On 8 March 2022 Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the Commission, presented the ‘REPowerEU’ plan to the European Parliament. This sets out to end Europe’s dependence on Russian gas by 2030 and to address potential energy supply disruptions next winter.

According to the Commission, the plan will seek to diversify gas supplies, accelerate renewable gas deployment and replace gas in heating and electricity production. Attention is also focused on renewable energies, with the Commission recommending that solar and wind energy be increased.

Curiously, although nuclear power has been granted the green label by the Commission in its classification scheme, it does not appear to be included in this plan, despite the proposal to reduce dependence on gas and make more use of electrical systems, for example through the wide-scale deployment of heat pumps.

What role does the Commission have in mind for the development of Member States’ nuclear electricity production capacity within its REPowerEU plan?