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Answer given by Ms McGuinness  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(21.2.2024)

The EU has so far adopted 12 packages of sanctions in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the 13<sup>th</sup> package is in discussion. The sanctions target key sectors of the Russian economy, including energy, with measures such as an export ban on goods and technology suited for use in the oil and gas sectors, a ban on new investments in the Russian energy sector, a ban on Russian coal, seaborne oil and petroleum products imports into the EU and a G7+ coordinated price cap on Russian oil transported to third countries.

With the implementation of the REPowerEU plan<sup>1</sup>, the EU reduced its dependency on Russian gas imports from 45% of total imports in 2021 to 15% in 2023.

On 18 December 2023, the Council adopted the 12<sup>th</sup> package of sanctions against Russia<sup>2</sup>. This package targets high-value sectors of the Russian economy, including by prohibiting the imports of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and tightening rules related to the price cap on Russian oil.

Although some Member States have already voluntarily stopped importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) of Russian origin, there are no EU restrictions on the import of natural gas from Russia either via pipeline or as LNG. However, the Commission has repeatedly urged Member States to reflect on the appropriateness of imports of LNG from Russia. Any decision to extend or amend any of the existing restrictive measures is for the Council to take by unanimity.

The politically agreed Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market Package<sup>3</sup> will also allow Member States to adopt restrictions to the supply of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from Russia or Belarus, with the aim of protecting the essential security interests of the Member states or of the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/18/russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-eu-adopts-12th-package-of-economic-and-individual-sanctions/>

<sup>3</sup> Interinstitutional File: 2021/0424(COD); Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen (recast).