

# European Union

*Novice  
Specialized*



**TOPIC:** Establishing Energy Independence and Moving to Renewable Energy

**CHAIRS:** Jackson Alexander, Cameron Fraenkel

*LAIMUN XXVIII*

*December 3-4*

# LAIMUN XXVIII

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**LAIMUN XXVIII**

*December 3-4*

## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, we do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

We want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

Don't forget to do your research and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,  
Izzy Hory  
Under-Secretaries General

## Introduction to the Dias

Hi Delegates,

My name is Jackson Alexander! I will be your head chair for this debate in EU Novice. I am currently a junior here at Mira Costa. This is my 3rd year with the MUN program here at Costa. I have been to many local debates such as Surf City and UCLA. I have also been able to go to a travel conference at Berkeley last year and hope to go on more!

Outside of MUN I play water polo. I was on the water polo team this season and in the off season I play for Trojan water polo club. I also swim on the Costa swim team. I also love to go to the beach with my friends and hang out there. When I am not in the water, I work and tutor kids to help them get better at math. I also love to listen to music in my free time.

I am really excited to be your chair in this debate. I am excited to hear all of your solutions and ideas for this debate. I have loved doing MUN for these past years and am thrilled to try and make your MUN experiences as good as mine has been!

Best of luck,

Jackson Alexander

Hello delegates!

My name is Cameron Fraenkel, and I will be one of your co-chairs in European Union Novice at LAIMUN XXVIII alongside Jackson. I am really looking forward to seeing you all at debate! I am a sophomore here at Mira Costa and this is my second year in our MUN program. One of my favorite conferences last year was BruinMUN, and I attended other local conferences. Last year I was able to be a legal for the Advanced European Union at LAIMUN.

In addition to MUN, I am a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and I enjoy annihilating the gains at my local 24 Hour Fitness. I also love the beach, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends. Additionally, I am a retired kazoo player and watcher of crime shows.

In Novice EU, we ensured that our topic is as relevant as possible. This issue would allow for every country to succeed with their policy on the prevailing subject at hand. I hope to see a wide range of creative, thorough, and fun subtopics and solutions. I can't wait to see what you have to bring. Best of luck and be sure to reach out with any questions or concerns!

Best regards,

Cameron Fraenkel

## Committee Description

The European Union is a completely separate sovereign organization from the United Nations. Really created in 1993, the Union had seen its roots in the delayed 1940s and early 1950s after World War II's collapse, and the subsequent Cold War led to the use of Peace in Europe. The divisiveness of Eastern and Western Europe and the pervasive destruction throughout the landmass have resulted in higher use. People's needs have been converted into the European Coal and Steel Community of 1952, which was established by West Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy. A political union has taken many various forms and aliases from the ECSC. Following the ECSC, it transformed into the European Economic Community to reduce the limitations on products and acquire new participants, the EEC completely removed trade barriers toward participants and gave free movement of producers and consumers, adding Denmark, Portugal and Spain between 1973 and 1986.<sup>1</sup> The EEC then originally called itself the European Community and became part of the EU, which was formally established with the Maastricht Treaty on 7 February 1992. From that level on, the EU will be a significant regional and international power. The Union presently has over 508 million residents, is the world's largest economic system, and builds the largest single products industry.

Two agreements essential to its framework have determined the system and supranational capabilities of the EU: the Treaty on the Ability to function of both the European Union and the Trade agreement on the EU. These records discuss the very same basic features

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<sup>1</sup> "European Union." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., [www.britannica.com/topic/European-Union](http://www.britannica.com/topic/European-Union).

