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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Communication

"Save gas for a safe winter"

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Introduction

The Communication identifies the need for more coordinated action as of now to be better prepared for possible further gas disruptions in the coming winter. The gas situation in the EU is at a critical juncture. Demand reduction should be anticipated as far as possible and savings should focus on sectors for which reduction is less costly or easier. Everyone can save gas, even if they are in protected sectors such as households, or buildings operated by public authorities, industries who have fuel switching potential and, depending on the national context, also the electricity sector.

This EU gas demand reduction plan aims at further supporting Member States in the coming weeks and months and reinforcing the resilience of the internal market in case of emergency. This plan complements previous efforts to increase our preparedness, such as outreach to increase supply and measures announced in REPowerEU. It provides guidelines that Member States can use when to update their national Emergency Plans under the Regulation on gas security of supply.

This plan is based on measures and criteria suggested by Member States or industries in a range of different contexts.

[The order of magnitude of maximum potential savings in the next winter can be estimated to be, on an annualised EU basis, in the range of 25 to 60 bcm (11 bcm for heating or cooling reductions¹, between 4 and 40 bcm for electricity generation and around 10% of current industrial demand which corresponds to roughly 10-11 bcm.]

Chapter one identifies good practices for both market-based and non-market-based demand side measures that can be taken immediately in order to free up gas volumes. **One of the suggested market-based measures includes auctions or tenders to call for consumers to offer demand reduction in return for compensation.** Chapter two provides guidelines on criteria to identify critical sectors of the economy and industrial installations that may need to be kept running for as long as possible during an emergency. Chapter three summarises a proposed sequence of three gradual stages in response to a threat of a major disruption at EU level.

1. Preventive measures and good practices

Fuel switch – if possible, towards renewable sources of energy

A wide pallet of measures is available to Member States to reduce gas demand in all sectors. To minimise possible negative economic and social impacts it is essential that Member States take all possible steps and consult stakeholders, to ensure that all substitution possibilities and all existing alternative energy sources are exhausted before implementing mandatory demand reduction. Activating both market-based and non-market-based measures to further reduce gas demand can be key to anticipate and mitigate the risks linked to possible gas shortages to the society and economy.

A continued minimum access to gas volumes or equivalent alternatives for certain non-protected customers, and not only protected customers (and established on a case-by-case

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0240&from=EN>

basis and amongst all stakeholders concerned) is preferable to avoid disruptions to the normal functioning of society. Many major gas consumers stockpile gas or alternative fuels to secure supplies in consideration of the risks and costs of a potential disruption. In certain cases, Member States oblige them to do so. Complementing such approaches, an effective way is to preventively reduce demand by activating good practice measures identified by Member States.

a) Fuel switching measures

Fuel switching measures, both in industries and in electricity production can be encouraged by Member States to pre-emptively save gas and enhance preparedness. Several fuel switching measures options exist in Member States:

- Fuel switching capacities by industries and power generation (market decision), including switching to biomass, biomethane, solar and other renewables.
- Using oxygen instead of natural gas in certain industrial installations, replacing gas using steam drives with electrical drives.
- Possibility to apply more elaborate fuel switching measures of e.g. Gas-Fired Power Plants, depending on the evolution of the availability of volumes in the gas markets.
- The obligation for diesel back-up generators for thermal power generation to take necessary precautions to have uninterrupted operation of their units when they switch to diesel for at least five days.
- Postponing the shutdown of nuclear power plants where feasible or switching to nuclear where this is an option.
- Postponing the switch from coal-fired combined heat and power plants to natural gas fired ones and temporarily switching to heavy fuels or coal to ensure smooth functioning of sectors critical or strategic to Europe's societal needs.

As such, fuel switching is in theory possible, though the costs and technical feasibility of doing so linked to rapid and sudden requirements to find alternatives need to be carefully considered. In this respect, criteria for identifying essential non-protected customers, their supply chains and critical links within the economy would play a key role for helping Member States decide on support mechanisms, especially since market price mechanisms would be insufficient to solely guide such fuel switching. Therefore, state aid schemes aimed at enhancing the economic viability of such operations in sectors considered as critical will be analysed as a matter of priority by the Commission.

