



**FLEISHMANHILLARD**  
*The power of true*

*The European  
Commission's  
'Energy Security  
Package'*

*Overview and Analysis*

*16 February 2016*

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## What's the EU 'Energy Security Package' really about?

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### What's happened?

On Tuesday, 16 February, the European Commission published the much anticipated 'Energy Security Package' – its first significant energy initiative for 2016. This suite of proposals seeks to implement the part of the framework put in place by the EU's Energy Union that concerns energy security issues and particularly natural gas. The package reinforces the existing energy security framework by updating legislation on security of gas supply, enhancing transparency and the role of the Commission in intergovernmental energy agreements, and defining new strategies for LNG and gas storage, as well heating and cooling.

### Why does it matter?

Energy security has been a key aspect of EU policymakers' energy policy priorities since the Russia-Ukraine gas crises in 2006 and 2009 – and will continue to be in 2016. Recent studies have shown that in 2014, the EU was still dependent on energy imports for slightly over half of its consumption, a figure which is seen as making the EU vulnerable and exposed to external shocks. Once again this month, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete stated in no uncertain terms, "*We need more energy security*".

The 'Energy Security Package' acknowledges the significance of gas for the EU energy mix, and is a significant legislative step towards delivering on the EU's Energy Union and its climate goals established in the wake of the COP21 climate negotiations. To achieve the practical application of these energy and climate ambitions, the Package will, according to a speech delivered by Commission Vice President for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič at the International Energy Agency, "*secure supplies in case of disruption, strengthen cooperation at regional level and improve crisis management at European level. An important element in this proposal will be to bring more transparency in gas contracts with third parties and facilitate access of more LNG into Europe.*"

The dichotomy of the Package is that it recognizes both the role of natural gas in reducing emissions – by replacing coal and balancing renewables – and tries to reduce gas consumption in households through the Heating & Cooling Strategy. As such, it sends a clear message, repeated by Commissioner Arias Cañete: gas is the "*bridge from coal to renewables*".

In doing so, the Commission hopes to kill two birds with one stone by providing a response to the gas industry's call for greater recognition of its significance for European energy, and NGOs' calls to phase out all fossil fuels, including gas, after COP21.

### What does it include?

The 'Energy Security Package' is comprised of four main documents accompanied by their annexes.

Two legislative proposals:

- Proposal for a review of the Regulation on Security of Gas Supply: This document aims to increase the transparency of natural gas supply contracts in the EU to better conduct the risk assessments upon which regional emergency plans are prepared.
- Proposal for a Decision on Intergovernmental Agreements: The aim of the proposal is to allow the Commission to conduct an ex-ante analysis of bilateral agreements signed between an EU Member State and a Third Country, thereby ensuring that such agreements comply with EU Internal Energy Market rules before signature.

Two non-legislative documents:

- Communication on an LNG and Storage Strategy: This Communication lays out the European Commission's objective of interconnecting Member States and giving them access to LNG import infrastructures in order to end their reliance on a single supply source.
- Communication on a Heating and Cooling Strategy: In this document, the European Commission outlines its aims to boost energy savings in the EU. Firstly, by increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and appliances, and, secondly, by giving consumers the power to adapt their demand to a

system where power supply fluctuates as more variable renewables (solar, wind) are integrated into the market.

An overview of these documents is provided in the following sections.

## The Next steps

The legislative proposals on Security of Gas Supply and Intergovernmental Agreements will now go through the co-decision procedure involving the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. It is likely the Slovakian Presidency of the Council will attempt to achieve political agreement on both dossiers.

As for the Communications, the Commission will come forward with initiatives to translate the vision laid out in the documents into legislation. The first step will be the release of the proposals to review the Energy Efficiency and Energy Performance of Buildings Directives in September 2016.

## The Four Sides of the 'Energy Security Package'

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Considering the name of the Package, one cannot help but notice that one specific proposal has been omitted: the review of the Regulation on Security of Electricity Supply. Its publication has now been postponed until December 2016, forming part of the 'Winter Package' of initiatives, which will focus on renewable energy and the new electricity market design. This exclusion reinforces the perception that the Commission views EU energy security as inherently linked to gas, rather than gas *and* electricity.

Indeed, the documents published on 16 February are all focused on gas. While this may give the impression that the situation in Europe is critical, the fact is that the Internal Market for gas is relatively advanced compared to that of electricity. The results of the stress tests carried out in the summer of 2014 showed that most of the EU could cope with supply disruptions, with the exception of South East Europe. The development of reverse-flow capability across the system even allowed Ukraine to reduce its reliance on Russian imports, as was shown during the 2015/2016 winter. This is a significant increase in resilience and flexibility compared to the situation in 2009.

