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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Gas storage is paramount to ensuring continued security of energy supply across the EU and stability of the European gas market. The EU has significant gas storage capacities and EU storage facilities are the main supply source of gas in winter, ensuring 30% of EU winter supply. Since the storage filling target was established in 2022, the EU consistently exceeded it before the beginning of each heating season. A political agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council in June 2025, to prolong the EU Gas Storage Regulation until the end of 2027, introducing more flexibility to achieve the target, considering developments on the gas market.

Storages enable companies to purchase and store cheaper gas in summer, when demand is lower in the EU, making energy more affordable for EU citizens. The storage provisions of the Gas Security of Supply regulation (EU) 2017/1938¹ provides a non-exhaustive list of measures including measures that do not require Member States to purchase gas. Moreover, Member States should prioritise market-based measures that do not unduly distort competition or the proper functioning of the internal market or endanger the security of gas supply of other Member States or the Union. A well-functioning internal market has proven to be the most effective means for keeping energy costs affordable.

The Commission is working closely with the Member States, notably within the Gas Coordination Group, to ensure an optimal gas storage refilling and the achievement of the target. Building on the experience of AggregateEU, a tool introduced during the energy crisis, the Commission is exploring the full potential of the demand aggregation and joint purchasing mechanism set up under Regulation (EU) 2024/1789².

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1938/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1789/oj/eng>.