

EN
E-003231/2023
Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.1.2024)

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission has been actively helping companies to establish business relations with new suppliers. Most notably, a Task-Force was set up with the United States enhancing liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, which subsequently grew from 19 billion cubic meters (bcm) to almost 50 bcm between 2021 and 2022. The EU also signed Memorandum of Understanding with Azerbaijan¹ and jointly with Israel and Egypt². Finally, the Commission held regular discussions with Algeria.

Till end November 2023, the EU imported 1.3 bcm of LNG from Egypt. This compares with 79.7 bcm from Norway (4.1 bcm of LNG and 75.6 bcm by pipelines, and 30% of overall EU imports) and over 50 bcm of LNG from the United States, which is the EU's main source of LNG. In the wake of the Hamas' terrorist attacks in Israel, Israel suspended for a short period of time production at Tamar field (output of 10 bcm in 2022) and exports to Egypt but resumed quickly without impacting EU supply.

On 16 December 2023 EU gas storage sites were almost 89% full. Since the adoption of the REPowerEU³, the EU has been accelerating the energy transition and diversifying gas supply sources. The EU also focussed on speeding up renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment. In 2022 the EU reduced its gas demand by more than 18% compared with the previous 5 years, saving 53 bcm of gas. Concerning renewable energy sources, in 2022 a record of 41 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy capacity and 16 GW of wind capacity was installed.

Against this background, supplies of LNG from Israel and Egypt to the EU, at this point in time, are limited and therefore possible disruptions from the region will not impact the EU's security of supply.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4550

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-egypt-israel-memorandum-understanding_en

³ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/key-documents-repowereu_en