and intent. The partnership between both the EU and the individual nations is by far the most essential for these agreements. The biggest requirement of this is the ordination notion. Basically, as described by revocation, the European Union is simply a federation of member nations. To sum up, this outlawed idea underlines that member nations can operate independently, just outside of the Union, as regards their own independence first. Lower interests in the EU's government partnership include operating in tandem with other nations and ultimately minimum primary concern is the nation that is subordinate to the Union's government body. Conferral was the EU's biggest sticking point, allowing EU regulation and even affecting a certain ability. For instance, the EU has also specified sole control in the field of exchange and a centralized industry to embrace new initiatives for its representatives. The EU functions including its leaders on subjects such as population growth and economic accountability. Lastly, Member nations generally abstain from communicating with the EU if it comes to the economy and safety, as the EU is only assigned as a supporting role in this region. The other important element of the EU was the Euro, which is also the single currency among most members, also recognized as Eurozone.<sup>2</sup> The Euro has brought many advantages, primarily in global trade sort and financial stimuli. Though, its risks may be devastating as shown in the current situation in the Eurozone in 2009. This involves volatility owing to its largest leaders ' dropping markets, regardless of the fact that most European nations are secure. This demonstrates to us that as total implosion could

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<sup>2</sup> “Romano PRODI President of the European Commission Euro and Enlargement 13th International Economic Association World Congress Lisbon, 10 September 2002.” *The EU - What It Is and What It Does*, [op.europa.eu/webpub/com/eu-what-it-is/en/](http://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/eu-what-it-is/en/).



not be prevented, the Euro enables mitigation of the crash system as a whole and enables a repetitive currency rate for the Euro.

## Topic: Establishing Energy Independence and Moving to Renewable Energy

### I. Background

As the European Commission said, “Saving energy is the cheapest, safest and cleanest way to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel imports from Russia.”<sup>3</sup> The start of European construction began with coal production. In the 1950s, several countries, including Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany, brought together their production of coal, and they created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).<sup>4</sup> These countries, also known as the High Authority, fought the coal crisis by using the Treaty, creating the ECSC. During this time, coal was a key source of energy, and the shortage of it in Europe after World War II led to overproduction. The establishment of the ECSC was made after the war to help regulate steel and coal industries while taking on the crisis of the coal markets as the most competitive European coal was not selling. The High Authority increased customs tariffs by 14% because of the low-cost imports from eastern countries.<sup>5</sup> Five years later, in March of 1957, the countries Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands signed treaties that led to the

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<sup>3</sup> Iea. “European Commission and International Energy Agency in a Common Bid to Reduce EU Reliance on Russian Fossil Fuels - News.” *IEA*, [www.iea.org/news/european-commission-and-international-energy-agency-in-a-common-bid-to-reduce-eu-reliance-on-russian-fossil-fuels](http://www.iea.org/news/european-commission-and-international-energy-agency-in-a-common-bid-to-reduce-eu-reliance-on-russian-fossil-fuels).

<sup>4</sup>“EUR-Lex - xy0022 - EN.” *EUR-Lex*, 11 December 2017, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/treaty-establishing-the-european-coal-and-steel-community-ecs-c-treaty.html>.

<sup>5</sup>“The ECSC in difficulties - From the Schuman Plan to the Paris Treaty (1950–1952).” *CVCE Website*, <https://www.cvce.eu/en/recherche/unit-content/-/unit/5cc6b004-33b7-4e44-b6db-f5f9e6c01023/e3fbbc95-6836-4336-9455-a64e1449a32b>.

foundation for the unification of Europe, consisting of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. The EEC is a free trade area removing all barriers to trade between themselves, and in 1960, more than 60% of trade within the twelve member states was also involved trading with other parts of the world.<sup>6</sup> The second treaty mentioned, the EAEC, was intended to promote the use of nuclear energy to strengthen Europe's energy independence because of the Suez Crisis. This second Arab-Israeli war threatened to cut off oil supplies. Other goals were to coordinate research in atomic energy and establish a common market for trading materials and nuclear equipment. Later, it included all the member states of the European Union. The Common Market for Trade in Nuclear Material came into existence in January of 1959, allowing Europe to eliminate importing and exporting duties. The executive bodies of Euratom, the European Economic Community, and the European Coal and Steel Community joined in July 1967.<sup>7</sup> In 1973, Britain, Ireland, and Denmark joined the European Community, and later when the states of Greece, Spain, and Portugal adopted democratic governments, they joined the EC by 1986. The European Union (EU) created their First Energy Package electrically and for gas, transposed into the Member States' legal systems. This energy package allowed the national electricity and gas markets to be open to competition. Later, a Second Energy Package was adopted, providing industrial and domestic consumers to choose their electricity and gas suppliers freely. These new measures were adopted to help with

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<sup>6</sup>Eichengreen, Barry, and David Henderson. "European Economic Community." *Econlib*, 1992, <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/EuropeanEconomicCommunity.html>.

