

GAS: LOCKING EUROPE INTO A FOSSIL-FUELLED FUTURE

YOUR GUIDE TO THE AMSTERDAM INFORMAL ENERGY COUNCIL
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GAS: LOCKING EUROPE INTO A FOSSIL-FUELLED FUTURE

The European Commission's 'energy security package' was the first big test for Europe's energy future post-Paris. But when it was presented, Miguel Arias Cañete and Maroš Šefčovič turned their backs on the climate agreement and efforts to stay within 1.5 degrees of global warming. They overestimated future gas demand. They promised subsidies for, and investments in, gas – and the infrastructure allegedly required for it. They pitched gas as a long-term and sustainable partner for renewable energy, ignoring the fact that it will lock Europe into decades of fossil fuel use, blocking or slowing down development of renewables.

There is no such thing as a clean fossil fuel, and we urgently need to transition towards renewables and improved energy efficiency. Despite technological innovations, gas is a significant contributor to climate change. The extraction, transformation, transportation and consumption of gas release substantial amounts of methane which have powerful negative impacts on the climate. In some cases emissions from shale gas can be comparable to or worse than coal.

Gas extraction also has negative local impacts. The Netherlands has experienced 974 earthquakes since 1991 in the Groningen region, triggered by gas extraction. Property owners have reported 65,000 cases of damage and have finally forced authorities to substantially drop production rates.

Instead of building new unnecessary infrastructure for gas, or prioritising carbon-intensive imports like US shale gas, Europe should be prioritising investments in energy efficiency and renewables. This will bring major environmental benefits, improve energy security, and create jobs. For every €1 million invested in energy efficiency, there are twice as many jobs as compared to traditional power generation. According to the European Commission's own data, the EU will save three euros on infrastructure costs for every euro invested in energy efficiency. Upper end targets for 2030 for efficiency and renewables can cut pollution control costs by up to €41.5 billion per year. Gas has nothing comparable to offer.

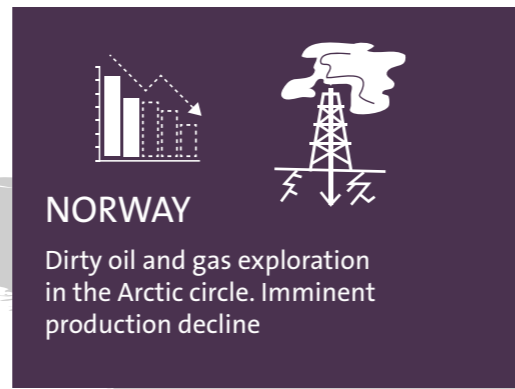
Jean-Claude Juncker said that Europe must be a leader in renewable energy. The EU's current policies are creating an uncertain investment environment which risks making the energy transition slow and expensive. Europe should be concentrating on efficiency and renewables – especially community owned and managed renewables – instead of shackling itself to gas.

For more information:

antoine.simon@foeeurope.org
brook.riley@foeeurope.org
molly.walsh@foeeurope.org

There is no such thing as a clean fossil fuel, and we urgently need to transition towards renewables and improved energy efficiency.

INSECURITY OF GAS SUPPLY



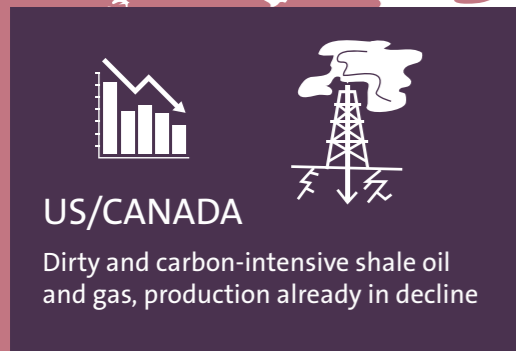
NORWAY
Dirty oil and gas exploration in the Arctic circle. Imminent production decline

Icons: Bar chart with downward arrow, oil rig, lightning bolt, and crossed-out lightning bolt.



RUSSIA
Repressive state, stranglehold over EU gas supplies

Icons: EU flag with padlock, pie chart, and money with crossed-out speech bubble.

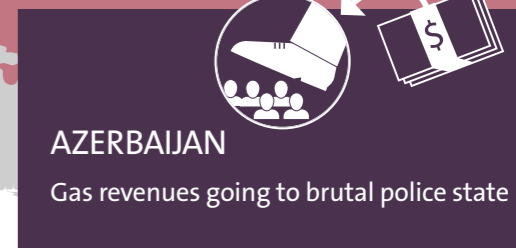


US/CANADA
Dirty and carbon-intensive shale oil and gas, production already in decline

Icons: Bar chart with downward arrow, oil rig, lightning bolt, and crossed-out lightning bolt.