The 'Energy Security Package' aims to build the missing links in an already well-developed gas infrastructure network and ensure that solidarity mechanisms are in place between Member States. The sections below provide an overview and analysis of the important elements of the four main documents of the Package.

### Proposal to review the Security of Gas Supply Regulation

Before becoming the all-encompassing energy and climate policy agenda it is today, the Energy Union was – to put it simply – a Polish proposal to strengthen the EU's energy security vis-à-vis Russia. The idea was backed by most Central and Eastern European Member States, who saw it as a means to lower gas delivery prices and discourage Moscow from using these deliveries for political purposes.

The proposed review of the Security of Gas Supply Regulation (SoGSR) tabled by the Commission essentially aims to address the concerns of these Member States by establishing a series of measures articulated around the principles of transparency, regional coordination, and solidarity.

#### Transparency

The Regulation sets out regional solidarity measures and offers to increase oversight of the Commission on commercial contracts that are deemed relevant to energy security. Its concrete aim is to give Member States access to alternative supply sources in case of a supply disruption but also, to prevent such emergencies in the first place. It strives to put pressure on the dominant supplier and its customers to refrain from including clauses (e.g. take-or-pay, destination clauses) that put a Member State's, region's or the EU's security of supply at risk or to breach the EU's Internal Market rules in the first place.

The Regulation would require Member States to 'automatically' notify the Commission of the *ex-ante* conclusions or amendment of 'Security of supply relevant contracts', which are defined as "*contracts with a long-term duration (i.e. exceeding one year) that provide individually or cumulatively with other contracts with*

*the same third country supplier or its affiliates more than 40% of yearly natural gas consumption in the Member State concerned to one natural gas undertaking or to its affiliates”.*

Perhaps more importantly, the proposed Regulation would give Member States or the Commission ‘additional information’ – i.e. more than just volumes – on contracts longer than a year. According to the Regulation, information on prices will be excluded from this obligation. Commissioner Arias Cañete repeatedly emphasized that the Regulation would not lead to the Commission “*snooping on prices*” or “*requesting that changes be made to the contracts*”. While some Member States, such as Poland, who have repeatedly complained about Russian gas pricing practices, would certainly welcome more transparency on that particular point as well, others such as Germany, who have negotiated lower prices, fear losing such an advantage and would likely oppose any move to make such sensitive commercial information public. Others will be concerned over the impact of such a move on the functioning of the wider energy market.

## Regional approach

Another key change put forward by the Regulation is the shift from a national to a regional approach to security of gas supply. While the 2010 Regulation set pre-emptive and emergency rules and mechanisms at the national level and with minimal regional coordination, the Commission’s proposal would change this approach by establishing regional planning and emergency responsibilities. The potential for such cooperation has not been fully exploited, the Commission argues, in particular at preventive stage.

To change this, new rules would require Member States to work together to prepare regional ‘Preventive Action Plans’ and ‘Emergency Plans’ to “*remove and mitigate the risks identified in the region*” as well as the “*the impact of a natural gas supply disruption in the region*”. These Plans will be prepared based on a risk assessment conducted using the contractual information mentioned in the previous section. Should the Commission disagree with the Competent Authorities concerned, it may require them to amend the Plan(s). These would be overseen by the Commission *ex-ante* in addition to the prerogatives granted to it *after* an emergency is declared.

On the original proposal for joint gas purchasing put forward in the Polish Energy Union non-paper, Commissioner Arias-Cañete declared at the press conference of 16 February that the Commission had carefully considered the idea but decided not to table mandatory common purchasing “*neither for normal market conditions nor emergency ones*”. Reflecting the key component of Poland’s initial ‘Energy Union’ idea, the Regulation “*makes clear that the Member States and the natural gas undertakings are free to explore potential benefits*” of common purchasing but that any such mechanism should comply with WTO and EU competition rules.

## Solidarity for consumers

The third important component of the Regulation is the inclusion of the solidarity clause between interconnected Member States. Under the new rules, the Commission would have increased oversight over existing national measures to avoid any over- or under-protection of consumers which could affect other, more vulnerable Member States. Any new such measure will have to be validated by the Commission before entering into force.