<sup>7</sup>Murray, Lorraine. "European Atomic Energy Community." *Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/European-Atomic-Energy-Community>.

consumer protection, support interconnection, as well as harmonize and liberalize the EU's internal energy market.<sup>8</sup>

At the beginning of the 21st century, new problems started to surface, like climate change. For the five primary industrial sectors that included metals, cement, pulp and paper, oil and gas, as well as power and heat, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was assembled. Every EU member state was assigned a maximum amount of greenhouse gasses they could emit.<sup>9</sup> In 2005, the year this was made, the European Union's ESD emissions were 2,871, and as time went on, they continued to lower.<sup>10</sup> Europe then made a climate and energy package that targeted the year 2020. It has three essential components: cutting greenhouse gas emissions 20% from 1990 levels, making 20% of EU energy from renewable sources, and improving energy efficiency by 20%.

<sup>11</sup> The EU has been producing around 40% of its own energy annually, though the COVID-19 economic crisis has caused for there to be a decrease in imports.<sup>12</sup> This decrease in imports could be seen as a positive, though, as renewable energy overtook fossil fuels as the number one power source in 2020, accounting for 38% of the electricity made in the EU, while fossil fuel was at 37%.<sup>13</sup> There have already been nine states who have stopped using coal altogether, and thirteen are committed to phasing out of using coal. The countries who have phased out coal include

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<sup>8</sup>Ciucci, Matteo. "Internal energy market | Fact Sheets on the European Union | European Parliament." *European Parliament*, 10 January 2021, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/45/internal-energy-market>.

<sup>9</sup>Niemeier, Deb, and Dana Rowan. "Archive." *Archive - California Agriculture*, 1 April 2009, <https://calag.ucanr.edu/Archive/?article=ca.v063n02p96>.

<sup>10</sup>"Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe." *European Environment Agency*, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emission-trends-6/assessment-3>.

<sup>11</sup>"2020 climate & energy package." *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2020-climate-energy-package\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2020-climate-energy-package_en).

<sup>12</sup>"Where does our energy come from?" *European Commission*, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/energy/bloc-2a.html>.

<sup>13</sup>"State of the Energy Union 2021: Renewables overtake fossil fuels as the EU's main power source." *European Commission*, 26 October 2021, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_5554](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5554).

Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Portugal, and the Baltic States. Some countries planning to phase out coal by 2030 include France, Finland, Greece, North Macedonia, Ireland, and Spain.<sup>14</sup> Europe has been working towards lessening its impact of using fossil fuels and created the European Green Deal to help achieve this goal. The EU Green Deal is for the European Union to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This pact aims to use resources effectively and move to a circular economy and to stop climate change. However, the EU Green Deal will not come without extensive work and collaboration from the European Union.

Before the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the European Union was focused on lessening their carbon emissions, as shown through their numerous attempts and goals, but since then, that has changed. Europe has relied on Russian oil and natural gas and is trying to shift from Russian energy supplies to other sources. In 2021, the EU imported 64% of its oil and gas from Russia.<sup>15</sup> Some countries are adamant about boycotting all Russian gasses, but this is not feasible for some countries. The European Union plans to reduce its imports by two-thirds and, by 2030, eliminate them altogether. This transition for Central and Eastern Europe states will be more difficult as they are more dependent on Russian gas, and transitioning to renewable energy takes time. It has been much more complex than European leaders initially thought. For example, since 2013, all-new gas connections have been banned for heating systems in some EU countries, though it will take years for the EU's heating systems to stop using natural gasses completely. In

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<sup>14</sup>“Europe's coal exit - Europe Beyond Coal.” *Europe Beyond Coal*, 14 July 2022, <https://beyond-coal.eu/europes-coal-exit/>.

