc is interested in diversifying away from American liquefied gas.

The EU does not need to look far to protect its energy security and interests. It has already agreed and implemented the RePowerEU Plan, a package of measures that, in the four years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has **helped** cut gas demand by more than 15% and lift renewables to nearly half of EU electricity generation, according to Eurostat. Together with the legally binding measures under the **Fit for 55** climate law, this framework places the EU on a clear trajectory of structural gas demand reduction.

If **fully implemented**, liquefied gas imports will gradually decline, as fossil gas consumption in 2030 could be reduced by more than 50% from 2021 levels, to approximately 190 bcm. This would practically mean that the bloc could cover most, if not all, of its projected 2030 gas demand without new contracts and with much less liquefied gas than in 2024 or 2025.

EU gas supply under Fit-for-55 and REPowerEU demand scenarios by 2030 (bcm)



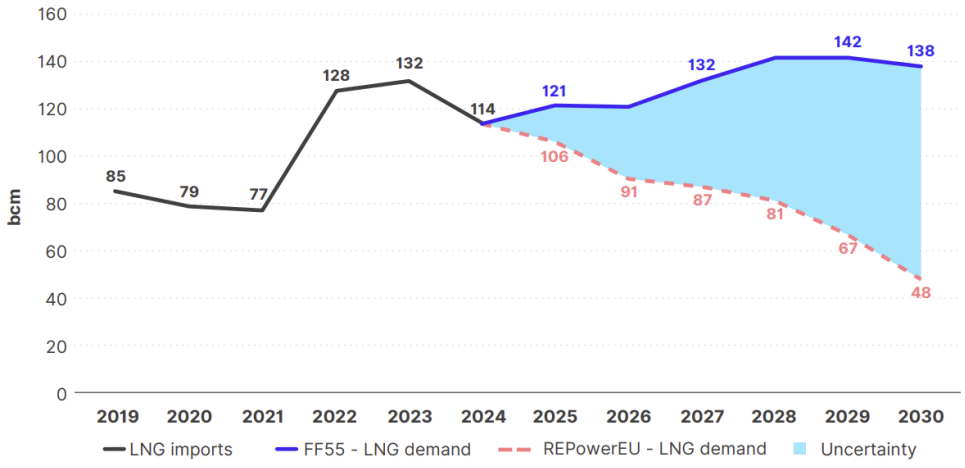
Source: ACER based on data from ICIS, S&P Global, ENTSOG, AGSI GIE, Eurostat, and REPowerEu.

This conclusion is reinforced by the EU's own regulator. According to **ACER**, the European agency of energy regulators, EU liquefied gas imports could fall to around 48 bcm by 2030, compared with 114 bcm imported in 2024. For comparison, in 2025 the EU imported 81 bcm of US liquefied gas alone. In other words, EU liquefied gas demand is projected to shrink within this decade, making any strategy premised on rising liquefied gas import volumes

misaligned with EU law and policy. The RePowerEU Plan does not seek to reverse the long-term **decline** in EU gas output or incentivise new upstream gas development. Instead, the aim is to reduce gas demand faster than supply falls through eff iciency, electrification, and renewables.

Now to achieve these targets but also ensuring the EU fully phases out fossil gas by **2035** in order to avoid the worst of climate chaos, EU governments must seriously ramp up their ambition and increase investments in renewable energy, energy storage, and grids as well as energy efficiency. Key technologies can play a pivotal role in gas demand reduction. Heat pumps for example can reduce billions of cubic meters of imported gas and save billions of euros from European households that have been struggling to warm their homes.[4]

LNG imports under Fit-for-55 and REPowerEU scenarios (bcm) in 2025-2030



Source: ACER based on data from ICIS, S&P Global, ENTSOG, AGSI GIE, Eurostat, and REPowerEu.

The other route to stopping dependence on US gas, alongside implementing the RePowerEU Plan, is to abandon all negotiations on additional purchase agreements for US LNG such as the pledge by the EU to purchase $750 billion worth of US energy by 2028, to refrain from signing new contracts and to gradually phase out all existing supply contracts by 2035 at the latest.[5]

RePowerEU as the way forward

After **finalising** a law to phase out all imports of Russian gas by November 2027, the EU demonstrated it can legislate a phase out of liquefied gas imports from a specific supplier, including rules that forbid new contracts and force a wind-down of existing ones. This is an important new precedent.

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[4] According to the industry, the 25.5 million heat pumps installed in 19 European countries are avoiding 21 billion cubic metres of gas imports saving an estimated €5.4 billion per year or the equivalent of almost half of Russian gas imports in 2024.

[5] According to the Sierra Club's US liquefied gas Export Tracker the following EU-headquartered companies currently hold purchase agreements with US LNG suppliers: OMV (Austria) ; Edison, Engie, EDF and TotalEnergies (France) ; BASF, EnBW, RWE, SEFE and Uniper (Germany) ; GASTRADE (Greece) ; Eni (Italy) ; PKN Orlen (Poland); Energias de Portugal, Galp (Portugal); Endesa, Iberdrola, Naturgy and Repsol (Spain).

When the EU identifies a supply relationship as incompatible with security and policy objectives, it can move beyond market signals and into import restrictions with transition periods, monitoring, and potential penalties.

The EU has already accepted the principle that energy security and sovereignty can require contract wind-downs, as seen in the Russian gas phase out. The EU and member states could apply that principle consistently to any supplier relationship that becomes coercive or destabilising, including to the current US administration in partnership with the US fossil fuel industry.

Conclusion

The EU and its member states are facing a historical moment that will define their future. The EU can no longer justify tying itself for decades to come to a climate-wrecking fossil fuel that leaves the EU wide open to extortion, supports authoritarian regimes and ties its energy security to **volatile** markets.

It must deliver on its Fit for 55 and REPowerEU Plan commitments, and invest in domestic renewables and energy eff iciency to meet its climate targets, and ensure that it does not finance the very forces that seek to undermine its core values and foundations.

Greenpeace International calls on EU leaders to protect the EU's political independence and achieve true energy security by:

- Cancelling the pledge by the EU to purchase $750 billion worth of US energy by 2028
- Committing to drop all other negotiations on additional purchase agreements for US gas
- Committing to not sign new contracts
- Gradually phasing out all existing supply contracts by 2035 at the latest

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