

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003536/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(15 September 2025)

Subject: Commission's respect for pledges made to Member States

In recent days, a statement made by President Trump's Secretary of State for Energy, Chris Wright, has caused a furore in the media (CNBC) and on social networks (X). According to Secretary Wright, 'Europe has committed to the United States to completely stop importing Russian gas by 2027'. However, this statement is contradicted by the reality in Europe, where Slovakia is not the only country that can continue to purchase Russian gas under long-term contracts. This exemption allows deliveries to continue under existing contracts until the end of 2027 ⁽¹⁾.

In light of this apparent contradiction, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. Was Secretary Wright misled by Commission representatives, or did he lie in his interview with CNBC?
2. If Secretary Wright's statement is true, does the Commission plan to break a pledge it made to a Member State?
3. The exemption granted to Slovakia for the import of Russian gas was part of an agreement that led Slovakia to lift its veto on a sanctions package against Russia ⁽²⁾. If Secretary Wright's statements are true, how can Member States continue to trust a Commission that has no problem breaking a pledge that it made to a Member State?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 December 2025)

In response to Russia's energy weaponization of gas supplies, significant progress to diversify away from Russia has been achieved since 2022, thanks to the REPower EU plan ⁽¹⁾, in line with the Versailles Declaration and EU restrictive measures.

However, remaining volumes of Russian natural gas entering the Union still represent around 13%, leading to significant risks for EU energy and economic security.

Therefore, the Commission welcomes the general approach reached by the Council on 20 October 2025 ⁽²⁾ on the legislative proposal from 17 June 2025 to gradually phase out Russian gas imports based on three pillars: a gradual and stepwise gas import ban where imports based on existing long-term contracts can continue during a transitory period, reinforced transparency, and monitoring and national diversification plans.

It also welcomes the Council's agreement on the 19th package of sanctions against Russia which foresees, amongst other, a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) as of 1 January 2027 for long-term contracts and within six months as of the entry into force of the sanctions for short-term contracts.

The Commission continues to cooperate with all Member States and key partners in support of EU's diversification efforts, including the United States, in line with the political agreement ⁽³⁾ by the President of the Commission and the President of the United States of 21 August 2025.

¹ <https://www.business-humanrights.org/de/neuste-meldungen/slovakia-goes-against-eu-energy-plans-and-will-rely-on-russian-gas-until-2027/>

² <https://montelnews.com/news/37d97e58-826d-41c8-be01-e88fa612b372/exemption-on-russian-gas-ban-to-calm-slovakia-hungary>

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/energy/repowereu_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/10/20/council-agrees-its-position-on-rules-to-phase-out-russian-gas-imports-under-repowereu/#~:text=Today%2C%20the%20Council%20reached%20a%20general%20approach%20on,Russian%20gas%20and%20strengthening%20the%20EU%27s%20energy%20security.>

⁽³⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en.