Finally, another provision under the principle of solidarity would require Member States to interrupt supplies to their own non-protected customers, in order to supply the protected customers of a neighbouring, interconnected Member State undergoing an emergency. This particular provision is likely to raise discussions around the risk of some Member States ‘free riding’ on the investments made by others. Another major change lies in the inclusion of the Energy Community countries under this solidarity principle. A major political issue here will be the desire of some Member States to ensure that final decisions on security of supply are retained at a national level.

## Proposal for a revised decision on Intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy

The Commission’s proposal to review the Decision on Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) reflects its ambition to prevent situations similar to that of the IGA’s on the South Stream project. At the time, six EU Member States signed bilateral IGAs with Russia, paving ground for the project which would have transited gas across the Black Sea into Bulgaria and on to the Baumgarten Hub in Austria, avoiding the Ukraine natural gas

transit route. Despite these agreements being signed and some initial construction work having begun, the South Stream project never saw the light of day. The European Commission objected to its construction on the basis that a number of provisions of the IGAs were in breach of EU Internal Energy Market rules – most importantly unbundling and third-party access.

## Ex ante assessment

The proposal released today would aim to prevent a repeat of such situations by allowing the Commission to discourage Member States from signing agreements in breach of EU law in the first place. Indeed, under the current regulation in place since 2012, Member States are only due to notify the Commission *after* having signed an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with a third country (Ex-post). The Commission then carries out compliance checks to make sure these agreements are compatible with EU rules.

However, no IGA has been renegotiated ex-post so far, even where the IGA in question was found by the Commission to be in breach of EU law. Indeed, international law requires both signatories of the IGA to agree to amend the document, which has proven to be difficult at times, the Commission notes. Moreover, no IGA has been voluntarily submitted by a Member State to the Commission for an *ex-ante* compliance check. This assessment is at the core of the proposal to review the existing 2012 IGA Decision. According to the Commission, one third of the energy supply and infrastructure IGAs notified to the Commission included provisions in breach of EU laws.

## The Commission's proposal

According to the document, the aim of the review is to:

- Enhance legal certainty
- Avoid costs for Member States and the Commission
- Reinforce cooperation and transparency
- Improve security of supply
- Improve the functioning of the internal energy market

Under the new Decision, Member States will be forbidden to conclude or amend intergovernmental agreements until the Commission has conducted its assessment within six weeks of the IGA's submission by the Member State. Following this assessment, the document stipulates that Member States "*shall take utmost account of Commission's opinion*". Member States will remain free to decide whether or not to conclude the agreement despite the Commission's opinion. Should they decide to do so, the Commission will launch an infringement procedure, underlined Commissioner Arias-Cañete at the 16 February press conference.

The Commission's proposal is likely to be met by opposition from a number of Member States, not least of all Germany. The *ex-post* assessment provision of the 2012 Decision is the result of Member States' opposition to agree on an *ex-ante* one when negotiations took place already in 2011. Nevertheless, with the Commission's proposal coming short of being a 'veto power', Member States may be willing to accept such a compromise proposal.

## Strategy for Liquefied Natural Gas & Storage

The main purpose of the Strategy is to end the reliance of Member States' on a single source of natural gas supply, such as Russia, by giving them access to the international LNG market. It also aims improve access to the EU natural gas storage infrastructure to balance supply/demand fluctuations more effectively.

The Strategy therefore lists a number of recommendations, which aim to allow those Member States whose security of supply is deemed to be at risk to make full use of available LNG import capacity – which currently stands at around 200bcm in the EU – as well as to the storage capacity available across Europe. The Commission recognizes that the boom in LNG trading is a 'major opportunity' for the EU.

## Missing infrastructure and the internal energy market

In line with the other documents released on 16 February, the Strategy puts regional cooperation at its core. The document notes that EU financial support may be needed to either build LNG import terminals, or the interconnectors necessary to open new markets to existing terminals. The Commission also pushes for an EU strategy on natural gas storage, which would give access to and allow all Member States to benefit from the flexibility provided by existing storage infrastructure. The idea behind the Commission's recommendations is to encourage the emergence of new, liquid trading hubs for natural gas.

The Strategy's overall message is that the EU does not need significant additional LNG import capacity, just better interconnections. The purpose of the Strategy is also to make Europe – often portrayed as the 'dumping ground' for Asian LNG supplies – an attractive market for LNG. Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič said on 16 February that the Commission's financial support will be aimed at improving the interconnectivity of Member States, which in turn will give import terminals additional outlets, increasing their economic viability.