Although switching to renewable sources of energy is the main priority, the Commission will also apply temporarily full flexibility available under the Industrial Emission Directive and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive to such schemes in accordance with the possible derogations set out therein.

Fuel switching may increase emissions, which would be possible in some instances due to derogations to the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). Derogations to the IED are possible, under certain defined conditions under Article 30(6) of the IED, where Member States permitting authorities may allow an operating large combustion plant to derogate from the emission limit values concerning sulphur dioxide, dust and nitrogen oxide, when there is a sudden interruption of gas supplies. The derogation should in principle last only 10 days but, if there is an overriding need to maintain energy supplies, it can be extended for as long as that need persists. In addition, measures aimed at fuel switching such as increasing the severity of

units in the refining sector will be treated as zero CO2 emission for ETS compliance purposes, as per the regulation Articles 38 and 39.

In some cases, fuel switching may need a temporary relaxation of certain regulatory requirements. Extending the use of existing coal-fired power plants, as well as temporarily suspending legal limitations on them to operate, have been implemented in a few Member States. However, these should always be considered as short-term temporary measures, only to be used in case of a looming gas shortage and it should comply with the EU's regulatory framework.

The decision as regards possible postponement of the phasing out of nuclear plants where technically feasible is a policy choice taken by Member States. This choice needs to take into account the impact on the security of supply on other Member States. In any event, the safety standards of the Euratom treaty apply and prevail.

Fuel switch

- *Promote fuel switching in industries*
- *Promote fuel switch in power sectors to renewables*
- *Consider alternative fuels for power generation on a temporary basis*
- *Temporary relaxation of environmental regulatory restrictions.*

b) Market-based instruments

Auctioning or tender systems

One suggested measure consists of auctions or tender systems by which Member States incentivise a reduction of consumption by large consumers (mostly industries) by letting industries offer a reduction of consumption. Those industries best placed to reduce demand would voluntarily offer to do so and get compensation in return. While some of these auctioning systems are only meant for short-term balancing purposes, others go further and target significant volumes of demand reduction. Industrial consumers can themselves define when it is sensible for them to switch or temporarily reduce demand, based on their own individual characteristics. Industries are likely to be cooperative, as they might not have the option of compensation in case of an emergency. Such a system can also include asking industries who plan to shut off for maintenance or modernisation purposes, to do so already, to save up gas.

Such auctions could be organised jointly between several Member States. Large cross-border customers with production processes in multiple Member States would benefit from this joint procedure. Member States with less fiscal possibilities to provide compensation to their customers for demand reductions could also participate in such schemes. In turn, these Member States would benefit from lower prices as a result of the demand reduction across their borders. Demand is reduced where it is overall least costly to do so (not just least costly within a given Member State).

Lessons could be learned in this regard from the electricity markets, where demand response in the form of forward markets already exists. Here, demand response is paid as an upfront or continuous option fee in return for a commitment to reduce consumption under predefined conditions. Aggregating many contracts for short disconnections, rather than few contracts for large disconnections could reduce the impact of a single disconnection on a production process.

There are examples of companies installing software in premises to remotely control electric heating devices, which might be temporarily switched off one minute out of many, so the overall impact of the disconnection on heating is minimal.

Swap contracts between large customers

One possibility for industrial customers is to agree in advance contractual swaps of their production from a region exposed to disruptions to a region less exposed. In an alert or EU emergency, the producer located in the region less affected would guarantee the supply of the production for the producer that had to be halted due to shortage of gas in the region affected. This swap, however, will need to be designed in a way compatible with antitrust rules.

Interruptible contracts

The use of interruptible contracts for gas consumption, as a voluntary market-based measure, is encouraged wherever possible as it represents an important source of flexibility. Such measures are in place at the early warning or alert level (i.e. pre-emergency crisis levels) in several Member States. The activation of the interruption comes with a pre-determined financial compensation, corresponding to a pre-determined level of volume reduction or period of disconnection. Although in principle the compensation and volumes are not tailored for a prolonged and complete disruption from Russia, EU-wide short-term gas demand reductions, triggered by interruptible contracts, can have a significant cumulative impact to free up gas.

