



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, **07. 06. 2022**
Ares (2022) 2435803

Dear Honourable Member,

I would like to thank you and the co-signatories for your letter addressing the issue of the security of supply pursuant to the Regulation (EU)2017/1938 in the current geopolitical context of military aggression of Russia on Ukraine.

At political level, Commissioner Kadri Simson and I have undertaken all efforts to address the EU's collective security of supply and diversification of the gas supply, including the political agreement reached with the President of the United States.

My services have asked the competent authorities of Member States in the Gas Coordination Group to reinforce their preparedness plans to face potential radical disruptions in the gas supply. They are now actively engaged in discussions with all Member States on the measures already in place or soon to be adopted at national level. This includes the gathering of data and evidence, i.e. on additional contracted gas or energy capacities, energy saving measures and fuel switching possibilities.

Through the Gas Coordination Group, the Commission is also coordinating the weekly information exchanges between Member State authorities and industry associations.

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I would like to stress that the EU's security of supply is a shared competence between the Commission and the Member States. It is for Member States to declare a level of crisis based on their preparedness. As foreseen in the Risk Preparedness Regulation¹, the Commission may declare a regional or Union emergency at the request of two Member States having declared a national emergency. We are in regular contact with the national authorities through the described processes.

Our REPowerEU plan of 18 May pays particular attention to enhancing the EU's preparedness. The existing EU legal framework already foresees that in case of extreme crisis Member States can request their neighbouring Member States solidarity measures. Solidarity measures are meant as last resort in the event of an extreme gas shortage to ensure supply to households, district heating systems and basic social facilities in the affected country.

The Commission will issue guidance on the prioritisation criteria of non-protected customers, in particular of industry. It will also facilitate setting up a coordinated EU demand reduction plan with pre-emptive voluntary curtailment measures which should be ready for activation before an actual emergency arises.

The refilling of underground storage ahead of next winter is essential to reinforce collective EU preparedness. That is why I strongly welcome the Parliament's and Council's political agreement of 19 May on the Commission's legislative proposal on the minimum mandatory levels of gas storage.

I would like to reassure the Members of the Parliament signatories of the letter that the issue of security of supply of energy has received the highest priority and will continue to do so.

Yours faithfully,



Ursula von der Leyen

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/941 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repealing Directive 2005/89/EC.