EUROPEAN UNION:
Major untapped opportunities for energy efficiency and renewables



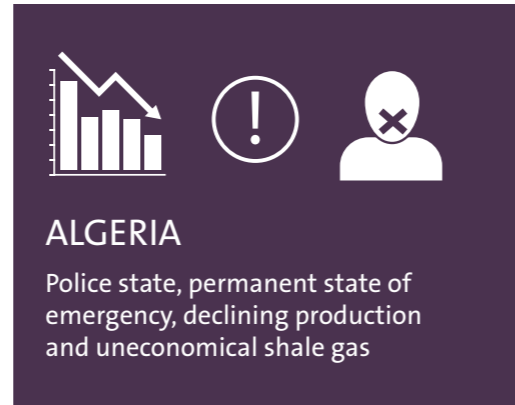
AZERBAIJAN
Gas revenues going to brutal police state

Icons: Pie chart and money with crossed-out speech bubble.



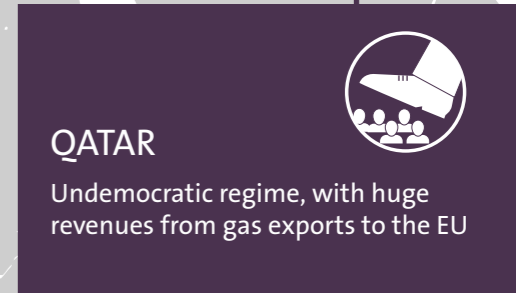
LIBYA
Civil war, failed state, terrorist activities

Icons: Tank, exclamation mark, and person with gun.



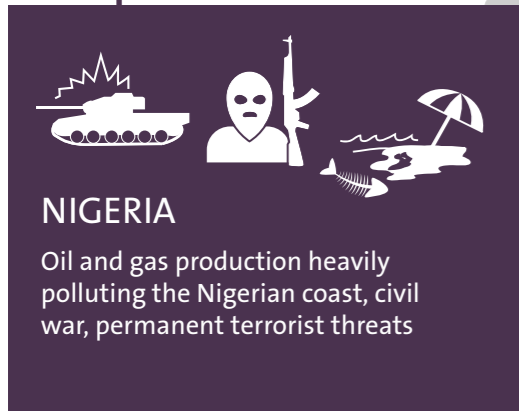
ALGERIA
Police state, permanent state of emergency, declining production and uneconomical shale gas

Icons: Bar chart with downward arrow, exclamation mark, and person with X over head.



QATAR
Undemocratic regime, with huge revenues from gas exports to the EU

Icon: Pie chart.



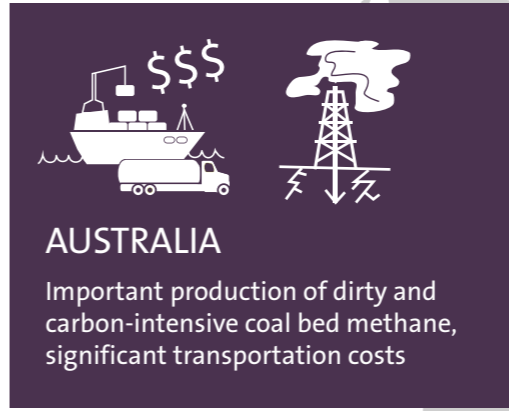
NIGERIA
Oil and gas production heavily polluting the Nigerian coast, civil war, permanent terrorist threats

Icons: Tank, person with gun, and oil spill with umbrella.



IRAQ
Failed state, at war, terrorist activities

Icons: Tank, exclamation mark, person with gun, and money with crossed-out speech bubble.



AUSTRALIA
Important production of dirty and carbon-intensive coal bed methane, significant transportation costs

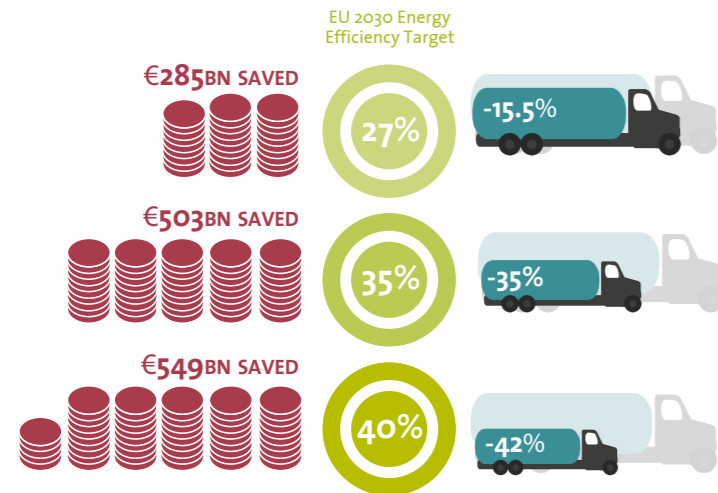
Icons: Ship, truck, and oil rig.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIRST

THE BENEFITS OF A HIGHER TARGET FOR 2030

REDUCED DEPENDENCY ON ENERGY IMPORTS



SPEND LESS

Savings on fossil fuel imports compared to business as usual

USE LESS

Gas demand drops dramatically with a 40% target

STEEPER EMISSION CUTS



Research group Ecofys estimates that 40% efficiency and 30% renewables translate into up to 54% GHG cuts