<sup>15</sup>“Europe's focus shifts from climate to energy independence.” *The Journal Record*, 28 March 2022, <https://journalrecord.com/2022/03/28/europes-focus-shifts-from-climate-to-energy-independence/>.

January of 2022, gas prices took up more than 30% of home bills in some cases.<sup>16</sup> The rising gas prices have affected individuals, companies, and industries in the European Union, taking a toll on their population. In June of 2022, the EU imposed a partial embargo on all of the crude oil and petroleum products that were coming from Russia.<sup>17</sup> Europe has started to import more oil from the United States, West Africa, and the Middle East to compensate for their loss of business with Russia. There is a worry that imports of Russian oil will increase in the following months before trading becomes illegal, though Russian exports have been even lower than expected. This has led to Russia selling more of its oils to India and other parts of Asia. India has bought up to 700,000 barrels per day in May of 2022 alone.<sup>18</sup> The rising problems of where to get gas from and how to continue to produce renewable energy while still having a prosperous economy will continue to be an issue within the European Union. Considering the problems of how to start making more renewable energy, the EU has to put in extensive work and collaboration to aid the people struggling with gas prices while trying to move onto energy sources that can be even more expensive.

## II. UN Involvement

The United Kingdom hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in October and November of 2021 in Glasgow, UK.<sup>19</sup> The outcome of this conference was the

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<sup>16</sup>Davies, Rob. “Gas price hike of more than 30% stokes home bills fears for Europe.” *The Guardian*, 4 January 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jan/04/gas-price-hike-of-more-than-30-stokes-home-bills-fears-for-europe>.

<sup>17</sup>“European Union Imposes Partial Ban on Russian Oil.” *Center for Strategic and International Studies* |, 8 June 2022, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/european-union-imposes-partial-ban-russian-oil>.

<sup>18</sup>“European Union Prepares to Ban Russian Oil | Center for Strategic and International Studies.” *Center for Strategic and International Studies* |, 10 May 2022, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/european-union-prepares-ban-russian-oil>.

<sup>19</sup>Taylor, Chloe. “COP26: Follow live as world leaders meet in Glasgow for climate summit.” *CNBC*, 1 November 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/01/cop26-follow-live-as-world-leaders-meet-in-glasgow->

Glasgow Climate Pact, full of negotiations between almost 200 countries. They reaffirmed the Paris Agreement's goals of ensuring that the temperature increase will stay below two degrees celsius, and they will make efforts to keep it to 1.5°C. One hundred thirty-seven countries committed to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030 with around \$19.2bn from public and private funding.<sup>20</sup> There have also been 105 countries that signed the Global Methane Pledge, which aims to limit methane emissions by 30% for 2030 as it is causing up to a third of greenhouse gas emissions. Countries including the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, and the European Union announced their partnership with South Africa to transition away from coal. South Africa is seen as the world's most carbon-intensive producer. This conference has made many goals, but these all consist of long-term goals that will take time, and some may end up not being achieved, which is why it is essential to ensure that these goals are regulated as science shows that time is running out.

The UN also has its seventh Sustainable Development Goal, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy. As energy services are a critical factor in preventing the spread of disease, powering healthcare facilities, and providing clean water for hygiene, it is imperative for the role of energy, especially in widespread diseases or viruses such as COVID-19 response. As 789 million people live without access to electricity and 2.8 billion people do not have access to clean and safe cooking, people are in critical need of energy that

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for-climate-summit.html.

