



EUROPEAN UNION

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1. Tomorrow will mark the start of the fourth month of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. The aggression not only grossly violated international law and undermined global security architecture. It also massively disrupted the world's energy and food markets, and global economy in general.
2. Let me emphasize since the beginning that EU stands in full solidarity with Ukraine as well as with other partners affected by the impact of Russia's aggression. As regards Ukraine in particular EU's support for the short term and similarly the long-term will continue and will be enhanced. This includes support to Ukraine's energy system and helping to build back the country in the spirit of green transition.
3. The Russia's aggression against Ukraine has heightened concerns of energy security in Europe and brought to the fore EU's over-dependence on Russian gas, oil and coal imports. These imports also help sustain Russia's war. In this context, the EU took an unprecedented decision to phase out its dependence on Russian fossil fuels as soon as possible. To that end, a package of specific measures, called "Repower EU", was adopted last week.

4. The Repower EU package responds to the double crisis: that of energy and climate emergencies. It is about rapidly reducing EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels by accelerating the green transition and achieving a more resilient energy system. We believe that fast tracking of the green energy transition is the only way to simultaneously ensure sustainable, secure, and affordable energy worldwide and also to accelerate the fight against climate change. We are determined to stay on course and engage with partners across the globe, including OSCE countries.
5. The Repower EU is very much about strengthening energy savings and energy efficiency, as well as an accelerated deployment of renewable energy sources. As regards energy savings, this is cheapest, safest and cleanest way to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel imports. Part of the REPowerEU plan is a strategy on energy savings to promote immediate energy savings by citizens and businesses through behavioural choices and to strengthen mid- to long-term energy efficiency measures. EU Member States are also invited to pursue further reforms and investments to boost energy efficiency in buildings and industry in order to meet new, higher energy efficiency targets.
6. Accelerating renewable energy deployment is another pillar of the package. The plan includes a proposal to raise the 2030 target for the share of renewables in final energy consumption. Additional renewable energy generation will displace the consumption of natural gas in many sectors, from residential and commercial buildings to industry and other sectors that are difficult to electrify - through solar heat or the generation of renewable hydrogen.
7. Two elements of REPowerEU are specifically targeted to promoting the deployment of renewable energy. First: speeding up of permitting of renewable energy projects. Second, an EU Solar energy Strategy to drastically accelerate the deployment of solar power across the EU. Also the EU aims to double the current deployment rate of heat pumps.
8. The REPowerEU Plan also aims at substantially increasing domestic renewable hydrogen production, and scaling up hydrogen infrastructure and regulatory framework. The idea is to boost the production and market

development of renewable hydrogen within Europe. It also support the development of biomethane.

9. Yet promoting energy savings and efficiency and scaling up renewables is not only for EU internally. It is also at the core of a new EU's Strategy on the external energy engagement, a framework for the EU's energy diplomacy. The Strategy, apart from its diversification part, is very much focused on building partnerships to accelerate the global just and green transition worldwide.
10. Our cooperation with partner countries will systematically include the increase of energy efficiency and energy savings and accelerating the integration of renewable energy into the respective energy systems. One concrete example is the Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa. We are working on similar Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Vietnam, India, and Indonesia. Other concrete actions include the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative. Overall, under the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package, the EU will mobilise €2.4 billion grants for Sub-Saharan Africa and over €1 billion for North Africa to support renewable energy, energy efficiency, the just transition and the greening of local value chains.
11. We will also develop Green Hydrogen partnerships. Hydrogen trade will be facilitated with a European Global Hydrogen Facility to kick-start the global renewable hydrogen market. The Commission will also support the development of three major hydrogen import corridors via the Mediterranean, the North Sea area and, as soon as conditions allow, with Ukraine.
12. These are in a nutshell the key elements of our approach. They will on the one hand help us phase out our dependency on Russian fossil fuels, deprive Russia of the resources to conduct the war against Ukraine, and at the same time build sustainable and clean energy systems worldwide to tackle the climate crisis.
Thank you for your attention