The Commission identifies priority energy projects in the Baltics, South Eastern Europe and Iberian Peninsula, which it says would effectively end the isolation of all Member States by linking their infrastructure to those of neighbouring Member States who have direct or indirect access to LNG import terminals or trading hubs. Helping secure final investment decisions for these projects is of the utmost importance, the Strategy notes.

On storage, the Commission regrets the fact that *"the market does not fully reward the security-of-supply benefits of gas stored for crisis situations"*. The Strategy calls on Member States to build on the proposed Security of Gas Supply Regulation's Emergency and Action Plans to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of storage across borders. The Strategy also aims to remove regulatory barriers, which prevent storage from competing as an instrument of supply flexibility.

### **EU Strategy for heating and cooling**

The Heating and Cooling strategy addresses the energy used for heating and cooling in buildings and industry, which accounts for 50% of the EU's annual energy consumption. Of this 50%, renewables account only for 18%.

The Strategy's objective is to reduce dependency on energy imports, cut costs for consumers, and reduce emissions in buildings, by making the heating and cooling sector smarter, more efficient and sustainable.

Rather than proposing new legislative measures, the Strategy explains the Commission's rationale and proposes recommendations ahead of the reviews of the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD), Energy Efficiency Directives (EED), the new Electricity Market Design and the proposal for a Renewable Energy Framework, all scheduled for the second half of 2016.

The starting point of the Strategy is that the current rate of building renovation is not enough (currently below 1%), renewables are not widely used in the sector - natural gas is the largest primary energy source for heating and cooling (46%), followed by coal (about 15%) and biomass (about 11%) – and too much energy is being wasted. Therefore, the Commission identifies the following actions:

#### **Increasing the share of renewables**

The strategy pushes for integration of more renewable energy into the EU heating and cooling system. It acknowledges the need to reduce the percentage of fossil fuels used for heating and cooling and invites Member States to focus incentives for non-fossil fuel heating. Electricity should be playing a key role and better linking heating & cooling with the electricity network will encourage cost savings that will benefit the consumer.

District heating, cogeneration (CHP) and smart grids are specifically mentioned as technologies which can integrate renewables and balance demand and supply. The Commission regrets that regulatory burden and the lack of public support have prevented the uptake of CHP so far.

#### **Reuse of energy waste**

Key aspects of this Strategy focus on reusing heat waste, as the amount of heat produced from industrial processes and wasted in the atmosphere or into water in the EU is estimated to be enough to cover the EU's entire heating needs in residential and tertiary buildings.

## Getting consumers involved

The Strategy foresees a bottom-up approach where consumers, not just public authorities, drive renovations and need to be informed and empowered.

## Stakeholder Reactions

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### Industry

The European gas industry welcomed the new Commission strategies, but with mixed feelings, especially with regards to the Heating and Cooling strategy. For example, [GasNaturally](#) (an association representing five of the biggest European gas associations) acknowledged the Commission's efforts to consider the role of LNG and storage to make the most out of the EU gas infrastructure, but also noted that the Commission had *"missed an opportunity by not fully recognizing the role that gas can play in heating"*.

In a similar vein, [Eurogas](#), quoting its Secretary General Beate Raabe, stated its *"support in large part for the market-driven emphasis and overall approach to security of supply in the package but questioned the Commission's selective approach and disregard for the large benefits linked to gas in heating"*. Commenting on the Heating and Cooling strategy, Eurogas questioned *"the clear preference for full electrification in heating using heat pumps and district heating. While these may be effective solutions in certain circumstances, they are unlikely to satisfy the fluctuating, seasonal demands of heating right across the European Union. Neither are consumers presented with a full choice of innovative and competitive alternatives specific to their requirements."*

[Gas Infrastructure Europe](#) (GIE) was less critical in their press release, welcoming the revision of the Security of Gas Supply Regulation as an opportunity to do more to improve the resilience of Europe's gas system, while noting that increased regional cooperation, which is one of the Package's focal points, *"should acknowledge regional and local differences"*. GIE also commended the LNG and gas storage strategy for addressing *"some of the challenges, the storage industry is currently facing throughout Europe"*. On Heating and Cooling, GIE noted its support for the strategy's focus on reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption while emphasizing that a *"technology neutral approach will allow the market to find best solutions for CO2 reductions"*.

[Eurelectric](#) welcomed the Package noting that it represented a good basis for discussion. More specifically, on heating and cooling, Eurelectric welcomed the fact that the Commission's strategy recognised the key role of electricity coming from renewable and decarbonised sources and highlighted that as the electricity sector's greenhouse gas emissions are strongly decreasing, electricity should play a key role in decarbonising heating and cooling, and will bring other important benefits, such as improvements in air quality.