<http://goo.gl/HOHetG>

INCREASED GDP



MORE JOBS

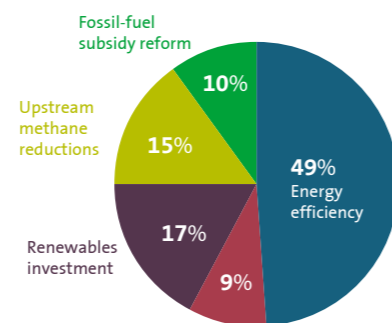
Energy efficiency jobs



SAVINGS ON POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS



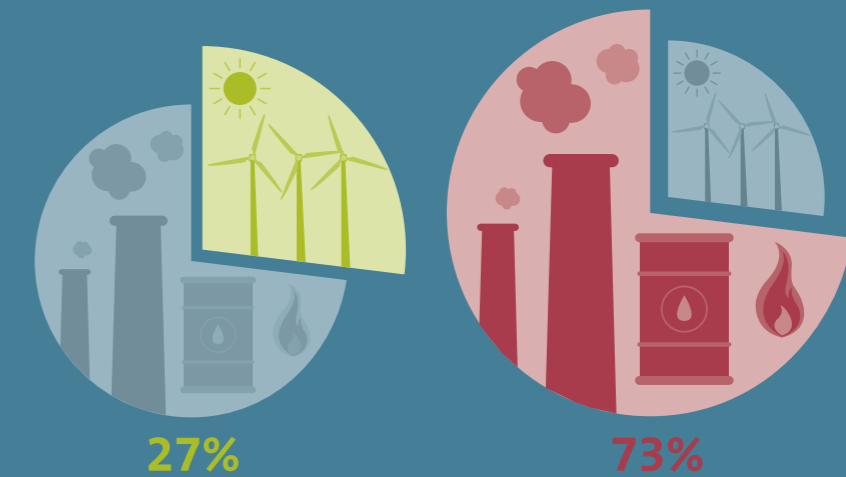
EMISSION REDUCTIONS BY MEASURE, 2030



"Saving energy is the key measure to achieve a peak in emissions around 2020, using only proven technologies and without harming economic growth"

International Energy Agency

EU LEADING OR LAGGING ON RENEWABLES?



A 27% target for renewables or a 73% share for fossil fuels and nuclear?
It depends on your perspective
Is this President Juncker's idea of the EU leading the world in renewables?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ENGLISH

Hello / Goodbye

Where is the national maritime museum?

Gas is a red herring

Oh, I forgot gas was a fossil fuel for a moment

Efficiency and renewables, not gas and coal

All hands on deck – we need higher targets!

So you agree the Commission's climate strategy is really fishy?

DUTCH

Hallo/Tot ziens

Waar is het nationale scheepvaart museum?

Gas is een nepoplossing

Oeps, ik was even vergeten dat gas een fossiele brandstof is

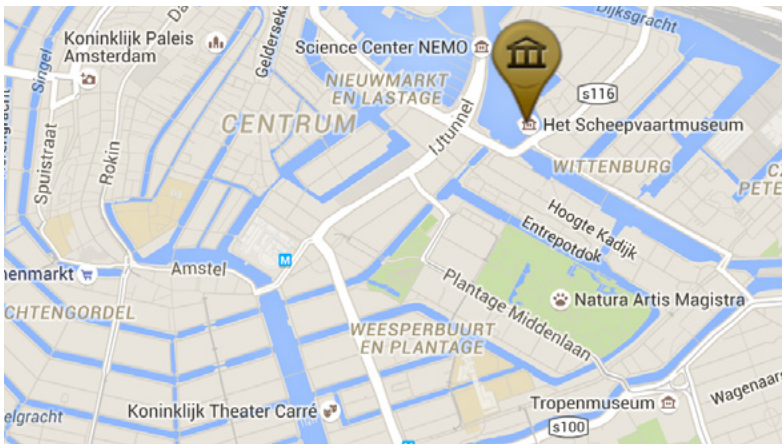
Efficiëntie en hernieuwbare energie: niet gas en kolen!

Alle hens aan dek - we hebben hogere doelen nodig!

Dus jij denkt ook dat de Commissie's klimaatstrategie dubieus is?

GETTING TO THE VENUE

National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam
Kattenburgerplein 1
1018 KK Amsterdam
The Netherlands



WALKING

From Central Station walk along the IJ Bay along Prins Hendrikkade. You will see the old VOC – Far East Company sailing ship replica on your left. The museum is located just at the ship - 15 minutes walk.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From the Central Station – busses line 22 direction Indische Buurt, and 48 directions Borneo Eiland stop in front of the St. Nicolaas Church, left from the station. Exit after two stops, at Kadijksplein. The museum is to your left.

BY CAR

From the Amsterdam ring A10 take an exit S116. Ride through the IJ tunnel, take right and make a U-turn to return to the museum.