

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001312/26
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(30 March 2026)**

Subject: EU-Azerbaijan energy cooperation and potential risks

The European Union's energy security remains a strategic priority, especially in light of the current geopolitical instability in the Middle East and increased pressure on international energy markets. As part of its efforts to diversify its energy sources, the EU has strengthened its cooperation with Azerbaijan.

However, strengthening this cooperation also raises some legitimate concerns about possible geopolitical, energy as well as strategic risks, as over-reliance on a limited number of suppliers may create new vulnerabilities for Europe.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess Azerbaijan's role in strengthening the European Union's energy security, and what geopolitical or energy risks could arise from further strengthening this energy cooperation?
2. How does the Commission ensure that the EU's strategy of diversifying energy sources does not lead to new forms of energy dependency?
3. Are there any specific safeguards or alternative energy plans in case geopolitical developments affect the stability of this cooperation?

Submitted: 30.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)**

The energy partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan plays a significant role in achieving the EU's objective under the REPowerEU plan ⁽¹⁾ to diversify away from Russian fossil fuel imports, including natural gas.

Between 2021 and 2024, gas supplies from Azerbaijan to the EU via the Southern Gas Corridor increased by over 40%. However, Azerbaijani gas still accounts for just 3.9% of the EU's total gas imports (11.4 bcm), meaning that any disruption in supply would have only a limited impact on the EU's overall gas security of supply.

Nonetheless, the 2022 energy crisis and the ongoing volatility caused by the conflict in the Middle East have underscored the risks associated with the EU's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

At the core of the EU's REPowerEU strategy is a commitment to reducing overall fossil fuel consumption to avoid new dependencies through the acceleration of the deployment of renewable energy; the strengthening of energy efficiency and the electrification of demand where possible.

For gas volumes that cannot be immediately replaced, diversification remains essential to mitigate risks linked to both existing and potential new dependencies.

Since the 2022 crisis, the EU has engaged in extensive international outreach, securing partnerships with a broad range of suppliers, including Norway, the US, Algeria, Qatar, and Azerbaijan. A diversified supply portfolio reduces vulnerability to disruptions from any single source.

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