On the energy efficiency front, industries welcomed the package and the Commission's effort to tackle energy consumption in heating and cooling sectors for the first time. For [EURIMA](#), representing the insulation manufactures, it was encouraging that the Commission took the decision to publish a Heating and Cooling Strategy. *"What is needed are concrete proposals for an EU wide building renovation plan, ideally with targets, otherwise the strategy wastes a unique opportunity to properly reduce European dependence on energy imports"*. Similarly, [EuroACE](#), the alliance focusing on energy efficiency in buildings, was pleased by the Strategy, but noted that it should put the reduction of energy demand from buildings as the priority measure

to be implemented, as this was technologically feasible, economically affordable, and brought multiple benefits.

## NGOs

Unsurprisingly, many environmental NGOs also criticized the package, though for very different reasons than the gas industry. [Greenpeace EU](#) stated that the proposal *“fails to recognise that renewables and energy efficiency can secure Europe’s energy supply. It defies the commitments taken under the Paris climate agreement last December ... Natural gas will continue to play a role in the energy system, but must be strictly limited to prevent it from blocking the expansion of renewables. When implementing its gas package, the Commission must take into account that gas demand is shrinking and that renewable energy and energy efficiency are the priority to increase Europe’s security of supply, and fight global warming”*.

Similarly, according to [Friends of the Earth Europe](#), by launching this new gas package *“Europe is turning its back on December's climate agreement in Paris, and further shackling itself to fossil fuels”* instead of investing in energy efficiency and renewables. [World Wildlife Fund EU](#) (WWF) also noted that energy security is best realized through domestic renewable energy and energy efficiency rather than gas, and that the Commission’s gas package gives the lie to the assertion that the EU is a “climate leader”.

## European Parliament

From the Parliament perspective, the President of the [Party of the European Socialists](#) (PES), MEP Sergei Stanishev (S&D, BG) welcomed the package which *“delivers on one of the key priorities of the Energy Union: no one in Europe, especially not the most vulnerable ones in our societies, shall be cut off energy in times of supply crises”*. He noted that the European Commission has for *“the first time kicked-off strategic thinking in EU policy-making about the heating and cooling sector in buildings and industry”*.

From the EPP group, Irish [MEP Sean Kelly](#) described today's announcement as extremely positive as it means that the EU is looking to capitalise on the rapidly changing global gas markets. Mentioning the Kerry-based Shannon LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) project, which has been named as a key supply point for the EU, he highlighted that more diverse gas supply will bring significant benefits to the European energy market: *“By increasing supply options, the EU will be able to arbitrage between Russian gas and LNG on the global market. This represents a massive opportunity to reduce our reliance on less-than-dependable piped Russian gas and bring new competitive players onto the market”*.

The most provocative reaction comes from Green MEP [Claude Turmes](#) (Greens, LU), who noted that *“the Commission’s new gas strategy is an affront to the Paris agreement, at a time when we should be leading the global energy transition and leaving fossil fuels behind us”*. Much like the response of Green NGOs, Turmes criticizes the Commission for overestimating its gas demand forecasts. In his opinion piece published on EurActiv, he provocatively continues asking if this “gas package” is a *“deliberate attempt to roll-out the red carpet to Gazprom and Nord Stream? Or simply a naive roadmap dictated by European gas majors?”*.

## The Twitter Sphere

Following the #EUEnergySecurity hashtag allowed us to follow the online conversation surrounding the publication of the Energy Security Package. Both Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete warmly welcomed the package on twitter with a photo embracing each other (see below).

The twitter-sphere also saw reactions from MEPs and political groups, with the European Socialists and some European People’s Party MEPs welcoming the Commission’s announcements, while some Green MEPs criticised the Commission’s projected gas demand, which has informed the recently released package.

NGOs, including Friends of the Earth Europe and Greenpeace, were more critical of the package on Twitter, highlighting what the Energy Security package means in the context of the EU’s commitments to the Paris agreement of December 2015.

**Anna-Kaisa Itkonen** @AK\_Itkonen Following

Press conference on **#EUEnergySecurity** with **@MAC\_europa** and **@MarosSefcovic** starts now! Tune in on EBS.



