

Refilling gas storage for next winter

MARCH 2022

Gas storage contributes to security of supply in Europe, in particular in case of strong demand or supply disruptions during winter.



Gas storage typically supplies

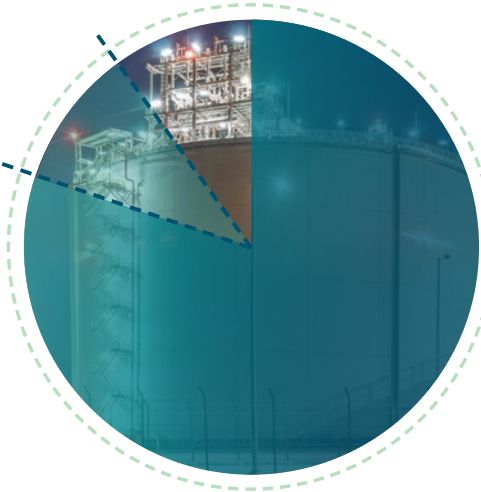
25-30%
of the gas consumed in Europe
each winter.



Over the last six months, an unbalanced gas market has led to a **sharp increase in gas prices and an underfilling of storage** –
20% less than usual in
January 2022.



Low gas storage, coupled with the fact that Russia, one of our major suppliers, has started a war against Ukraine, has amplified security of supply concerns and price volatility.



The Commission is therefore proposing a new legal obligation to **fill underground gas storage to 80% of its capacity by 1 November 2022, rising to 90% for following years.**

This will minimise risks for next winter with intermediary targets for each Member State in February, May, July, and September.

ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY

Storage certification:

A mandatory certification of storage system operators will avoid potential risks from outside influence over critical storage infrastructure → non-certified operators will have to give up ownership or control



Monitoring and enforcement:

The Commission will monitor the filling levels jointly with Member State authorities. Member States shall take the necessary measures to enforce the storage obligations, including financial incentives and deterrents



Tariff exemptions:

Operators will benefit from a 100% discount on capacity-based transmission tariffs at entry and exit points from storage facilities



Reporting: Operators of storage sites should report the filling levels to national authorities on a monthly basis



Refilling task force: The Commission stands ready to create a Task Force to coordinate gas purchases at EU level. Pooling demand would reinforce the EU's international outreach to suppliers to help secure well-priced imports



EUROPEAN GAS STORAGE SOLIDARITY

While not all Member States have storage facilities in their territories, the proposals foresee a minimum gas storage reserve which they must have access to in other Member States.

Member States without storage facilities will need to ensure that operators on their territory have secured storage in a neighbouring Member State which covers 15% of their annual gas consumption. Alternatively, Member States without storage capacity can put in place a burden-sharing mechanism.