Market-based instruments identified as good practices:

- ***Auctioning or tender systems***
- ***Interruptible contracts***
- ***Swap contracts between industrial consumers***

c) Heating and cooling

Information campaigns

Information campaigns to make consumers aware that they should start saving gas where possible can lead to a considerable reduction in gas consumption. This measure is set out in many Member States' Emergency Plans in the early warning stage. The idea is to raise awareness among all consumers, households and industries alike, but also give concrete and operational examples of how gas consumption can be reduced through e.g. behavioural changes. Moreover, the implementation of campaign measures encouraging citizens to reduce their thermostat during the heating season is advised, as it could bring significant gas savings. The Commission has put forward the 'Energy savings Plan'² which sets out a wide range of short-term measures that Member States can take to incentives immediate gas savings (turning down heating, servicing and reducing temperature of boilers etc.). The Commission also continues to work through local actors in spreading these messages, for example with the 'Energy Savings Sprint' campaign together with the Covenant of Mayors.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0240&from=EN>

Considering that information campaigns and accompanying operational measures are “no-regret” options and relatively straightforward to implement compared to other measures, it is advisable that all Member States start their implementation (even those who have not declared an early warning yet). In fact, many Member States reported that they are rolling out awareness raising measures but also subsidy schemes for households and enterprises with a focus on building renovation, fuel switching and the replacement of existing appliances and equipment with more efficient ones.

Targeted obligation to reduce heating and cooling

During an alert level of crisis, measures taken in national plans could include a mandatory national reduction of consumption in the heating and cooling sector. Such measures when targeted would not put at stake the principle that households, district heating and certain essential services are protected customers and that their supply is guaranteed. It will be important to ensure a fairly distributed service to all the customers, particularly for vulnerable customers connected to energy supply networks. An effective and enforceable way is to target reduction of heating and cooling in the buildings owned or operated by public authorities or on their behalf, in commercial centres and in public spaces, unless this is not technically not feasible.

Reduce heating and cooling

- ***National public awareness raising campaigns***
- ***Mandatory reduction in buildings operated on behalf of public authorities***
- ***Reduction of consumption in commercial centres, offices and public spaces,***
- ***Public authorities to set new temperature and/or hourly thresholds for heating and/or district heating in the household sector using gas.***
- ***Heating curves agreed contractually to gradually reduce gas delivery***

2. Criteria to prioritise critical non-protected customers

The underlying principle of the Gas Security of Supply Regulation is to protect specific consumer groups that do not have the means to ensure their own supply in case of a supply crunch and have no viable alternatives to deal with such situation (protected customers). These can be households, district heating to households (only those with no fuel switch possibility), as well as optionally and under certain conditions, essential social services and SMEs. The Regulation also allows Member States to prioritise certain critical gas-fired power plants, over certain groups of protected customers.

This chapter therefore provides guideline to Member States on the non-protected consumer groups so that supply to them can be reduced in a crisis situation, such as certain industries. It is important to stress that all consumer groups, including households, should be encouraged to take gas savings measures as a no-regret option.

The objective of this chapter is to provide guideline so as to integrate **common criteria and principles to maintain the integrity of the internal market and reinforce its resilience**. It should help Member States identify and prioritise, within their non-protected consumer groups, the most critical customers or installations, mainly among industry, on their territory so that they are curtailed last before protected customers while also bearing in mind their criticality for the EU as a whole, as well as other critical supply chain links with its international trading partners.