RETWEETS 14 LIKES 11

**Claude Turmes** @ClaudeTurmes Following

**#EUEnergySecurity** over-estimating gas demand! **@MAC\_europa** & **@MarosSefcovic** open the door to useless LNG terminals and pipelines **#nordstream**

**Sean Kelly MEP** @SeanKellyMEP Following

Global LNG supply to increase by 50% - need to connect Europe to growing global markets to boost competitiveness **#ShannonLNG**  
**@MAC\_europa**

**James Crisp** @JamesCrisp6 Following

Didn't get an answer about if importing fracked gas is against spirit of **#ParisAgreement** .  
**#EUenergysecurity**

**Greenpeace EU** @GreenpeaceEU · 4h

**Commission is blind to #renewables' potential, keeps EU stuck on gas. Our comment on EC proposal [bit.ly/1om3y0f](http://bit.ly/1om3y0f) #EUEnergySecurity**

**Ewa Krukowska** @Ewa\_Bxl Following

Tougher Scrutiny of Russian Natural-Gas Deals Sought by Europe **[bloom.bg/1TnTSie](http://bloom.bg/1TnTSie)** via **@business** **#EUEnergySecurity**



Tougher Scrutiny of Russian Natural-Gas Deals Sought b...  
The European Union's regulatory arm proposed more oversight of natural-gas contracts with Russia and other external suppliers as a part of a wider plan to boost energy security.  
bloomberg.com



Friends of the Earth @foeeurope · 2h  
Why is @EU\_Commission investing in #gas we don't need? Choose #energyefficiency foeeurope.org/europe-shackle...



PES @PES\_PSE · 2h  
We welcome #EnergyUnion winter package presented today by @MarošSeifovic  
[bit.ly/1QFAsiP](https://bit.ly/1QFAsiP) #FightingEnergyPoverty  
👤 Sergei Stanishev and Maroš Šefčovič

**Matt Hinde,**

**Head of FleishmanHillard Energy Practice**

*“The Commission’s energy security package looks like a broadly sensible set of policy measures to improve the resilience of the EU’s gas market. This is a policy package mainly directed at Member States and policymakers, tackling transparency, regional approaches to gas emergency and preventative action plans, and the future of heating and cooling. Clearly these are of key importance from a business perspective as well, and the industry should look carefully at the package to ensure there are not aspects that could act counter-intuitively on the creation and functioning of a fully completed EU gas market. Overall this seems to be a reasonable continuation of a policy agenda that has progressively strengthened the resilience, security and flexibility of the internal gas market.”*

**Chris Davies, former ALDE Group coordinator on the European Parliament’s environment committee, is an adviser to FleishmanHillard.**

*“It could not be clearer that the Commission’s proposals reflect deep felt frustration that European leaders sign up in Brussels to general statements about the need to promote energy security and ensure multiple sources of supply only to return to national capitals and disregard everything they have said. The Commission’s conclusion that assessments of energy deals being signed by Member States are “not sufficient and satisfactory” is blunt, and it is stark in spelling out that it proposes “a shift of tasks from Member States to the EU”.*

*Given the Commission’s determination to intervene and act on gas policy, it’s ironic that it has to admit in its proposals to reduce energy use on heating and cooling that the initiative rests with Member States, with the Commission able to do little more than advise on best practice.”*

### Security of gas supply

- [Commission proposal on new rules for EU gas supply security](#) 
- [Annexes to the proposal on new rules for EU gas supply security](#) 
- [Impact assessment of the proposal on new rules for EU gas supply security – executive summary](#) 
- [Impact assessment of the proposal on new rules for EU gas supply security](#) 
- [Factsheet on EU gas supply security](#)

### Intergovernmental agreements

- [Commission proposal on new rules for energy agreements between EU and non-EU countries](#) 
- [Impact assessment of the proposal on new rules for energy agreements between EU and non-EU countries – executive summary](#) 
- [Impact assessment of the proposal on new rules for energy agreements between EU and non-EU countries](#) 
- [Report on existing energy agreements between EU and non-EU countries](#) 
- [Factsheet on energy agreements between EU and non-EU countries](#)

### LNG and gas storage

- [Commission Communication on an EU LNG and gas storage strategy](#) 
- [Staff Working Document on an EU LNG and gas storage strategy](#) 
- [Factsheet on LNG and gas storage](#)

### Heating and cooling

- [Commission Communication on an EU strategy for heating and cooling](#) 
- [Staff Working Document on an EU strategy for heating and cooling part1](#)  | [part 2](#) 
- [Factsheet on heating and cooling](#)
- [Infographic on heating and cooling](#)
- [Video on heating and cooling](#)

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