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Europe's LNG Import Dependencies - Status and Outlook

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Extended Abstract

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Abstract Summary

The impact of growing geopolitical complexity on European gas markets is palpable. The Ukraine war has triggered the European Union determination to fully end gas deliveries to Europe by 2027. LNG imports replace Russian gas at growing scale to the benefit of US exporters. Critics say one evil is replaced with another when moving from one dependency to another. Reliance on US LNG can prove risky as trade policies are uncertain. We look at scenarios of reduced LNG supplies to Europe in the wake of Middle Eastern LNG supply shock of spring 2026.

The Qatar supply shock laid bare LNG importers' vulnerability to geopolitical conflicts around the globe. As energy importer, Europe is increasingly exposed to spot LNG markets in the absence of Russian pipeline gas and the RePowerEU phase-out plan exacerbates this situation. Europe's deficit of secure, reliable LNG calls for a more diversified supplier portfolio and stable deliveries, e.g. via long-term contracts.

Presenting Author Biography

Dr. Andreas Schroeder builds on a long-standing experience in energy economics with a focus on market analysis of traded energy commodities. Given his professional activities in both, the private sector (ICIS, E.ON/Uniper, Vattenfall) as well as the public sector (International Energy Agency / OECD, DIW Berlin, EU Commission), Andreas' network stretches broadly across the whole energy sector. Andreas defended his PhD Thesis on power markets in 2013 at DIW / TU Berlin, supervised by Prof. von Hirschhausen and Prof. Kemfert.