

European Union warns of energy price crisis

1st October 2026



The European Union (EU) is worried about rising energy prices. An EU body called the European Commission wants countries to reduce their use of gas and electricity to help control prices. The EU's Energy Commissioner, Dan

Jorgensen, said: "We are facing a price crisis linked to a supply crisis." He said using less energy could help to keep fuel prices down. He added that people needed to use less because supplies are limited. He pointed to the fact that gas storage in Europe is only 68 per cent full. Mr Jorgensen said any action to control energy prices should be "well targeted" and "temporary". He asked countries to lower their energy demand until the situation improves.

In particular, Europe is worried about diesel supplies and prices. Diesel is essential for farming, construction, shipping, logistics, and other industries. Higher diesel prices increase the cost of the food we buy. The EU imports a lot of its diesel. Around 50 per cent of its diesel imports are from the USA. The European Commission is worried it might not be able to import enough of the fuel from the USA. In the past week, President Donald Trump has talked about banning exports from the USA. He said: "Let's not send out the diesel." He added that he was thinking about a ban "very seriously". EU leaders want more European-produced clean energy so that they can rely less on imported oil and gas.

Sources: politico.eu / dw.com / euronews.com

Writing

We should end fossil-fuel use as soon as possible. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

European Union / energy prices / gas / electricity / crisis / supplies / facts / demand / diesel / farming / construction / shipping / food costs / import / ban / clean energy

True / False

- 1) The European Commission is not part of the European Union. T / F
- 2) An EU spokesperson said a price crisis was linked to a supply crisis. T / F
- 3) Gas storage in Europe is less than half full. T / F
- 4) The EU spokesperson said actions to control prices should be long term. T / F
- 5) The article says diesel is no longer needed by farmers. T / F
- 6) Food prices are linked to diesel prices. T / F
- 7) US President Donald Trump may stop American diesel exports. T / F
- 8) EU leaders want to move from oil and gas to clean energy. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. worried | a. lower |
| 2. body | b. rise |
| 3. reduce | c. short-term |
| 4. limited | d. important |
| 5. temporary | e. made |
| 6. essential | f. concerned |
| 7. increase | g. stopping |
| 8. banning | h. group |
| 9. produced | i. depend |
| 10. rely | j. in short supply |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the European Union?
- b) What are your energy prices like?
- c) How worried are you about energy prices?
- d) How easy would it be for you to use less energy?
- e) What crises are we living through?
- f) Have fuel bills changed your spending?
- g) What actions can governments take to control energy prices?
- h) What message do you have for energy company bosses?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. reduce their use | a. 68 per cent full |
| 2. using less energy could help to | b. for farming |
| 3. gas storage in Europe is only | c. a lot of its diesel |
| 4. action to control energy | d. of gas and electricity |
| 5. He asked countries to lower their | e. on imported oil |
| 6. Diesel is essential | f. prices |
| 7. Higher diesel prices increase the cost of | g. exports |
| 8. The EU imports | h. energy demand |
| 9. Trump has talked about banning | i. keep fuel prices down |
| 10. they can rely less | j. the food we buy |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the European Union?
- What different kinds of energy do you use?
- What are food prices like in your country?
- Why are energy prices going up?
- Should more countries use more clean energy?
- Do you think it's possible to not use fossil fuels?
- What questions would you like to ask the EU's leader?

Spelling

- rdueec their use of gas
- keep ulfe prices down
- plussepi are limited
- gas egstoar
- prices should be well targeted and yttrreoapm
- until the situation rpsmievo
- diesel is ilsntseae for farming
- shipping, logistics, and other iisnretuds
- The EU tpmisro a lot of its diesel.
- Trump has talked about banning rpoxoets.
- thinking about a ban very rioeyslus
- so that they can yerl less

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. d	7. b	8. g	9. e	10. i

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is the European Commission part of?
2.	What might reducing the use of gas and electricity help to control?
3.	What did an EU commissioner say the price crisis is linked to?
4.	How much of Europe's gas storage is full?
5.	How long should actions to control energy prices be?
6.	What industries are diesel essential for besides farming and shipping?
7.	What do higher diesel prices increase the cost of?
8.	How much of the EU's diesel comes from the USA?
9.	Who is talking about banning diesel exports?
10.	What do EU leaders want Europe to produce more of?

Speaking – Crises

Rank these with your partner. Put the most worrying crises in the world at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Refugee crisis | • Energy prices |
| • Food crisis | • Climate change |
| • Ukraine War | • Iran War |
| • Biodiversity crisis | • AI takeover |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.