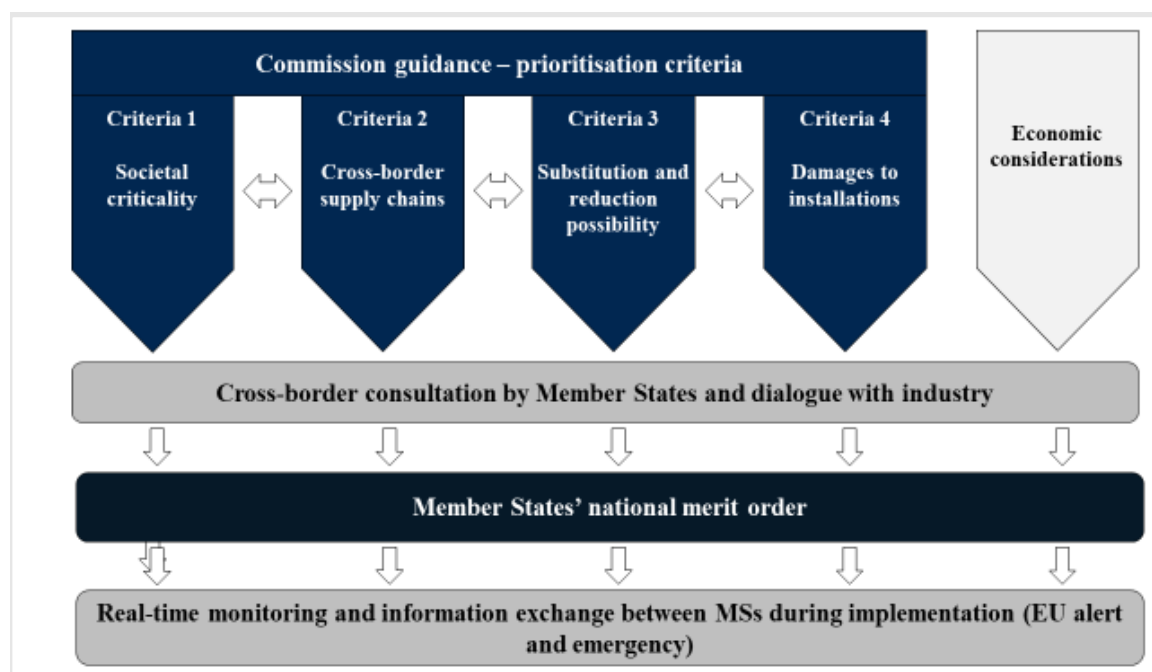
The Commission advises that Member States build on the following guidelines when updating their prioritisation order and related measures in their national emergency plans. The guidelines also extend to a simple mechanism that can be followed to identify cross-border linkages and potential impacts.

a) Criteria for demand reduction in pre-emergency or emergency

The following criteria (in combination) for the prioritisation amongst non-protected customers in case of severe disruptions should be considered:

- a) **Societal criticality** – the extent to which various economic sectors or industries, and their value chains, provide goods and services that are critical and strategic to the smooth functioning of society. Such critical sectors may include, but are not limited to health, safety and environment, security and defence.
- b) **Cross-border supply chains** – the extent to which various economic sectors or industries are part of cross-border supply chains, providing goods and services critical to the smooth provisioning of societal services not just at national but also at EU level.
- c) **Substitution and reduction possibilities**– the extent to which various economic sectors or industries have the possibility to substitute natural gas by other fuels, energy sources or feedstock inputs, to improve efficiency in natural gas use and voluntarily reduce its consumption or switch to imported components/products across their value chains. The criteria above may need to be considered in combination in order to allow for the identification of the most critical sectors or installations in a given Member State so that they are curtailed last before the protected customers.
- d) **Damage to installations** – the extent to which gas is necessary to let a certain sector/installation continue to produce, as well as to ensure the installation is not damaged beyond repair.

Economic considerations should be also taken into account by Member States as an extra consideration.



Societal criticality

Industries considered critical or strategic from a societal perspective are advised to be prioritised, where a disruption would have devastating effects on supply chains impacting health, safety and environment, security, defence and other critical sectors, such as food and refineries. For example, safety also includes environmental considerations regarding treatment of waste and water, as well as safety related of e.g. chemical plants. The identification of specific products, installations and value chain elements that have an impact on critical social services, need careful consideration. For example, not all parts of the food industry are critical: grain and flour production and supply chains may be essential, candy production not.

It is up to Member States to define what social criticality means in their respective national context, but there is a general convergence among Member States, and it is advisable, to include the impact on health, food, safety and environment, security, and defence in their national prioritisation. Ultimately, the key question that needs to be discussed amongst relevant stakeholders is to what extent an essential social service or critical sector can still operate without particular inputs, so that the more crucial the sector, the more prioritised the input (and the inputs needed for that input) should be.

Societally critical sectors:

- ***Health***
- ***Safety and environment***
- ***Security, defence and refineries***
- ***Food***

Cross-border value chain criticality

While drawing their emergency plans, Member States focus primarily on the internal impact of possible gas disruptions. However, given the degree of industrial integration and interconnection across the Single Market, disruptions for specific (upstream) sectors that may not be considered as critical in one Member State may heavily impact (downstream) critical sectors in other Member States. Furthermore, most industries contain parts of their value chains that are Europeanised or internationalised and which are important for delivering critical societal services and goods.

Therefore, the Commission advises Member States to always consider the impact that economic activity reduction in one sector has on the whole EU or global value chain. For instance, the medical equipment and pharmaceuticals industry, parts of chemical industry (e.g. feeding into food and health systems) or parts of the textiles industries (feeding into healthcare and defence products), are part of value chains critical for essential or strategic sectors.

One approach that can be taken is to focus on the product level, rather than on a sector level, thereby identifying essential products instead of sectors. Some examples include most of the glass production used directly by the food and pharmaceutical industry (food containers, vials and syringes) as well as in both renewable energy production and clean tech manufacturing (photovoltaics, wind energy) and energy savings applications. This would require extensive mapping of value chains related to these essential products. For example, basic chemicals might at first glance seem not the most socially critical sector. Yet, its products are used widely throughout different other sectors, meaning that its (cross-border) value chain impacts are likely significant.

Another factor to take into account here, is whether a company has an EU or even global monopoly or high market dominance in a critical value chain. If demand reduction of a facility means that an essential product cannot be produced throughout the EU or more widely, this should be taken into account. A mechanism to help Member States identify the impact of their sectors across borders is proposed in the following subchapter.

Moreover, Member States would need to investigate the value chain complexity together with industry, and the extent to which a gas interruption in a particular sector may have more disruptions in some value chains as opposed to others. The possibly low value added of a sector in relation to its gas intensity may hide the fact that the sector is essential for upstream supply chains delivering final goods and services deemed of critical or strategic importance for society.

Cross-border value chain aspects to consider

- ***Consider downstream effects of upstream gas reduction and value chain complexity***
- ***Market weight of the company***
- ***Production-based approach to identify essential products within sectors***

Substitution and reduction possibilities

Several Member States approach prioritisation through the identification of socially critical industries or companies while assessing the technical and economic possibilities of those industries or companies to switch input fuel, postponing or rescheduling production, etc. Such assessment can be performed for sectors identified as critical for society but also for those that do not fall under that category, thereby allowing further prioritisation of industry not identified as critical from that perspective.

Under this criterion, a differentiation can be made between industries that can switch away from gas and those that cannot, i.e., focusing on industries that can postpone production and industries that can switch off e.g. during peak hours. The possibility may also exist to focus on certain sectors where production can relocate within the EU to regions where gas is available (see swap contracts in the previous chapter)

The integration of European industry in global value chains can also offer substitution options and ease pressure in case of gas disruptions. However, in some cases, importing certain products and services temporarily (instead of producing them in Europe to avoid gas consumption) is not an option, as the steps with the greatest gas input needs can also be those that add most value to the final products. In addition, in some industries (e.g. pharmaceuticals), the substitution of inputs for imports is subject to regulatory approvals and difficult to achieve in the short term. International spill-over effects of worldwide sanctions on Russia on global supply chains, coupled with existing international supply bottlenecks, could further constrain alternative import options, increase the upward pressure on prices, or induce long delivery delays.

Substitution and reduction possibilities

- ***Switching to alternative fuels***
- ***Postponing or rescheduling production***
- ***Swap of production within the EU to where gas is more available***
- ***Substitution options in the global value chains***

Potential damage to installations

Member States should consider the lasting impact a disconnection might have for example in terms of potential damage to industrial tools and the time potentially needed to repair machinery.

