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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU's strategy to rebuild gas stocks ahead of winter 2026-2027 focuses on adapting to the current price volatility stemming from the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz, which has narrowed the summer-winter price spread discouraging gas injections. To counter this, the Commission has taken proactive steps to ensure that the EU achieves an adequate storage level ahead of next winter while mitigating price volatility.

On 20 March 2026, the Commissioner for Energy and Housing invited Member States to make full use of the flexibilities from the Storage Regulation¹ and lower the storage target by up to 10 percentage points from 90% to 80%, reducing overall EU storage needs by 10 billion cubic meters while still being sufficient for next winter.

The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG)'s summer supply outlook confirmed that EU infrastructure is sufficiently flexible to allow 80% of storage filling by November 2026 in the event of limited liquefied natural gas supply. To achieve this level of storage filling, an early start of injections would allow a longer injection period, limiting pressure on prices and avoiding an end-of-summer rush as happened in 2022.

The Commission presented on 22 April 2026 the AccelerateEU Communication² with immediate targeted actions aimed at better protecting households and industry from high energy prices. As announced the Commission is facilitating the coordination of national action on gas storage filling in the regular meetings of the Gas Coordination Group. The Commission also stands ready to assess a further increase of the permitted deviation threshold (up to an additional 5%) under the updated EU Gas Storage Regulation.

¹ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-security/gas-storage_en.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/accelerateeu-energy-union-affordable-and-secure-energy-through-accelerated-action_en.