

No future for Gas

Michael Ornetzeder, Austrian Academy of Sciences/EASAC

Summary

The EASAC Future of Gas report examines the future role of natural gas in Europe against the backdrop of European climate protection targets with a perspective up to 2050. The report provides an overview of current natural gas consumption in the European Union, discusses political, market-related and technological developments that will affect future natural gas consumption, examines potential alternatives such as hydrogen and other low-carbon gaseous fuels, discusses the impact of declining consumption on energy infrastructure, addresses the issues of energy security and financial affordability, and, on this basis, makes a number of recommendations for policy makers.

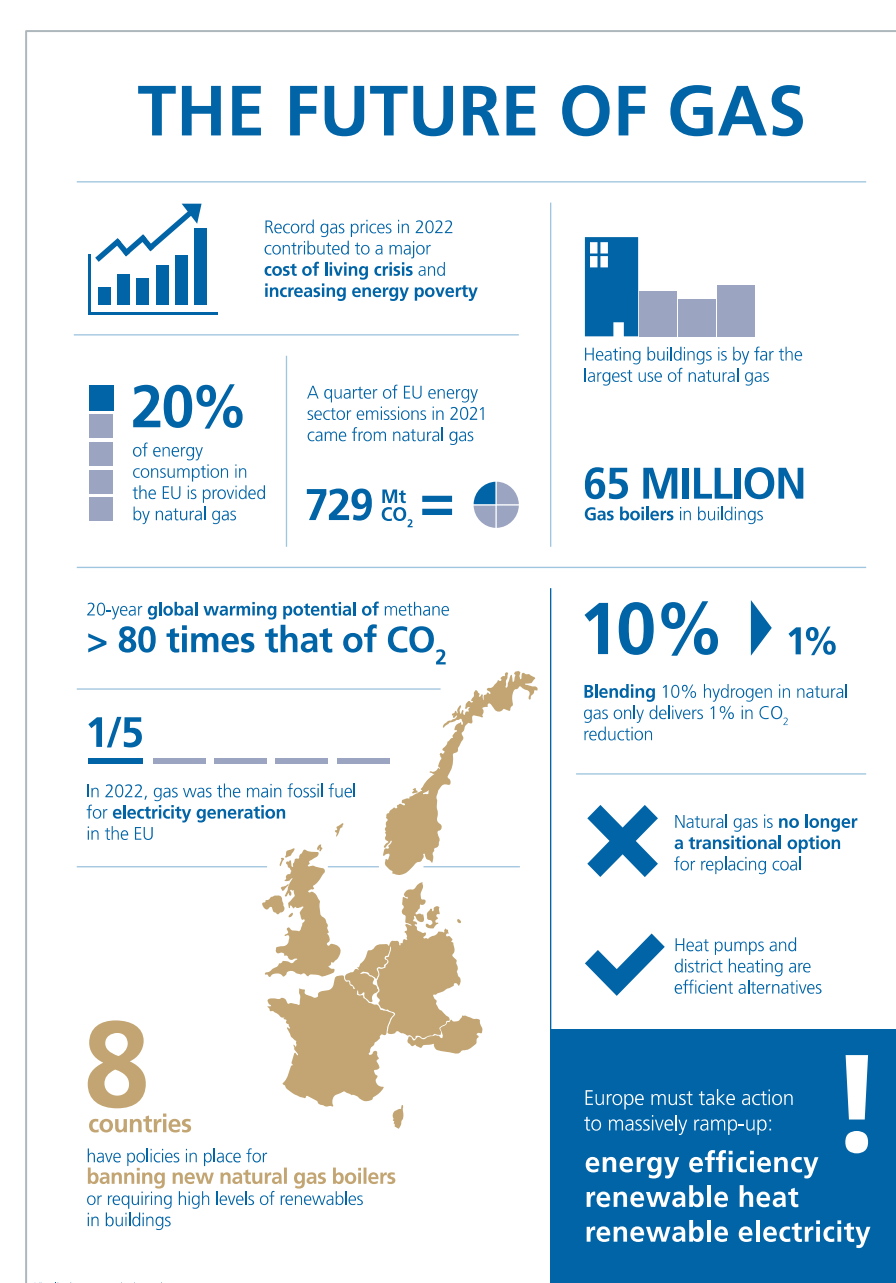
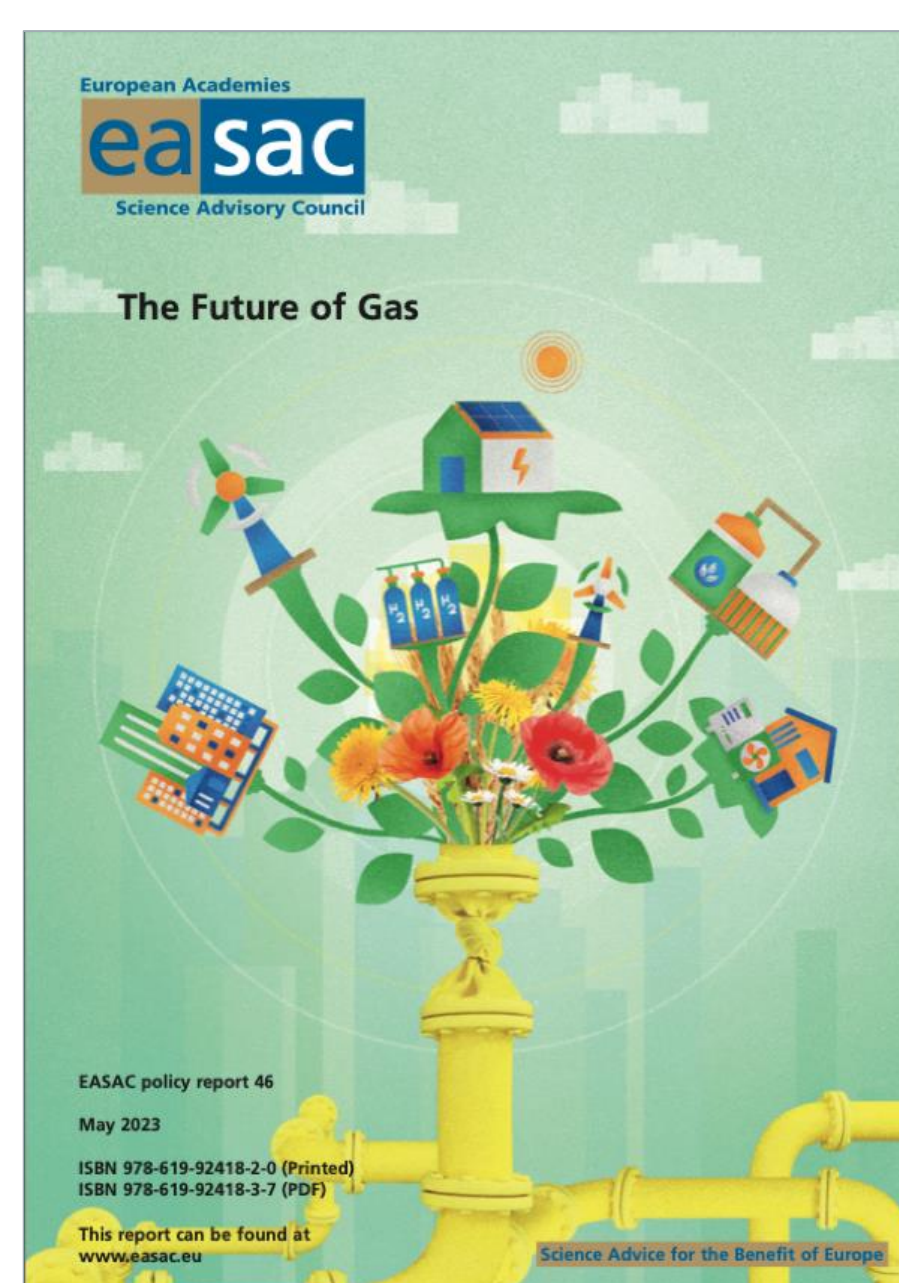
Multilateral partners