<sup>20</sup>Anderson, Teresa. "COP26: Key outcomes for food, forests, land use and nature in Glasgow." *Carbon Brief*, 17 November 2021, <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop26-key-outcomes-for-food-forests-land-use-and-nature-in-glasgow/>.

will not negatively impact the climate.<sup>21</sup> This SDG has a list of goals, including ensuring that by 2030, they want to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy market. This list of goals has been newly implemented, so progress and new plans need to be implemented for these to be achieved. Additionally, there is universal access to affordable and reliable energy services while enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, which includes renewable energy. This is crucial as 3 billion people rely on supplies such as charcoal, coal, wood, as well as animal waste for their cooking.<sup>22</sup>

The Energy Progress Report 2022 is an assessment of the achievements in the goal of sustainable, reliable, and accessible modern energy by 2030, and it has shown at today's progress rate, the world is still not on track to achieve this goal by the allotted time.<sup>23</sup> Social and economic disruptions occurred due to COVID-19, and some of the most vulnerable countries were already behind in these plans. The Russian invasion of Ukraine also caused an energy crisis. More than a billion people have gained access to electricity since 2010, but there are still 759 million living without electricity.<sup>24</sup> Overall, these goals and conferences made by the UN have been influential in spreading more renewable energy, though they still have a way to go with their plans of creating sustainable energy for all.

### III. Topics to Consider

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<sup>21</sup>Ogunibiyi, Damilola. "Five key takeaways from Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2020." *SEforALL*, 28 May 2020, <https://www.seforall.org/news/five-key-takeaways-from-tracking-sdg7-the-energy-progress-report-2020>.

<sup>22</sup>Reyes, Duina. "2019THE ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT." *Tracking SDG 7*, <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/data/files/download-documents/2019-Tracking%20SDG7-Full%20Report.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup>"Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, 2022 – Analysis - IEA." *International Energy Agency*, June 2022, <https://www.iea.org/reports/tracking-sdg7-the-energy-progress-report-2022>.

<sup>24</sup>"Report: Universal Access to Sustainable Energy Will Remain Elusive Without Addressing Inequalities." *World Bank Group*, 7 June 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/07/report-universal-access-to-sustainable-energy-will-remain-elusive-without-addressing-inequalities>.



### A. *Moving Toward Renewable Energy*

The EU has set out to make Europe the first carbon-neutral continent. They have created goals to reduce carbon emissions by 55% by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050.<sup>25</sup> With this, the most crucial focal point in this debate would be solutions to reach these goals. Solutions should provide an efficient way to reach the target on time and consider all facets of the issue. In 2020, the EU had a 22.1% final gross energy consumption from renewable sources.<sup>26</sup> The amount of renewable energy used was over the target value, but this progress was halted due to COVID and hurt many renewable energy sources' efficiency. Another thing is that the new 2030 target for final gross energy consumption of 40% is way over the projected amount.<sup>27</sup> Originally, the target energy consumption for 2030 was 32%, set in 2009.<sup>28</sup> If the EU is to stay at the same rate they have been at, it will fall short by 8%.<sup>29</sup>

Although many states are ahead of their target value for the 2009 goal, more has to be done to achieve the 2030 goal and ultimately, the 2050 goal. Moving this fast to renewable energy would reduce the time states have to transition their economies as well. Some of the biggest industries in the EU are construction and mining. Although the industry accounts for 8%

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<sup>25</sup>Rankin, Jennifer. "EU plans 'massive' increase in green energy to help end reliance on Russia." *The Guardian*, 18 May 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/18/eu-plans-massive-increase-in-green-energy-to-rid-itself-of-reliance-on-russia>.

<sup>26</sup>Schonhardt, Sara. "Europe's Historic Clean Energy Plan Faces a Mining Problem." *Scientific American*, 19 May 2022, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/europes-historic-clean-energy-plan-faces-a-mining-problem/>.

<sup>27</sup>"Renewable energy statistics - Statistics Explained." *European Commission*, 8 July 2022, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Renewable\\_energy\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Renewable_energy_statistics).

<sup>28</sup>"Share of energy consumption from renewable sources in Europe." *European Environment Agency*, 4 March 2022, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/share-of-energy-consumption-from>.

