

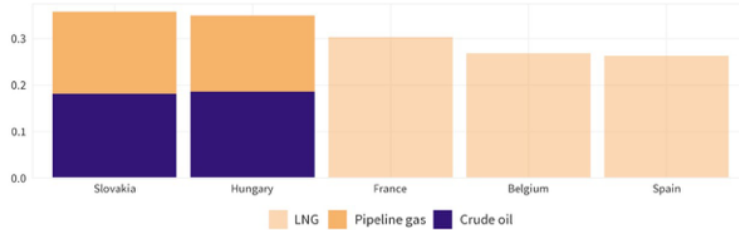


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Slovakia, Hungary, France, Belgium & Spain

Who bought Russia's fossil fuels in December 2024

Top-5 regions in the EU | Billion EUR



Source: CREA analysis based on Kpler, Marine Traffic, ENTSOG and customs data.



<https://energyandcleanair.org/december-2024-monthly-analysis-of-russian-fossil-fuel-exports-and-sanctions/#:~:text=Coal%3A%20From%20December%202022>

Energy, paying the war



Tomas Kåberger

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January 27, 2025

After Putins full scale invasion of the Ukraine, the former MEP Anders Wijkman and I published an article in the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter, 10/3 2022, suggesting the EU should stop importing Russian fuels. The responses published said "No, it would be too expensive".

Almost three years have passed and Russia has continued the war largely paid for by income from exporting energy while the EU taxpayer have provided weapons and funding for the Ukraine to resist the invasion.

In 2023, Russia was still the largest net-exporter of fossil gas, the world second largest net-exporter of refined oil products and the second largest net-exporter of crude oil, according to [The statistical review of world energy](#).

Russia controls most of the world uranium mining and the [export of nuclear fuels to the EU was increasing in 2023](#). Despite the no fly-zone for Russian planes nuclear fuel deliveries have been allowed for [Slovakia](#) och [Hungary](#) after special exemptions.

On the positive side, the import of Russian coal to the EU has vanished. In the electricity sector, wind power has generated more electricity than fossil gas since 2023, and in 2024 solar electricity overtook coal in 2024, [according to Ember](#).

[An important report by CREA, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, describes how fossil fuels finance Russias war](#). Up until the end of last year the EU was the largest importer of pipeline gas from Russia buying 40% of the export. However as the Ukraine has not renewed its fossil gas transit agreement with Russia, that route for Russian gas is not longer possible.

But the EU is also a major buyer of Russian liquified fossil gas, also with 40% of Russias total export.

The diagram above shows the top fossil fuel importing EU countries who contributed 1.5 billion Euros to Russia in December alone. Some of these countries are also importers of uranium or nuclear fuels from Russia.

As we wrote in the 2022 article, reducing Russias income seems a less destructive way of supporting the Ukraine's independence that to first pay for Russian energy and then also pay to support the Ukraine – thus paying for the war on both sides.

Accelerating the deployment of renewable energy would also increase EU's long term energy independence, thereby making energy imports from Russia redundant, and at the same time reduce the risks that global warming will have un-manageable consequences.

Even if all windpower plants and solar cells were imported, it would be less of a problem than being dependent on importing energy. Even if imports a cut, solar cells and wind power plants continue to deliver electricity. Not so with fossil fueled plants or nuclear reactors if the do not get new fuels.

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Thanks for the insights Tomas. It should be emphasized that one of Russia's motives for the war is to take control of Ukraine's vast raw material resources. The EU has a strong interest in ensuring that this does not succeed.

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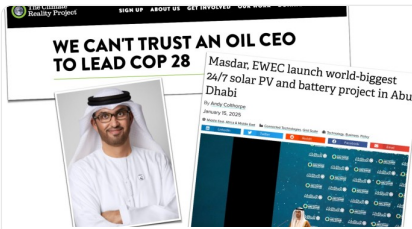
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