

Information Centre

# Newsletter

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## Le principali attività del Centro EUROPE DIRECT Siena

*Il Centro EUROPE DIRECT è un progetto europeo - ospitato dall'Università di Siena - che prevede l'attivazione di iniziative al fine di informare, comunicare e formare sui temi dell'Unione europea.*

*Si tratta di un network di oltre 40 Reti Europe Direct (ED) in tutta Italia, coordinate dalla Commissione Europea; in Toscana si trovano a Siena e Firenze che cooperano attraverso un Coordinamento Toscano.*

*La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si rivolge a tutti i cittadini e ha l'obiettivo di diffondere sul territorio le informazioni relative alle politiche ed ai programmi dell'Unione nonché dei finanziamenti al fine di soddisfare le esigenze informative e formative su questo tema.*

*La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si occupa, inoltre, di organizzare, in collaborazione con altre istituzioni e associazioni del territorio, iniziative ed eventi volti a sensibilizzare i cittadini e soprattutto a promuovere il dibattito, favorendo la conoscenza delle tematiche legate all'Unione europea.*

## EU budget: funding Europe's 2025 priorities

The Commission has proposed an annual EU budget of almost €200 billion for 2025, reinforced by €72 billion raised under the post-COVID recovery plan, NextGenerationEU. It is meant to finance **EU priorities** and help tackle current and future challenges. The Commission's proposal will be discussed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

### What the EU budget is

The EU budget enables EU countries to achieve more together than they could on their own, for instance by financing infrastructure projects or responding to crises. By **pooling resources**, standing together and helping all EU countries, their citizens and beyond, the EU budget **strengthens Europe's economy** and **geopolitical standing**.

The EU's long-term budget sets out the spending priorities and limits for several years. Each year, an annual budget is negotiated and adopted within these limits.

The EU budget is mainly financed from a proportion of each EU country's gross national income, customs duties on imports from outside the EU, a small part of the VAT collected by each EU country, and a contribution based on the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste in each EU country.

### Where the money goes

Funds from the 2025 budget will be spent where they can make the greatest difference, based on the needs of EU countries and the EU's partners worldwide. The money will foster the **green and digital transitions**, create **jobs**, finance EU support to **Ukraine**, and help address **migration** challenges and the crisis in the **Middle East**. It will also boost our capacity to respond to **natural disasters** and fund support for key **critical technologies**. In addition, the budget will fund all ongoing EU projects and policies in the areas of agriculture, regional development, research and innovation, climate action, defence, health, security, satellite infrastructure and many more.

[https://commission.europa.eu/news/eu-budget-funding-europes-2025-priorities-2024-06-19\\_en?prefLang=it](https://commission.europa.eu/news/eu-budget-funding-europes-2025-priorities-2024-06-19_en?prefLang=it)

# REPowerEU

## REPowerEU at a glance

In response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission is implementing its REPowerEU Plan to phase out Russian fossil fuel imports.

Launched in May 2022, REPowerEU is helping the EU to

- save energy
- diversify energy supplies
- produce clean energy

## Key achievements

By acting together over the past two years, we have

- reduced gas consumption by 18%
- overcome our dependency on Russian fossil fuels
- ensured access to secure and affordable energy
- produced more electricity from wind and solar than from gas for the first time ever
- rapidly increased renewable energy installation

## Saving energy

Saving energy is the cheapest, safest and cleanest way to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel imports from Russia.

Thanks to the actions of citizens, businesses and EU countries alike, the EU has overachieved its voluntary target to reduce gas demand by 15%. Natural gas demand declined by 18% between August 2022 and March 2024. This helped the EU save 125 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas.

## Ensuring we are winter-ready

To avoid blackouts and energy shortages, the EU now has a system in place to fill up gas storage ahead of every winter.

In 2022, EU Member States agreed to fill underground gas storage to 80% of capacity by 1 November 2022. By working together, EU countries surpassed this, instead **reaching 95% of gas storage capacity**.

The yearly target has since been increased, with Member States now expected to reach 90% of capacity by 1 November. In 2023, we already reached this target in mid-August.