<sup>29</sup>"EU imports of energy products - recent developments." *European Commission*, 28 June 2022, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU\\_imports\\_of\\_energy\\_products\\_-\\_recent\\_developments](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_imports_of_energy_products_-_recent_developments).

of global carbon emissions, the EU has mines still running in Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden.<sup>30</sup> These states produce a lot of chromium, copper, lead, silver, and zinc for the rest of the world and transitioning too fast would make it hard on these industries to stay afloat. Another of the biggest industries in the EU is construction. The industry contributes heavily to producing carbon as the building process causes about 27% of all carbon emissions and the production of the materials accounts for about 20%. With these hurdles such as mining and construction, transitioning to renewable energy in the set timeframe will be a challenge.

### *B. Becoming Energy Independent*

With the recent events in Russia, energy independence has become a critical topic regarding energy production in the EU. Russia had previously supplied 40% of all gas imports into the EU, and Russia also accounted for about 58% of all of the EU's energy imports.<sup>31</sup> As well as Russia, the EU also depends on places such as Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia for oil and gas. Although Saudi Arabia currently has had a close relation with France, and a developing relationship with Germany, many EU states criticize Saudi Arabia for frequent human rights violations. Moving away from Saudi's energy exports to the EU would cause a rift between some of the bigger countries in the EU such as Germany and France and also allies of the EU such as the UK and US and then the rest of the EU who wants to move away from Saudi oil. Kazakhstan is also heavily aligned with Russia and has many Russian ties. Kazakhstan is tied to Russia and

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<sup>30</sup>Schonhardt, Sara. "Europe's Historic Clean Energy Plan Faces a Mining Problem." *Scientific American*, 19 May 2022, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/europes-historic-clean-energy-plan-faces-a-mining-problem/>.

<sup>31</sup>"A European Green Deal | European Commission." *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en).

would mean that it would be even harder to move away from Russian linked energies. All of this makes energy independence very enticing for the EU. The EU claims that they will reduce all of their imports from Russia by 66% by the end of the year and that they would be fully freed from Russia's grasp by 2030.<sup>32</sup> The logistics of this are terribly troubled however. The push to break away from just Russia would cost 210 billion euros if it were to be all clean energy that replaces the energy Russia provides.<sup>33</sup> Many experts from Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands say that more of a reliance would have to be put on non-renewable energies and nuclear energy if they want to reach their goals for becoming energy independent.<sup>34</sup>

If the EU were to build more nonrenewable energy sources, it would halt progress. It would also force the EU to make a decision on which they want to prioritize first, moving toward cleaner energy forms, or trying to push away Russia and the dependency that the EU has on Russia's gas and energy. A more controversial way to push back both deadlines. However, many would be opposed to further adjustments of these target dates.

### *C. Asset Management for the EU*

Another challenge that the EU faces when addressing the issue of energy is that they do not have some of the logistical abilities to accomplish the goals they have set. One major problem is the cost of their goals. To meet the goals to phase out Russian fossil fuels, at least 20% of the extra 210 billion euros would have to be spent on increasing oil production and

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<sup>32</sup>Thompson, Mark. "Europe plans to slash Russian gas imports by 66% this year." *CNN*, 8 March 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/08/energy/gas-russia-europe/index.html>.

<sup>33</sup>"REPowerEU: A plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fast forward the green transition." *European Commission*, 18 May 2022, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_3131](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3131).

<sup>34</sup>"Nuclear Power in a Clean Energy System – Analysis - IEA." *International Energy Agency*, May 2019, <https://www.iea.org/reports/nuclear-power-in-a-clean-energy-system>.

converting local fossil fuels to energy. The amount of money that the EU would have to spend on non-renewable energy would be counterproductive to the overall goal but a necessity. The EU would have to choose whether to cut funds from other projects to obtain the money they need for this project or find a different way to gain the monetary means to accomplish their goals.<sup>35</sup>

