



**Committee: European Council**

**Topic: How to face the winter cold in Europe in 2022?**

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The European Council (EU) intends to make a stronger union between European countries by meeting up with the same laws, deals, negotiations, anthem, armies, and even a flag that can be quickly recognized as the flag of the EU. This union has been interpreted by comprehending the political decisions which have led to reach their main goals in the highest statement by often becoming a strong union. They can not change or negotiate any type of laws before asking the legislation since they do not form part of this group. The European Council can make meetings to join and discuss current situations happening and therefore arrive to a conclusion and take action upon it.

The most important characteristic of the European Council is that it was created with the main goal of maintaining peace and prosperity between these countries. A forum where the heads of state or as it can be said "government" can discuss these problems between themselves, yet, it was also created to come to an end with all the wars Europe was facing at those times between one another, such as the Second World War. This war contributed in arriving to a climax and making these countries start seeking ways to join and benefit from each other.

The European Union started uniting for the first time in the 1950s with the European Coal and Steel Industry after this huge war occurred (WW2), after this in 1957 the Treaty of Rome made the EEC which means European Economic Community, most popularly known as the Common Market. Later on in the 1960s, the benefits as previously mentioned started to give back and stand out which would help to create economic growth, in the 1970s more and more countries started joining after seeing these effects in the union, such as the United Kingdom. Then, there was a final problem before the European Union became one of the 7 institutions that incorporated modifying the 2 treaties that make the constitutional base of the EU, and that was the Arab-Israeli War in 1973 which produced energy and economic problems in Europe.

Winter temperatures in Europe are one of the problems that the European Council is currently meeting and discussing. This comes because recently there has been a war between Ukraine and Russia leading to political sanctions and restrictions that Europe charged itself of closing the import of these natural gasses. Countries in Europe, will be severely affected by this since Europe normally got those natural mainly from Russia. This country being the one that distributed gas the most, placing

Europe in a very vulnerable position. Let's also take into consideration that gas prices have elevated. Some countries have stated that they will offer help and monetary aid, but studies show that those solutions will not be enough and due to this, generate an energy crisis.

Winter in Europe is one of the coldest winters in the world, with temperatures ranging from below 0° to 10° across the continent. As a result, European energy and natural gas consumption are highest at this time of year. Natural gas use can be divided into five main sectors: power and heat production, households, industry, commerce and utilities, and non-energy use. In Europe, natural gas consumption was 566bcm in 2021. According to statistics from the European Documentation Center in Almeida, gas from Russia makes up 42.4% of total gas imports, the rest comes from Norway 22.7%, Algeria, Qatar, the USA, the UK, Nigeria, and Libya, which together account for 90% of imports. Due to the war between Russia and Ukraine and the sanctions imposed by the European governments on Russia, Russia has been forced to limit to the point of almost completely shutting down the import of natural gas to Europe.

According to an article published in Forbes It requires 130 LNG tankers a month to supply Europe's monthly gas demand of 12 billion cubic meters, which means that gas storage must be operating at or above 90% of capacity to ensure stability throughout the winter. In the same article Faith Birol declares, "If immediate measures are not implemented now it will put Europe in an extremely vulnerable position and it will face much more drastic cuts and restrictions in the future". One of the clearest examples is Germany as the latter was forced to postpone the closure of its 3 nuclear power plants that were planned to close since 2011 and were scheduled to close on December 31st due to the short supply of natural gas that produced 12.1% of the total energy generated in the country.

Due to the same problems the price of gas has increased exponentially costing almost 4 times more than in February of the same year is made that citizens have to pay exorbitant prices on their electricity bills European countries have started to create aid bonuses. One example is Germany whose head of government Olaf Scholz announced an aid package of 65, this is in addition to the past two 30 billion euro aid packages for households that Germany has already launched. The UK has also announced a 19 billion dollar aid package, with the agreement that each of the country's eight vulnerable households will receive one million pounds sterling. It also includes a one-off cost-of-living allowance of £713 plus an increase in subsidies of £435 and doubled discounts on energy bills until October, plus a temporary 25% tax on oil company profits in June. France also presented an aid plan of 20 million euros which includes the early revalorization of 4% of pensions among other social benefits in addition to a food check of 100 euros plus 50 euros for each child. France until this month, also extended the discount of 18 cents at gas stations and ensures that from October onwards, workers will be granted an allowance of 100 to 300 euros for those who use cars. Although, according to statistical studies by international banks this

