

EN
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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is committed to strengthening the EU's energy independence. The energy transition is an opportunity for the EU to reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, shifting to homegrown energy sources. With REPowerEU¹, the EU committed to end Russian fossil fuel dependency. In addition, the actions set out in AccelerateEU will help shelter EU citizens and industries from volatile global energy markets.

The crisis in the Middle East highlighted once more that Europe's dependency on fossil fuel imports creates vulnerability that comes at a price. It clearly confirms that long-term affordability depends on accelerating the clean energy transition. Scaling up domestic clean energy and energy efficiency will reduce fossil fuel imports and strengthen industrial competitiveness. The upcoming Electrification Action Plan will lay out concrete actions that serve these goals together with actions on heating and cooling and geothermal energy.

The EU's approach to technology neutrality in the energy sector is guided by the principle of allowing the market to determine the least-cost solution to achieve policy goals to achieve climate neutrality by 2050². This principle is underpinned by the right of Member States to choose their energy mix, as per Article 194 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

¹ COM(2022) 230 final and Regulation (EU) 2026/261.

² As set out in the European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/119) and governed by the Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.