Particular attention needs to be paid to the sectors that need to run continuously and where abrupt cut-off of the supply of gas could lead to damage to the installations (e.g. gas production, biological medicine and other parts of the medical industry, some parts of mechanical engineering, textiles industry and particularly its finishing subsector, pharmaceuticals, most chemical processes, fertilizers, glass, steel, aluminium, refineries, lime, ceramics sectors). Several industries spanning both energy intensive and non-energy intensive sectors need a minimum amount of gas for production continuity, since if the production is stopped, it cannot be easily restarted without significant delays, regulatory approval and costs. In such cases, the minimum level of gas consumption should be determined and identified as critical and prioritized accordingly, depending as well on how these industries fare in relation to the other criteria.

Potential damage to installations

- ***Consider lasting impact of disconnection or reduction on industrial tools***
- ***Particular attention should be paid to sectors running continuous processes***

Economic aspects

Following the tests for social criticality, cross-border value chain impacts and technical limitations, risk of damage or substitution possibilities, the **economic importance** of the different sectors should be taken into account in view of prioritising the remaining industries. Indicators to take into account include value added and employment related to a level of natural gas use and the importance of a specific sector in the value chain.

The analysis of Member State-level data underlines the differences in national industrial ecosystems. In particular, the domestic share of embodied natural gas consumption in final output shows the varying importance of certain national industries.

Another important aspect to consider is integration of a given industry via cluster sites because these are deeply connected to multiple production processes through heat and intermediates.

Industries have different degrees of flexibility to switch to other fuels. For example, the majority of cement plants use coal or waste, and only a small number use gas. This means that when the cement sector suppresses all its gas use, most of the cement sector remain unaffected. By combining the considerations on gas intensity with considerations of flexibility, one can determine the least costly sectors to curtail in each Member State (before upstream-downstream value chain effects and strategic sector considerations).

Commission analysis - gas intensity versus economic role

- An analysis of value added in the EU by industrial sectors vs their gas consumption shows that three sectors (glass, ceramics and chemicals) represent ca. half of total industrial gas use, while generating 10% of industrial added value.
- A similar analysis on the cumulative number of employees shows that the most gas-intensive industrial sectors (chemicals, glass, non-ferrous metals and ceramics)

employ a limited share of all manufacturing sector employees. Conversely, the least gas-intensive sectors (machinery equipment, transport equipment and wood/wood products) – often the most labour-intensive ones – employ half of manufacturing workforce while consuming about 10% of total industrial gas use.

- Taking into account the natural gas inputs embodied in products sold for final consumption throughout the supply chain provides a more refined picture. This consumption-based method allows tracing primary inputs of gas into the sector where it is directly used (e.g. gas used to fire a melting tank for glass making) through the supply chain (e.g. window manufacturing), down to attributing those energy inputs to the purchase of goods for final output (e.g. a new housing unit built by the construction sector).
- The analysis shows that the chemical industry (and to a lesser extent iron and steel, non-metallic mineral products and mining and quarrying) provides inputs to all sectors, and the iron and steel sector is responsible for approximately 25% of total gas use in the manufacturing of machinery equipment, and that more than 40% of the total gas use embodied in pharmaceutical products comes from chemical feedstock. The chemical industry represents on average 27% of total gas use embodied in other sectors, non-metallic mineral products and iron and steel represent each 11%, mining and quarrying 6%. Some sectors are less connected to sectors downstream, e.g. transport equipment, machinery equipment, crop and animal production, construction, or food beverages and tobacco.

b) Mechanism to identify and mitigate impact on cross-border supply chains

Cross-border cooperation is essential for Member States to design optimal prioritisation criteria so as to reduce cascading effects across borders and the EU internal market. This cooperation can take place in a structured manner for Member States when drawing up or updating their priority order in their emergency plans. Governance mechanisms for this consultation and coordination, on top of bilateral contacts and existing regional fora, can be the Gas Coordination Group, but also other EU industrial policy fora, such as the High-Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth of the Council or the EU Industrial forum managed by the Commission.

