

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002510/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(23 June 2025)**

Subject: Constructive discussion and loyal cooperation ‘replaced’ by a different legal basis?

There has been speculation in the media that the EU plans to ‘legally bypass’ Hungary and Slovakia in order to ban Russian gas imports by 2027, using trade and energy legal bases that do not require unanimity ⁽¹⁾.

1. Can the Commission confirm the accuracy of these speculations?
2. Does the Commission consider it appropriate to ‘bend’ EU law by simply bypassing a Member State if it does not agree with a proposed measure on grounds of national interest by using an alternative legal basis?
3. Does the Commission not consider such an approach to be a threat to the principle of loyal cooperation?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2025)**

In response to Russia’s energy weaponization of gas supplies, significant progress to diversify away from Russia in a safe, affordable and sustainable manner has been achieved since 2022, thanks to the REPower EU plan ⁽²⁾ in line with the Versailles Declaration of 11 March 2022 and EU restrictive measures ⁽³⁾.

However, remaining volumes of Russian natural gas entering the Union are still significant, leading to significant risks for EU energy and economic security. Therefore, the Commission adopted, on 17 June 2025, a legislative proposal ⁽⁴⁾ to gradually phase out Russian gas imports in order to end remaining gas dependencies based on three pillars: a gradual and stepwise gas import ban, reinforced transparency and monitoring and national diversification plans.

The proposed Regulation is fully in line with EU law, and it has a different legal basis and a different purpose than EU restrictive measures under Common Security and Foreign Policy, that aim at incentivising changed behaviour. This proposal’s purpose is to put an end to market distortions in the EU caused by Russia, which has proved to be an unreliable energy trading partner, to the detriment of EU’s economic and energy security.

The REPower EU legislative proposal is also fully in line with the principle of loyal cooperation, as it builds on more than three years of continuous cooperation with all Member States, in line with their commitment to phase out Russian fossil fuel imports. The Commission will continue to cooperate intensively with all Member States and stakeholders to ensure the gradual and coordinated phase out of Russian gas imports in the EU.

⁽¹⁾ <https://tvpworld.com/87329765/eu-unveils-plans-to-bypass-hungary-and-slovakia-vetoes-on-russian-gas-imports-ban>.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/actions-and-measures-energy-prices/repowereu-3-years_en#:~:text=This%20web-based%20report%20marks%20the%203-year%20anniversary%20of,Commission%20adopted%20the%20REPowerEU%20Plan%20in%20May%202022.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-russia/timeline-sanctions-against-russia/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0828&qid=1750669110360>.