

DOCUMENTS



EU to fully end its dependency on Russian energy

Strasbourg, on 6 May 2025, the EU will end its dependency on Russian energy by stopping the import of Russian gas and oil and phasing out Russian nuclear energy, while ensuring stable energy supplies and prices across the Union. The **REPowerEU Roadmap**, presented by the European Commission, paves the way to ensure the **EU's full energy independence from Russia**.

Despite the significant progress achieved under the REPowerEU Plan and via sanctions since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in 2024 the EU saw a rebound in Russian gas imports. More coordinated actions are therefore needed, as the EU's over dependency on Russian energy imports is a security threat.

According to Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen**: *"The war in Ukraine has brutally exposed the risks of blackmail, economic coercion and price shocks. With REPowerEU, we have diversified our energy supply and drastically reduced Europe's former dependency on Russian fossil fuels. It is now time for Europe to completely cut off its energy ties with an unreliable supplier. And energy that comes to our continent should not pay for a war of aggression against Ukraine. We owe this to our citizens, to our companies and to our brave Ukrainian friends."*

The roadmap sets out a gradual removal of Russian oil, gas and nuclear energy from the EU markets which will take place in a coordinated and secure manner as we advance our energy transition. The measures have been designed to **preserve the security of the EU's energy supply** while **limiting any impact on prices and markets**.

As of 2025, the global LNG supplies are foreseen to grow rapidly, while gas demand will decrease. With the full implementation of the energy transition framework and the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, the EU is expected to replace up to 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas by 2030, which means

a decrease in demand by 40-50 bcm by 2027. At the same time, LNG capacities are expected to increase by around 200 bcm by 2028, which is five times more than current EU imports of Russian gas.

The roadmap will be followed by legislative proposals by the Commission in June.

A coordinated and stepwise phase-out of Russian energy supplies

The Commission will work with the Member States to ensure that the EU-wide phase out of Russian energy imports will be **gradual** and **well-coordinated** across the Union. They will be asked to prepare national plans by the end of this year setting out how they will contribute to phasing out imports of Russian gas, nuclear energy and oil.

All the measures will be accompanied by **continuous efforts to accelerate our energy transition and diversify** energy supplies, including via the **aggregation of gas demand** and a **better use of infrastructure**, to discard risks to the security of supply and market stability.

The upcoming proposals regarding **gas**, will **improve the transparency, monitoring and traceability of Russian gas** across the EU markets. Crucially, **new contracts with suppliers of Russian gas (pipeline and LNG) will be prevented, and existing spot contracts will be stopped by the end of 2025**. This measure will ensure that already by the end of this year, the EU will have slashed by one third remaining supplies of Russian gas. The Commission will further propose to **stop all remaining imports of Russian gas by the end of 2027**.

Under the Roadmap, the Commission will also put forward **new actions to address Russia's shadow fleet** transporting oil. As regards nuclear, the proposals in the month of June will include measures on Russian imports of enriched uranium, as well as restrictions on new supply contracts co-signed by the Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) for uranium, enriched uranium and other nuclear materials deriving from Russia. A **European Radioisotopes Valley Initiative** is also envisaged to secure EU supply of medical radioisotopes through increased own production.

Background

The Roadmap builds on the EU's immediate response to tackle the consequences of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the **REPowerEU Plan**, introduced in May 2022. The Plan sealed the EU's determination to wean off Russian energy while accelerating the rollout of renewable energy and improving energy savings and energy efficiency.

Measures taken so far have reduced the volumes of imported Russian gas from 150 bcm in 2021 to 52 bcm in 2024 – with the share of Russian gas imports dropping from 45% to 19%. All imports of Russian coal have been banned by sanctions; oil imports have shrunk from 27% at the beginning of 2022 to 3% now. In nuclear, Member States that are still using Russian-designed VVER reactors have made progress in replacing Russian nuclear fuel with fuel from other producers.

By phasing out Russian energy, the REPowerEU Roadmap will reduce the security risks the Union is facing. It will also contribute to the economic plan set out by the Competitiveness Compass, the Clean Industrial Deal and the Affordable Energy Action Plan which underlined how a cleaner and independent energy system help boost the economy while also making a massive contribution to Europe's decarbonisation ambitions.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_1131/IP_25_1131_EN.pdf



Fourth State of Schengen report on 40 years of profound benefits for all EU citizens

Brussels, on 23 April 2025, the Commission published its fourth State of Schengen report, reviewing developments over the past year and setting priorities for the year ahead.

40 years since its creation shows that the Schengen area has brought profound benefits to the EU and its citizens. It is the backbone for the EU's internal market and facilitates the lives of almost 450 million people. Last year, Schengen was once again the world's most visited destination, welcoming more than half a billion visitors and driving economic growth across the Union.

Over time, Schengen has evolved into a robust and comprehensive system, where Member States with the support of the EU are effectively managing external borders, security and migration in a coordinated manner.

