

## **Statement facilitated by the Mediterranean Alliance of Think Tanks on Climate Change on the EU's new Roadmap towards exiting Russian energy imports**

On 6 May, the European Commission presented the [Roadmap towards exiting Russian energy imports](#).

**Context:** Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, it has become clear that Europe's dependence on fossil fuel imports from Russia is damaging to Europe's security and economic stability. In 2022 the European Commission launched the [REPowerEU](#) plan to mitigate the energy price surge through energy savings, increased production of energy from renewable sources, and, in the short term, diversification of fossil fuel supply sources. The strategy contributed to the [18% decline in EU gas demand](#) between 2022 and 2024, and the EU was well-prepared when Russia cut off pipeline supplies via Ukraine in January 2025. The new REPowerEU Roadmap takes the 2022 strategy a step further, aiming to end all fossil fuel imports from Russia by 2027.

However, the Roadmap risks sending the wrong signals to fossil-fuel exporting countries about the EU's plans. The Roadmap places heavy emphasis on securing alternative gas supplies, including from North Africa and the Middle East, but does not clarify that these supplies will only be needed in the short-term. The Roadmap's assertion that "gas will remain part of the EU's energy mix for the coming decades" is correct, but omits to mention the increasingly small role that gas will play: the EU's own [analysis](#) projects that by 2030, the EU will use less than half the gas it used in 2019, with this figure down to 14% by 2050.

**As members of the Mediterranean Alliance of Think Tanks on Climate Change (MATTCCh), we underline that ending Russian energy imports should not slow down energy transition plans in the Mediterranean region, especially in gas-exporting countries.**

According to the [Sixth Assessment report](#) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Mediterranean region is a climate change hotspot and is warming faster than the global average. More heat waves, dust storms, and extreme weather events are expected in the coming years and decades, affecting biodiversity, livelihoods, and public health. Cascading climate impacts act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating pre-existing conditions and affecting the social, economic, political, and human security dimensions.

The upcoming New Pact for the Mediterranean and the Trans-Mediterranean Energy Initiative (T-Med) are an opportunity to define a shared vision for a just energy transition in the region, providing opportunities for decarbonising the Mediterranean energy system through renewable energy development and increasing European and Mediterranean energy resilience through [infrastructure integration](#). EU efforts should focus on [renewables](#), grid modernisation (whose relevance has been further demonstrated by the Iberian blackout), and interconnectors; these are the actions that will deliver long-term [economic and energy security](#) for Europe and the entire Mediterranean region. Meanwhile, the EU should support fossil-fuel producing countries in the region to diversify their economies away from fossil fuel exports, and help them to [future-proof their economies](#) as exports to the EU decline sharply in the coming decades. In addition, the EU should consider the human rights and broader ethical implications of its energy imports.

The MATTCCh stands ready to support the Commission with expertise in driving the region through a rapid and just transition to a decarbonised, renewable-based, flexible, and reliable Mediterranean energy system.

List of signatories

- **ECCO Think Tank**
- **eco-union**
- **ECDPM** - European Centre for Development Policy Management
- **EMEA** - The Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
- **E3G**
- **Ember**
- **EMEA** - Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
- **Imal Initiative for Climate and Development**
- **NRGI** - Natural Resource Governance Institute
- **SEFiA** - Sustainable Economics and Finance Association
- **TEPAV** - The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey
- **ZERO** - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável