

**Question for written answer E-002595/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

Subject: Truth behind the reported sharp increase in imports of Russian liquefied natural gas

The REPowerEU<sup>1</sup> plan aimed to end our heavy reliance on natural gas from Russia. The Commission stated: '[t]hanks to the measures set out in the REPowerEU plan, we could gradually reduce our use of fossil fuels by at least 155 billion cubic metres, i.e. the total volume of gas that we imported from Russia in 2021'<sup>2</sup>. However, it is reported that 'the EU is set to import record volumes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia this year, despite aiming for the bloc to wean itself off Russian fossil fuels by 2027'<sup>3</sup>. According to *Global Witness*, '[b]etween January and July 2023, EU countries bought 22 million cubic meters of LNG, compared with 15 million cubic meters during the same period in 2021 – a jump of 40%. [...] This is a much sharper rise than the global average increase in Russian LNG imports, which stands at 6%'<sup>4</sup>. According to the IEEFA<sup>5</sup>, by 2030, European demand for LNG could reach between 150 and 190 billion cubic metres<sup>6</sup>.

1. Can the Commission confirm that these figures are correct?
2. According to the Commission, is the solution to increase the share of American gas in the European mix, even though it would emit between 20% and 45% more greenhouse gas than Russian gas<sup>7</sup>?

Submitted: 7.9.2023

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<sup>1</sup> REPowerEU, Affordable, secure and sustainable energy for Europe – May 2022.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission, Representation in France – 'L'Europe peut-elle se passer du gaz russe?' – 20.10.2022 – [https://france.representation.ec.europa.eu/informations/leurope-peut-elle-se-passer-du-gaz-russe-2022-10-20\\_fr](https://france.representation.ec.europa.eu/informations/leurope-peut-elle-se-passer-du-gaz-russe-2022-10-20_fr)

<sup>3</sup> *Financial Times* – 'EU imports record volumes of liquefied natural gas from Russia' – 30.8.2023.

<sup>4</sup> *Global Witness* – 'EU imports of Russian LNG have jumped by 40 % since the invasion of Ukraine' – 30.8.2023.

<sup>5</sup> Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

<sup>6</sup> Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) – 'Over half of Europe's LNG infrastructure assets could be left unused by 2030' – 21.3.2023 – <https://ieefa.org/articles/over-half-europes-lng-infrastructure-assets-could-be-left-unused-2030>

<sup>7</sup> Carbone 4 – 'Gaz naturel liquéfié : après l'improvisation dans l'urgence, reprenons nos esprits' – 29.6.2023 – <https://www.carbone4.com/analyse-gnl-strategie-long-terme>