Another issue at hand would be the resources required to make renewable energy sources. The EU gets most of its copper, nickel, and aluminum from Russia. With the EU's plans for net zero emissions they would need 35% more copper and silicon, 45% more silicon, 100% more cobalt and nickel, and the demand for lithium to make batteries could grow by 35 times to 800,000 tons of lithium.<sup>36</sup> The demand for these resources would also increase as countries outside of the EU switch to renewable energy and are in need of the same resources. This would make the EU dependent on other countries such as Russia not on energy but on rare metals to help them make energy. Along with issues caused from foreign entities, many challenges are within the EU. For example, one issue that would have to be addressed is that not all countries would have the infrastructure to be able to switch at the pace needed. The EU tried to fix this problem as in 2016 they passed a bill with the goal to help even out the levels of development in infrastructure.<sup>37</sup> In 2018 they increased the budget by 18 billion Euros. The projected end date for the bill was in 2021 so like many things, COVID halted the progress dramatically.

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<sup>35</sup>Rankin, Jennifer. "EU plans 'massive' increase in green energy to help end reliance on Russia." *The Guardian*, 18 May 2022, [www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/18/eu-plans-massive-increase-in-green-energy-to-rid-itself-of-reliance-on-russia](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/18/eu-plans-massive-increase-in-green-energy-to-rid-itself-of-reliance-on-russia).

<sup>36</sup>Hotter, Andrea. "Energy transition at risk due to minerals supply constraints, lack of recycling, Eurometaux report says." *Fastmarkets*, 27 April 2022, [www.fastmarkets.com/insights/energy-transition-at-risk-due-to-minerals-supply-constraints-lack-of-recycling-eurometaux-report-says](http://www.fastmarkets.com/insights/energy-transition-at-risk-due-to-minerals-supply-constraints-lack-of-recycling-eurometaux-report-says),

<sup>37</sup>"NIS Directive | Shaping Europe's digital future." *Shaping Europe's digital future*, [digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/nis-directive](http://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/nis-directive).

#### IV. Case Study: Norway

Although Norway is not in the EU they have been leading the push toward carbon neutrality in Europe and is the biggest producer of renewable energy. The Norwegian Government has been an advocate for renewable energy for a while utilizing hydroelectric power since the 1950s.<sup>38</sup>

Norway has been able to reach a total of 98.4% of their energy coming from renewable sources due to a few main factors. First, they used their environment to their advantage. Norway has many rivers that have been able to provide energy for the country. The government and companies have been able to develop low impact hydroelectric dams which are cheaper and don't affect the environment as much. These companies such as Tinfos and Malthe Winje Infrapower have greatly helped Norway's success in their ability to produce hydroelectric power. These factors have allowed Norway to build over 1500 dams that produce 60% of the renewable electricity in the country.<sup>39</sup> Along with companies taking advantage of the geographical features in the country that are easily available to create renewable energy, many are also pioneering new ways to get renewable energy. These initiatives help more countries than just Norway. For instance, companies such as Ocean Sun have been innovating new ways to get renewable energy. They have been experimenting with floating solar panels made of silicon. The Norwegian company has allowed Norway to get more renewable energy and is helping countries such as Albania who ordered these floating solar packs back in 2021.

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<sup>38</sup>“Renewable energy production in Norway - regjeringen.no.” *Regjeringen.no*, 11 May 2016, [www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/energy/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-production-in-norway/id2343462/](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/energy/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-production-in-norway/id2343462/).

<sup>39</sup>Carroll, Matt. “Norway leads the charge on a sustainable electric future.” *National Geographic*, 26 June 2019, [www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/partner-content-sustainable-electric-future](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/partner-content-sustainable-electric-future).

Ocean Sun is just one of the many examples of companies in Norway that have been innovating creative renewable energy sources and what has allowed Norway to create so much renewable energy. The Norwegian government has also been able to foster these company's growth and allowed them to innovate new ways. Norway has one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world which is valued at around 1.1 trillion US dollars.<sup>40</sup> This money has granted them the capability to invest in these companies and to utilize their research to push their climate-forward initiatives. Although Norway is a big producer of oil and gas, the public and private investors within the country have made the country to be the number one candidate on the KPMG's net zero readiness test.<sup>41</sup> This test uses 103 indicators to assess if a country can reach net zero by 2050. Along with companies helping push Norway to increasing renewable energy targets and reducing emissions, Norwegian citizens are being encouraged to purchase electric vehicles. Some of these incentives include no purchase/import tax on electric vehicles, an exemption from the 25% value added tax, and no annual road tax on owners of electric vehicles.<sup>42</sup> Norway's goal with all these incentives is to have all cars sold in 2025 be a zero emissions car, so an electric or alternative source of fuel like hydrogen powered cars.<sup>43</sup>