The report was co-chaired by Anne Neumann of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Neven Duic of the University of Zagreb. The working group consisted of 20 experts from 16 different European countries. The work was coordinated by William Gillett, Director of the EASAC Energy Programme.

The following experts provided key input: Justin Rosing, EC DG Energy, Markus Backes, EC DG Energy, Norela Constantinescu ENTSO-E, Sara Piskor ENTSG and Susan Taylor, European Association for Storage of Energy, Andreas Zucker, European Commission and Georg Zachmann, Bruegel. The report was also reviewed by 14 experts.

Impacts

- The report was launched at an EASAC event in Brussels. It was a two-hour event with several presentations and an in-depth panel discussion with representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and a number of stakeholders.
- Three further events to present the report took place in Oslo, Zagreb and Vienna. The report was also presented at scientific conferences, including an event organised by the Lincei Academy in Rome, the IENE Energy Dialogue in Thessaloniki and the SDEWES Conference in Dubrovnik.
- EASAC has established itself in Brussels as a policy entrepreneur. This role is played in particular by the three Programme Directors, the Executive Director, and the Board. They guarantee long-term commitment and have the necessary contacts.



Facilitators and barriers

- The national academies represented in EASAC are well connected within the European scientific community. This, together with the high reputation that the academies generally enjoy, makes it possible to mobilise a pool of qualified experts for the preparation and review of the reports.
- The resources available to EASAC from the national academies for its work are limited. Original research is therefore not possible.
- Members of the working groups are not remunerated separately and contribute to the preparation of the reports to varying degrees.

EASAC's research is funded by its 30 national member academies.

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) supports EASAC as the Regional Affiliated Network for Europe.