(English version)

Question for written answer E-001522/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(15 April 2026)

Subject: EU energy security and regulatory approach to gas and national energy resources

In the context of increasing geopolitical tensions linked to the conflict around Iran, reflected in increased energy prices and increased supply uncertainty, the Commission's recent recommendations for more flexibility in replenishing gas storage facilities confirm that gas remains a key pillar of the European Union's energy security.

At the same time, the restricted status of gas and coal in the EU taxonomy and the additional burdens arising from the EU ETS2 system point to a lack of regulatory consistency. In a context of continued geopolitical instability, the importance of national energy resources, including coal, as a locally accessible pillar of supply security is also growing.

The current situation calls for a pragmatic energy policy based on technological neutrality and system resilience.

This prompts the following questions:

1. How does the Commission justify maintaining a restrictive approach to gas and coal in the EU regulatory framework, despite their crucial role in ensuring energy security in a context of geopolitical instability?

2. Has the Commission carried out an assessment of the resilience of the current regulatory framework, including the taxonomy and the ETS2 system, to repeated geopolitical shocks, and does it take into account the role of national energy resources, including coal, in ensuring security of supply?

3. Is the Commission considering revising its approach to gas and coal and other available energy sources in the direction of full technological neutrality and reducing the regulatory burdens to ensure stability of supply and affordable energy prices for citizens and industry?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 July 2026)

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.

The EU's long term strategic objective is to reduce structural dependencies on imported fossil fuels, which have proven to expose our economies to price volatility and geopolitical risks.

As the EU is a net importer of fossil fuels ([1]), energy security and affordability can only be achieved by reducing exposure to global fossil fuel markets ([2]).

Scaling up domestic renewable energy, electrification and energy efficiency is central to energy security, industrial competitiveness, and climate objectives.

Strengthening the EU's energy autonomy therefore requires both diversification of supply of remaining fossil fuel imports and a progressive shift towards more domestic, clean energy sources.

The Emissions Trading System 2 (ETS2) contributes to the EU's energy security and resilience by incentivizing clean transport and building heating powered by homegrown renewable electricity.

ETS2 is based on a comprehensive impact assessment ([3]) and includes dedicated provisions to address price shocks. The introduction of ETS2 was recently postponed to 2028 in order to further strengthen the flexibilities aiming at maintaining prices stability.

With regards to the EU Taxonomy, the Complementary Climate Delegated Act adopted in 2022 sets conditions under which fossil-fuel-based gas activities can be deemed as sustainable, provided it meets some specific strict conditions that are in line with EU's long term strategic objective.

([1]) In 2025, the EU spent EUR 336.5 billion for fossil fuels imports.
([2]) Fitness check to evaluate EU's security of electricity and gas supply framework (SWD(2025) 435 final).
([3]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0601.