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TOPIC: Establishing Energy Independence and Moving Towards Renewable Energy

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LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Establishing Energy Independence and Moving Towards Renewable Energy; Recent Updates

Europe has faced many setbacks and challenges regarding energy independence and moving to renewable energy. In recent months, the European Union has seen a slow decline in gas consumption due to increasing prices and the lack of Russian-produced gas.¹ These setbacks are due to the Russia-Ukraine War over territorial claims. Furthermore, Russia has used gas resources as a weapon.² Since many countries within Europe side with Ukraine, Russia has made it harder to receive traditionally Russian-supplied energy. Most European gas is imported, which directly links and affects the gas market in Europe because when less gas is being imported, the prices for that gas will ultimately go up. In winter and fall, the demand for gas will increase, which will and has caused gas prices to increase, and for lower-income families or people, gas may no longer be an accessible option. To remedy this issue, many European countries have adopted an emergency regulation to address the energy prices and help those most affected by the energy crisis. Some new rules were also introduced and adopted by EU energy ministers. This regulation aims to secure and maintain energy supplies, reduce the demand for gas, and diversify gas supply resources. It will begin on December 1, 2022, and go until March 31, 2023, to help decrease gas prices.³ The Netherlands has a central location and, therefore, can load

¹ Slav, Irina. "Europe May See Forced De-Industrialization as Result of Energy Crisis." *OilPrice.com*, 3 Nov. 2022, <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Europe-May-See-Forced-De-Industrialization-As-Result-Of-Energy-Crisis.html>.

² "Energy Crisis: Three EU-Coordinated Measures to Cut down Bills." *Consilium*, 24 Oct. 2022, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/eu-measures-to-cut-down-energy-bills/>.

³ Reed, Stanley, and Clifford Krauss. "In the Netherlands, Balancing Energy Security against Climate Concerns." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 18 Oct. 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/18/business/energy-climate-change-netherlands.html?searchResultPosition=3>.

supplies and bring them to different parts of Europe. They immediately reacted to the threat of Russian-produced gas being cut off, so they put together pipelines, piers, and infrastructure to import liquefied natural gas into Europe. Due to this early preparation, there is a high chance that the Netherlands will be able to get through the winter, but there is worry about how the different pipes will be able to get to other countries within Europe. Overall the colder months in Europe will be challenging to get through with the minimum supply of Russian gas and the scrambling for additional resources.

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