The report adopted reviews the functioning of the Schengen area and is the Commission's contribution ahead of the June Schengen Council, which will celebrate 40 years since the signature of the Schengen Agreement.

State of Schengen

The 2025 State of Schengen reports on the achievements, challenges and developments in the Schengen area during the last cycle of 2024-2025. The **full accession of Bulgaria and Romania** to the Schengen area significantly strengthens the EU economy and proofed that the Member States are fully engaged to further improve cooperation under Schengen.

Furthermore, the **Schengen requirements have become a crucial aspect of the EU enlargement process**, as all candidate countries must have fully functioning national Schengen governance systems by the time they are admitted to the EU. And intensified EU efforts have led to a **decline in**

irregular crossings at Schengen's external borders, with around 240 000 detections – the lowest since 2021.

The report shows that the Schengen rules are well applied, and further work will continue in the following areas:

- **Further strengthening political and operational governance.** Sharing an area without internal frontiers is based on trust. This requires the effective implementation of agreed rules and the use of common tools information, resources and infrastructure. The Commission will continue to track progress through the annual Schengen Scoreboard and further consolidate the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism. This includes systems both in Schengen countries and candidate countries for EU accession.
- **Accelerating the implementation of the digitalisation framework** to prevent security risks. This is key in the upcoming rollout of the Entry/Exit System and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). Continued investment in research and innovation is essential to protect the Schengen area using state-of-the-art European solutions in the future.
- **Adapt to the evolving security landscape** with a common intelligence picture, joint operational actions and stronger cooperation among law enforcement authorities, including in internal border regions. As announced in the ProtectEU - European Internal Security Strategy, the Commission will work towards creating a High-Level Group on the future of operational law enforcement cooperation throughout the Schengen Area.
- **Preparedness well beyond the borders** by deepening relations with partner countries in the neighbourhood and beyond. Europol and Member States have stepped up work in recent years to improve the transmission and processing of information from key third countries. Frontex has also reinforced its support to candidate countries.
- **Effective measures to return** those with no legal right to stay in the EU. In 2024 there has been a nearly 12% increase in returns of third-country nationals with no right to stay in the Schengen area, however the overall return rate still needs to be further increased. To support Member States, the Commission carried out a Schengen evaluation last year identifying best practices for faster and more efficient returns.

- **Coordinated action within the Schengen area:** rapid and effective information exchange between law enforcement authorities remains one of the most powerful tools in preventing and combating crime. The EU already has robust tools for situational awareness and risk analysis, such as EUROSUR and the Schengen Information System. The Commission with the Schengen Coordinator will continue to support Member States for an effective cooperation on cross-border operational law enforcement.

Next steps

Schengen will continue to evolve, adapt to new realities and respond to the shifting geopolitical landscape. The Commission will work with Member States to unlock the full potential of Schengen by building a free-movement area ready for the challenges ahead. To address remaining challenges, the 2025-2026 Schengen governance cycle will focus on consolidating the governance framework to enhance policy coordination, a structured and coherent approach to police cooperation, as well as accelerating the digitalisation of procedures and systems to increase security.

The Commission invites the Schengen Council to discuss in June this 2025 State of Schengen report and adopt the priorities for the 2025-2026 Schengen cycle.

Background

The Commission has been evaluating annually the State of Schengen since 2022 when the Schengen Council, the Schengen cycle and the new Schengen evaluation framework were established. This exercise marks continued delivery on the Commission's initiative to reinforce the common governance of the Schengen area and ensure a structured, coordinated and common response to its challenges.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_1087/IP_25_1087_EN.pdf



Commission invests €86 million to improve climate resilience and water security

Brussels, on 15 April 2025, the Commission invests **€86 million** in new **Strategic Integrated Projects** focusing on improving water quality and availability, cleaning up polluted rivers, improving fire and flood protection, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This funding will support projects awarded as part of the 2023 calls for proposals to help Europe become a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The selected projects are located in **Denmark, Estonia, Poland, Slovenia and Iceland** and will help national, regional and local authorities implement national and European environmental and climate legislation.

They are **expected to mobilise significant additional investment** from other EU funding sources. This includes agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, in addition to national funds and private sector investment.

In **Denmark**, the LIFE ACT project brings together 27 municipalities to ramp up local climate action plans. Receiving €28.4 million in support (of which the EU will provide €17 million), it will reduce municipal CO₂ emissions by 75% and make 2,900 km of coastline more resilient to climate change by 2050.

In **Estonia**, the LIFE SIP WET-EST project focuses on improving water quality. With €29.9 million in support (of which the EU will provide €17.9 million), the project is future-proofing the Western Estonian river basin by controlling pollution, restoring ecosystems and reducing risks from droughts and floods.