will not be enough for most families since the electricity bills in some countries annual electricity bills in certain countries are reaching 16,000 euros per year. In the social aspect, this has also brought several consequences. For example in Germany, France, and Italy there have been demonstrations against the support of the war between Ukraine and Russia. Furthermore, the welfare of the citizens of Europe have been affected thanks to the increasing in prices of basic consumption in Europe. An example is given in the UK. The largest demonstration called can't pay, don't pay, won't pay refers to the citizens who can not pay their electricity bills since prices have reached record highs in recent days.

Recently Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Get Store made public Norway's energy export limitation which further limits Europe's options for natural gas. It should also be noted that France, one of Europe's largest energy generators, has had 6 of its largest oil refineries on strike during the past few weeks. This has limited energy production capacity by 38.7 percent and this percentage is expected to increase. It should also be emphasized that several countries are limiting their level of energy imports and are sticking to energy-saving plans to cope with the supply crisis. As previously stated it has to be emphasized that the lack of natural gas also affects the industrial and agricultural sectors. This gives us an understanding that the energy crisis can also quickly transform into a shortage of food and goods throughout Europe.

Europe is currently facing an energy crisis like no other in recent years, all delegates must take into account a way to solve and help its citizens as soon as possible before winter temperatures start to drop further and gas storage reaches 0%.

Several solutions have been presented but they have not been enough. For example, the import of natural gas from Saudi Arabia has increased by 7.8%, and also the creation of the Norwegian Baltic Pipe pipeline which can supply 10 million cubic meters per year. Nevertheless, this only helps to supply 20% of the minimum needed to survive the winter. Considering that it is not economically viable for countries to buy liquefied natural gas from countries such as the United States since its price has increased by 400%. Governments will need to find a different approach to obtain natural gas. The respective governments of the European countries have implemented the substitution of combined method power generation which is the method that involves natural gas and has improved the infrastructure of renewable energies in the respective countries. The downside to this improvement is that it requires time and it is stipulated that it will take at least 6 years to have sufficient infrastructure to replace 100% of the use of gas in electricity generation.

Europe is being forced to resort to drastic measures as they are economically unable to supply liquid natural gas due to the extreme price increase. Moreover, countries such as Algeria Qatar and Saudi Arabia are limiting imports to Europe as they can

not supply the demand that exists. A solution that has been proposed is to remove certain economic sanctions on Russia and implement some kind of agreement to supply natural gas to Europe without benefiting too much economically to Russia. This would be the last resort if no other solutions are found. There has been a summit where the political community met and reiterated the plan to control the price of gas used for the generation of electric energy and to execute a purchase plan to supply energy resources. They have been interested in the search for an index to replace the TTF which is the Dutch gas market, this helped to reduce the price of gas and managed to decrease by 11% and achieve a value of 155 euros. In the same meeting a letter was sent by Italy, Poland, Belgium and the Church where they wish to set a dynamic price range to counteract speculation by applying the proposals in the purchases of all 27 members of the European Union is the following. Weeks a summit of people to land the gas supply plan On October 12. Australia offered to help the European Union to supply large quantities of natural gas at a price equivalent to the price of gas in February of this year. I am sure that this will help Europe a lot, even though the distances are large. As a result, travel would increase the prices as time goes by and it would only be a temporary solution since it is not economically viable for most European countries.

To avoid deaths, shortages, and suffering of European citizens, quick and effective action must be taken with the economic and social future of the European community in mind. Human rights must also be taken into account and advocated concerning the sanctions applied to Russia for the war with Ukraine. And although it is true that many countries have offered their help and that various measures have been implemented to counteract the problem, it is still not enough and a way must be found to cope with the winter of 2022.

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