## REPowerEU

At the end of the winter heating season this year, on 1 April 2024, gas storage levels were at 59% of total capacity. That is a record at the close of the winter season, and a good starting point for refilling for next year.

### Diversifying energy supplies

Since the adoption of the REPowerEU Plan, the EU has drastically phased down Russian fossil fuel imports and diversified its supplies. EU sanctions have banned seaborne imports of Russian crude oil and refined petroleum products as well as Russian coal. Imports of Russian gas have significantly dropped, setting the EU on track to phase them out completely in the coming years.

45% Share of gas imports coming from Russia in 2021

15% Share of gas imports coming from Russia in 2023

### Securing affordable energy

Energy prices in Europe have declined substantially compared to the peaks in 2022, thanks to the coordinated European response and the REPowerEU Plan. Europe is investing in producing clean and affordable energy and securing its energy independence.

Following the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the EU proposed **common gas procurement** to make sure that Europeans have access to affordable energy and avoid any energy supply disruptions. This system allowed us to start buying a share of our gas needs together, as Europeans, and not competing among ourselves for scarce supplies.

### AggregateEU

AggregateEU is the Commission's flagship instrument to implement demand aggregation and to support coordinated purchasing of natural gas at European level.

This initiative pools gas demand from EU and Energy Community companies and matches this demand with competitive supply offers from the global market. Following a call for tender, companies can voluntarily conclude purchasing contracts with gas suppliers, either individually or jointly.

The EU Energy Platform has delivered excellent results in aggregating demand for natural gas and has attracted strong interest from market players.

5 short-term tendering rounds have been organised since April 2023, covering 25 delivery points and 2 LNG virtual points (North-West, and South-East). During these 5 rounds, **more than 43 bcm** of European demand have been matched with competitive offers.

## REPowerEU

### Producing clean energy

Renewable energy is

- good for the climate
- good for the EU's energy independence
- good for the security of supply
- good for creating green jobs

The REPowerEU Plan is speeding up the green transition and promoting massive investment in renewable energy.

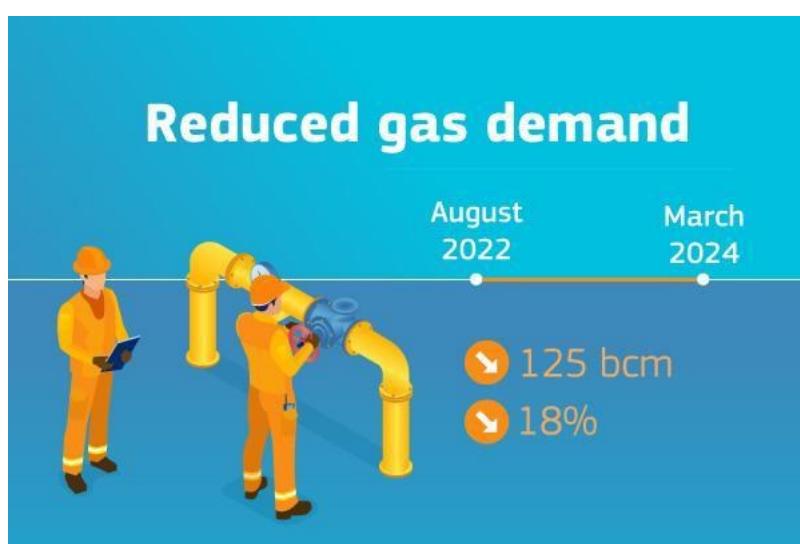
### How REPowerEU is funded

The Commission has mobilised close to €300 billion to fund the REPowerEU Plan. The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is at the heart of this funding.

Thanks to the amended RRF Regulation, additional REPowerEU grants worth €20 billion were allocated to the Member States through the Innovation Fund and the sale of Emissions Trading System (ETS) allowances.

To finance their REPowerEU plans, Member States can also request transfers from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR). The total amount available from the reserve is €5.4 billion.

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe\\_en?prefLang=it](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en?prefLang=it)



## Crisi in Medio Oriente

L'UE ha condannato, senza mezzi termini e con la massima fermezza, gli attacchi terroristici violenti e indiscriminati di Hamas contro Israele del 7 ottobre 2023. Ha espresso la propria solidarietà nei confronti di Israele e sottolineato il suo diritto di difendersi in linea con il diritto umanitario e internazionale.