Poland is receiving a €21.9 million budget (of which the EU will provide €13.1 million) to tackle major recycling and landfill challenges in the Pomorskie Voivodeship region. 31 project partners, including the regional government,

municipalities and universities, have set an ambitious 65% recycling target while aiming to cut landfill waste to 10% by 2035.

The LIFE4ADAPT project will help **Slovenia** better prepare for droughts, forest fires and floods, which have hit the country in recent years. The €26.5 million funding (of which the EU will provide €14.2 million) will help the country's Climate Service Centre and Climate Portal finance new ways of managing climate risks and launching educational programmes.

In **Iceland**, the LIFE ICEWATER project unites government agencies, researchers and municipalities to enhance water quality. With €39.6 million in support (of which the EU will provide €23.8 million), the project promotes sustainable water use and reduces pressure on vital resources.

The Commission also adopted the **work programme for the implementation of the LIFE Programme in 2025-2027**. It sets out key strategies, actions and funding opportunities with the aim to drive Europe's transition to a clean, circular, competitive and climate-resilient economy. The work programme establishes an overall budget of €2.3 billion for projects tackling circular economy, zero pollution, nature and biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, and clean energy.

Background

The LIFE Programme is the only EU funding programme entirely dedicated to environmental, climate and energy objectives. It has co-financed more than 6,000 projects since 1992 across the EU and associated countries. Funding for the five Strategic Integrated Projects announced is part of a wider €5.43 billion budget assigned to the LIFE programme under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The programme is actively contributing to achieving the EU's climate neutrality objective by 2050 under the European Climate Law. They also support the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, contributing to a clean energy transition. The LIFE Programme is managed by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

Projects help the EU protect and improve the quality of the environment, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, boost preparedness against climate impacts, facilitate the energy transition and ensure water resilience.

Water resilience is a key component of the EU's competitiveness. Maintaining its cutting-edge water industry will allow the EU to achieve both its environmental and economic ambitions. The call for evidence, which closed on 4 March, 2025, responded to a clear demand for action to address water challenges and reverse the widespread degradation and structural mismanagement of water resources and ecosystems across the EU.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_1060/IP_25_1060_EN.pdf



Landmark agreement towards achieving net-zero emissions from global shipping by 2050

London, on 11 April 2025, the European Commission welcomes agreement at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), as a meaningful **step towards achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from global shipping by 2050**. This is a historic deal in the fight against climate change, marking a **significant advancement in reducing the environmental impact of the shipping industry on a global scale**. While agreement does not yet ensure the sector's full contribution to achieving the Paris Agreement goals, it constitutes a strong foundation for starting the required energy transition of shipping. The EU and its Member States played a key role in securing the deal and will remain actively engaged in the lead-up to its adoption in October 2025 and implementation in 2027.

In line with the 2023 IMO Strategy, the agreement includes a new measure, setting a global standard for gradually reducing the **GHG intensity of marine fuels**. It will regulate **how “clean” the energy used by a ship should be**, based on its climate impact. The measure applies to the full lifecycle of GHG emissions of shipping fuels. It uses standardised criteria and a common certification scheme for fuels that facilitates a level-playing field, irrespective where a fuel is produced, transported or used. As a result, it will **prevent emissions from shifting to other sectors and encourage sustainable investments** that will reduce emissions throughout the entire lifecycle across the globe. The EU looks forward to strengthening the measures over time to fully deliver on the decarbonisation pledges made in the 2023 IMO Strategy.

The new measure also introduces a first global **pricing mechanism for emissions**, which along with financial incentives, will **encourage shipping companies to use the cleanest fuels and technologies early on**. For example, companies will be incentivised to invest in zero- and near-zero emission marine fuels, like renewable methanol and ammonia. By

stimulating investment in these cleaner fuels, the measure will help reduce the shipping industry's GHG footprint.

The pricing mechanism will apply to a share of international shipping emissions from 2028, with an initial price of USD 100 per tonne of CO₂. This will generate significant revenue, estimated to be USD 11-13 billion annually, which will be used to support the development and deployment of these zero and near-zero emission fuels. Revenues generated from the measure will also be allocated to **support a just and equitable transition, ensuring that no country is left behind**. Those will be shared fairly, with particular attention given to least developed countries and small island developing states.

Next steps

The agreement will need to be confirmed by the International Maritime Organisation in October 2025. As the negotiations of the new agreement have concluded, it is time for all countries to start working on the implementation of the framework. The Commission will also assess the new global measure to see how it interacts with current EU maritime related regulations, maintaining environmental integrity while avoiding significant double burden.

Background

The IMO's 2023 strategy sets out a clear roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from global shipping, with targets to reduce emissions by at least 20% (striving for 30%) by 2030, at least 70% (striving for 80%) by 2040, both in comparison to 2008 levels; and to achieve net-zero emissions by or around 2050.

This agreement is a major step towards achieving the Strategy's targets and demonstrates the commitment of the international maritime community to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting its sustainable development.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_1037/IP_25_1037_EN.pdf