

EU's underground gas storage is ready for winter

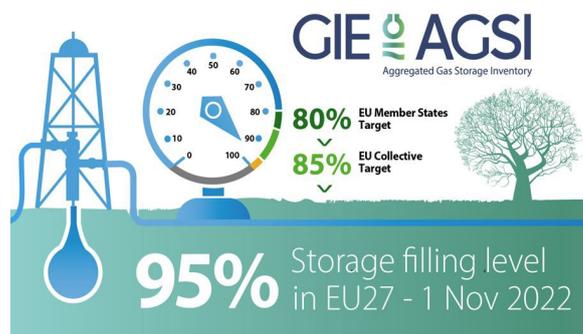


Figure 1 - Storage filling level in the EU27 on 1 November (GIE, 2022)

9 November 2022, Brussels

On 1 November, EU's underground gas storage reached 95% of filling level¹, equivalent to 1,060 TWh. This is well beyond the EU collective target of 85% of storage filling level.

Belgium, France and Portugal are maximizing their storage reserves. Germany is reaching record-breaking volumes of gas stored in its underground facilities. Latvia is breaking new ground and is implementing for the first time a two-way natural gas flow, allowing it to juggle between storage injection and withdrawal modes.

These developments have helped the EU be prepared for the winter. According to [AGSI](#), the storage transparency platform of [Gas Infrastructure Europe](#) (GIE), 95% of filling level can cover on average 28% of the EU's annual gas consumption², with some variations at national level. With 58% of filling level, Latvia, which has one of the most extensive storage capacities compared to its population size, can cover 120% of its annual gas consumption, while Sweden, with 93% of storage filling level, can supply 0.7% of this demand, relying therefore on other security of supply tools.

Camille Bonenfant-Jeanneney, President of [Gas Storage Europe](#) (GSE), GIE's column for underground gas storage, states: *"The efforts of Member States and Storage System Operators (SSOs) in response to the new geopolitical context have been remarkable. But there is no place for complacency: beyond the recent gas storage regulation³ which introduced storage obligations, this high storage filling level also results from exogenous factors, such as close to normal Russian inflows in the first half of 2022, lower LNG demand in Asia and high spot LNG exports to Europe. Given the uncertainty around next year, we need concrete policy actions to refill gas storages in view of the next heating season."*

SSOs have started to prepare for 2023-2024 winter. By 15 November 2022, the European Commission will adopt an Implementing Act setting up their filling trajectory for 2023. In particular, storage facilities will have to be filled up to at least 90% by 1 November 2023 and follow a more rigorous filling path consisting of 4 intermediary targets⁴, compared to 3 in 2022.

^{1,2} Gas Infrastructure Europe (2022), AGSI Transparency platform. All data dates back to 1 November 2022 and is available at: <https://agsi.gie.eu>

³ Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2022 amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1938 and (EC) No 715/2009 with regard to gas storage. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L.2022.173.01.0017.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A173%3ATOC>

⁴ On 1 February, 1 May, 1 July and 1 September 2023

Who is GIE



Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) is the association representing the interests of European gas infrastructure operators. GIE members are active in transmission, storage and regasification via LNG terminals of renewable and low-carbon gases, including natural gas and hydrogen. Gathering 67 industry entities from 27 European countries, GIE perfectly embodies the multiple transitional decarbonisation pathways of the EU regions. The association's vision is that by 2050, the gas infrastructure will be the backbone of the new innovative energy system, allowing European citizens and industries to benefit from a secure, efficient and sustainable energy supply.

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