Ha parimenti ribadito l'importanza di garantire sempre la protezione di tutti i civili, come stabilito dal diritto internazionale umanitario.

All'indomani degli attacchi, la situazione umanitaria dei palestinesi nella striscia di Gaza si è notevolmente deteriorata a causa dell'intensificarsi delle ostilità e della conseguente operazione militare israeliana, nonché del blocco di Gaza.

L'UE è da sempre il principale donatore internazionale di aiuti al popolo palestinese e fornisce assistenza umanitaria ai palestinesi in difficoltà sin dal 2000.

A seguito dei recenti attentati terroristici di Hamas, l'UE ha:

quadruplicato a oltre 103 milioni di euro il proprio sostegno umanitario ai palestinesi a Gaza nel 2023

istituito un ponte aereo umanitario per portare forniture salvavita alle organizzazioni umanitarie presenti sul campo a Gaza

intensificato gli aiuti umanitari a favore dei palestinesi per il 2024.

Ad aprile 2024, grazie al ponte aereo umanitario, 50 voli hanno consentito di fornire oltre 2 100 tonnellate di aiuti. Le operazioni mirano a facilitare il preposizionamento degli aiuti per permettere una rapida assistenza alle persone bisognose a Gaza.

### Contrastare i contenuti terroristici, illegali e nocivi sui social media

A seguito degli attacchi terroristici di Hamas contro Israele, e alla luce della circolazione di contenuti illegali e nocivi sui social media, la Commissione è in contatto con le principali piattaforme per garantire che rispettino i loro obblighi.

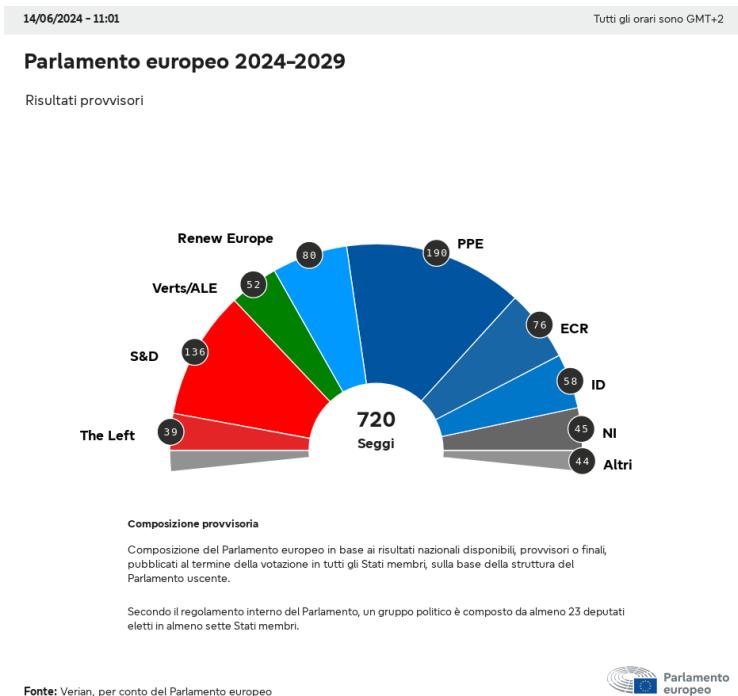
Regolamento sui servizi digitali: impone alle grandi piattaforme online di rimuovere i contenuti illegali e di adottare misure in grado di affrontare i rischi per la sicurezza pubblica e il dibattito civico.

Regolamento sui contenuti terroristici online: consente agli Stati membri di inviare ordini di rimozione alle piattaforme per eliminare contenuti terroristici entro un'ora.

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/middle-east-crisis\\_it](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/middle-east-crisis_it)

# Elezioni 2024: proiezione aggiornata dei seggi per il nuovo Parlamento europeo

Elezioni 2024: proiezione aggiornata dei seggi per il nuovo Parlamento europeo



<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/it/press-room/20240611IPR21948/elezioni-2024-proiezioneaggiornata-dei-seggi-per-il-nuovo-parlamento-europeo>



## EUROPE DIRECT Siena

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