These incentives have been successful so far as in 2021, 65% of all cars sold in Norway were all electric.<sup>44</sup> In addition to that 22% of cars were plug-in hybrid cars. In turn, about 13% of

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<sup>40</sup>“Which countries have the largest sovereign wealth funds? | World Economic Forum.” *The World Economic Forum*, 12 February 2021, [www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/biggest-sovereign-wealth-funds-world-norway-china-money/](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/biggest-sovereign-wealth-funds-world-norway-china-money/).

<sup>41</sup>O'Neill, Brian. “Norway tops KPMG's first-ever Net Zero Readiness Index.” *KPMG International*, [home.kpmg/xx/en/home/media/press-releases/2021/10/norway-tops-kpmg-first-ever-net-zero-readiness-index.html](http://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/media/press-releases/2021/10/norway-tops-kpmg-first-ever-net-zero-readiness-index.html).

<sup>42</sup>Bu, Christina. “Lessons From Norway About How to Switch to Electric Vehicles.” *Time*, 7 January 2022, [time.com/6133180/norway-electric-vehicles/](http://time.com/6133180/norway-electric-vehicles/).

<sup>43</sup>“Norwegian EV policy.” *Norsk elbilforening*, <https://elbil.no/english/norwegian-ev-policy/>.

<sup>44</sup>“Global electric car sales have continued their strong growth in 2022 after breaking records last year - News - IEA.” *International Energy Agency*, 23 May 2022, [www.iea.org/news/global-electric-car-sales-have-continued-their-](http://www.iea.org/news/global-electric-car-sales-have-continued-their-)

all cars sold in Norway in 2021 were internal combustion engines without some plug-in hybrid option.<sup>45</sup> These statistics are a massive increase from the amount sold a decade prior when only 1% of cars sold were all electric. Christina Bu, Secretary General of the Norwegian EV association, says that she expects that 80% of all cars sold this year will be all electric.<sup>46</sup> She says that due to the incentives to buy an electric car and also the increased access to the ability to charge it. Norway has proven to be an example of how the countries of the EU can switch to renewable energy and also reduce carbon emissions significantly.

## V. Guiding Questions

- A. What is your country's stance on renewable energy and what steps have they made to move toward renewables?
- B. What is your country's stance on energy independence and how will moving away from these oil producing countries affect your country?
- C. How can the EU meet the 2030 and 2050 goals set for renewable energy in time without having the price continue to rise?
- D. How can the EU gain energy independence from other nations whilst also making progress towards renewable energy?
- E. What are ways the EU can feasibly get the resources, materials, and assets for their switch to renewable energy?

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<sup>45</sup>Dow, Jameson. "Norway bans gas car sales in 2025, but trends point toward 100% EV sales as early as April." *Electrek*, 23 September 2021, [electrek.co/2021/09/23/norway-bans-gas-cars-in-2025-but-trends-point-toward-100-ev-sales-as-early-as-april/](https://electrek.co/2021/09/23/norway-bans-gas-cars-in-2025-but-trends-point-toward-100-ev-sales-as-early-as-april/).

<sup>46</sup>Capar, Robin. "Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association: We are working on the continued increase in the construction of chargers." *Norway Today*, 23 April 2022, [norwaytoday.info/news/norwegian-electric-vehicle-association-we-are-working-on-the-continued-increase-in-the-construction-of-chargers/](https://norwaytoday.info/news/norwegian-electric-vehicle-association-we-are-working-on-the-continued-increase-in-the-construction-of-chargers/).

- F. How can the EU ensure that all members can adequately make the switch to renewable energies?



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