Each Member State may first do an independent analysis of the national industrial landscape and its criticality – possibly and preferably directly involving the industrial stakeholders – and then, based on this, use the above mentioned structures to identify the potential critical connections to the other Member States, where the flows of supply are located.

Within this context, after the identification of the priority sectors resulting from the application of the societal criticality criterion mentioned above and with a view to maintaining the continuity of economic activity as smooth as possible, Member States could jointly proceed with the mapping of the cross-border value chains and verify the risk of concrete supply disruptions. The detection of cross-border sensitiveness is hence the base for the further refinement of the Member States' priority list. This may be a major endeavour, in particular for bigger Member States with complex gas consuming ecosystems and significant participation in international value chains.

3 – Governance and the stages of the crisis response

The stages mapped below show how EU level coordination of demand response is operationalised by the existing provisions of the Gas Security of Supply Regulation and the new measures of this Plan. These different mechanisms relate essentially to the Gas Coordination Group which fits well into the new governance proposed in the Communication under the Energy Platform.

Stage 1: National voluntary demand response (national “Early warning levels”)

When: Since May 2022

Trigger: REPowerEU (and the 10 early warning levels issued by Member States).

Instruments (market-based):

- Information campaigns by Member States addressed to mainly households and industry;
- Campaigns encouraging thermostat reduction during the heating season.
- Public authorities asked to reduce temperature in public buildings, other than care homes/hospitals (non-binding). Industries could also be included.
- Companies asked to promote fuel switching measures.
- Introduction of an auctioning system.
- Measures to reduce gas use in heating and cooling.

Economic impact: no regret, no impact on public finances, no need for compensation, need for State intervention.

Role of the Gas Coordination Group: promote exchange of good practices setting the details of the measures

NEW Stage 2: EU Coordinated demand reduction before emergency

When: Since 20 July 2022

Trigger: There is concrete, serious and reliable information that an event likely to result in significant deterioration of the gas supply situation may occur and is likely to lead to the emergency level being triggered in several Member States. At least one Member State at alert level.

Instruments:

- Reduction of gas demand of all Member States.
- Increase of the daily monitoring and information from Member States to Commission.
- Auctions or tenders calling for offers to reduce consumption.
- Interruptible contracts.
- Incentives for fuel switching for industry and electricity.
- Obligation for public buildings to limit heating 19° and cooling to 25° unless technically not feasible.
- Activation of other demand side measures provided in the alert level in national emergency plans.
- Measures to reduce gas consumption of non-critical gas fire power plants.
- Monitoring the impact of demand reduction on critical sectors across the EU, exchange of information between Member States.

Economic impact: mitigate possible negative impacts in case of disruptions, need for State and EU to intervene by primarily but not exclusively market instruments.

Role of the Commission: Monitoring via the Gas Coordination Group of the necessary demand reductions for all Member States and per sector.

Role of the Gas Coordination Group: Commission must consult in order to launch coordinated demand reduction. GCC serves as a forum of information exchange on limitation, measures available and impact of demand reduction on critical sectors across borders.

ALREADY FORESEEN Stage 3: EU coordination of emergency measures during EU/Regional emergency

When: See Article 12 of Gas Security of Supply Regulation

Triggers:

- Tied to a regional or “EU emergency” under the Security of Supply Regulation
- The Commission may declare a Union Emergency or a Regional Emergency for a specifically affected geographical region upon the request of a Member State.
- Where the request comes from at least two Member States, the Commission has to declare a Union or regional emergency if appropriate.

Instruments and role of the Commission:

As per Article 12 of the Gas SoS Regulation, the Commission shall:

- ensure the exchange of information,
- ensure the consistency and effectiveness of action at Member State and regional levels in relation to the Union level,
- coordinate the actions regarding third countries,
- and, if necessary, convene a crisis management group composed of crisis managers appointed by the Member States concerned.
- The national emergency plans specify in more details the measures planned by the Member State for each crisis level. For instance, Italy can release gas from strategic storage only in case of a national emergency.