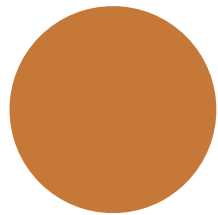


Política Internacional e Geopolítica

a reconfiguração do mundo no século XXI

**INSTITUTO CULTURAL
D. ANTÓNIO FERREIRA GOMES
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SESSÃO Nº 38**

27/07/2022



PARTE I – TEMA PRINCIPAL

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (1) [FONTE: Encyclopædia Britannica]



O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (2) [FONTE: Just Security, 12/07/2022]

Backgrounder: President Biden's Middle East Trip

As U.S. President Joe Biden travels to the Middle East tomorrow, the future of important bilateral relationships and multilateral initiatives are at stake: regional security cooperation, the fate of nuclear negotiations with Iran, America's involvement in building peace between Israel and Palestine, and more.

Biden's [tour](#) of the Middle East, which takes place from July 13-16, is his first trip to the region since taking office. In addition to bilateral meetings, Biden will lay out his vision for U.S. engagement with the region at the the Gulf Cooperation Council [\(GCC\) +3 Summit](#) in Jeddah, which will include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan.

Below, we highlight key concerns that are likely to arise in these meetings, including soaring energy prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, human rights issues, and Iran's nuclear program and regional activities.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (3) [FONTE: CNN, 17/07/2022]

5 takeaways from Biden's first presidential trip to the Middle East

(CNN) — [President Joe Biden](#) on Saturday capped a [four-day trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia](#), his first trip to the Middle East since taking office.

The President started his trip by meeting with Israeli leaders to [expand security ties with the nation](#) and discuss countering efforts by Iran to destabilize the region. He next went to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he attempted to reassure regional leaders -- and the rest of the world -- that his administration remains committed to actively engaging in the Middle East and not allowing Russia or China to expand their geopolitical influence.

On Friday, he sought a reset of relations with the Saudis as he looked for ways to lower high gas prices in the US, which have contributed to a significant drop in Biden's approval ratings.

That reset began with a widely criticized fist bump with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, also known as MBS, whom the US has accused of [sanctioning journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder](#). Biden said he raised Khashoggi's murder directly with the Crown Prince and indicated he believes MBS was responsible for it, as he emphasized the US commitment to human rights.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (4) [FONTE: CNN, 17/07/2022]

Biden's fist bump with MBS signals a reset in US-Saudi relationship and draws fierce criticism

Ahead of his departure to the Middle East, administration officials had told CNN [they were aiming for a full reset](#) of the US-Saudi relationship after years of strain following Khashoggi's murder.



Biden's meeting with Saudi crown prince comes under fire 03:22

[A fist bump in front](#) of the cameras between Biden and the Crown Prince neatly symbolized that moment.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (5) [FONTE: CNN, 17/07/2022]

The President was fiercely criticized -- including by fellow Democrats -- for fist-bumping MBS during their first in-person interaction in Jeddah. Critics argued the fist bump helped rehabilitate the 36-year-old leader's reputation on the world stage just over a year after the US declassified an intelligence report concluding that he personally ordered the brutal killing of Khashoggi, a charge the Crown Prince denied in their meeting, Biden said.

The images of the fist bump were quickly promoted by the Saudi government, including on Saudi state TV. Washington Post publisher Fred Ryan said Biden's fist bump was "shameful" because it "projected a level of intimacy and comfort that delivers to MBS the unwarranted redemption he has been desperately seeking."

There was much speculation ahead of the trip whether Biden would shake the Crown Prince's hand, particularly when the White House said the President would be looking to reduce contact with others amid the spread of a transmissible subvariant of the omicron variant of Covid-19.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (6) [FONTE: CNN, 17/07/2022]

"For an American president to be silent on the issue of human rights is inconsistent with who we are and who I am. I'll always stand up for our values," Biden told reporters.

On Saturday, as he was making remarks to the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as leaders of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, the President again touched on human rights as he sat beside Crown Prince Mohammed, calling the values enshrined in the UN charter "foundational to who we are as Americans" and encouraging the assembled leaders to allow more rights for women and the press.

"I've gotten plenty of criticism over the years. It's not fun. But the ability to speak openly, exchange ideas freely, is what unlocks innovation," Biden said.

Biden leaves Saudi Arabia without any public promises for increased oil production, but hints at private assurances

Biden came to Jeddah seeking solutions to one of [his top political problems at home -- high gas prices](#) -- as diplomacy with the kingdom and other allies in the Middle East was seen as one of the few routes he could take to ease the pain at the pump. But, the trip did not produce any immediate announcements on increased oil production.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (7) [FONTE: CNN, 17/07/2022]

The President attempts to reassure allies the US is committed to the Middle East

Biden attempted to reassert US leadership in the Middle East during the GCC+3 summit Saturday with key leaders in the region and promised that his administration would stay actively engaged amid fears that China and Russia could swiftly fill a leadership vacuum.

Ukraine, which has raised questions about the extent of Biden's commitment to engagement in the Middle East.

"The United States is invested in building a positive future in the region in partnership with all of you, and the United States is not going anywhere," Biden said at the meeting with the GCC+3.

The summit came nearly one year after the US withdrew all military troops from Afghanistan and ended 20 years of war in the country. Biden also noted that his visit to the Middle East was the first time since the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 that a US president had visited the region without American troops being engaged in combat in the area, though US forces continue to conduct operations in Syria.

Biden has been under pressure to do more to counter Iran in the region and come up with a coordinated strategy among allies, and on Saturday he made a commitment to the US playing a large role in the Middle East for years to come.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (8) [FONTE: DW, 30/06/2022]

A 'NATO' for the Middle East?

Rumors of a new Middle Eastern military alliance are flying. They're significant because an "Arab NATO" may include Israel, signaling next steps in better ties between Israel and Arab neighbors. But are the rumors real?



Late last week, the king of Jordan made headlines when he told journalists that he would support a military alliance in the Middle East that was similar to NATO.

"I would be one of the first people that would endorse a Middle East NATO," King Abdullah II [told US media outlet CNBC](#). "All of us are coming together and saying, 'How can we help each other?' ... which is, I think, very unusual for the region."

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (9) [FONTE: DW, 30/06/2022]

What would an 'Arab NATO' look like?

Experts say any such defensive alliance is most likely to include the states that already have a relationship of some sort with Israel. That includes the signatories to the Abraham Accords — [the UAE](#), Bahrain, [Sudan](#) and Morocco — as well as Jordan and Egypt, countries that already have existing diplomatic ties with Israel.

Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and [Kuwait](#) could also play a role in the alliance, and the US, widely seen as brokering such a deal, would certainly also be involved.

Despite all of the conjecture though, observers advised caution, telling DW that it was unlikely that the Middle East would see the emergence of a genuine NATO-style allegiance anytime soon.

"There is a greater push towards broader regional cooperation at the moment," agreed Becca Wasser, a fellow for the defense program at CNAS, the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank. "But I still think that this idea of an 'Arab NATO' is a bridge too far."

"The idea of an 'Arab NATO' has been put forward many times," the Al-Ahram Centre's Ahmed noted. "But to this day, it has never crystallized, and I think that, at least in the short term, it will not."

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (10) [FONTE: DW, 30/06/2022]



O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (11) [FONTE: Saudi Gazette, 16/07/2022]

There's no such thing as 'Arabic NATO': Saudi FM



JEDDAH — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan said on Saturday that there no such thing as an "Arabic NATO."

Prince Faisal made his remarks during a press conference here following the Jeddah Security and Development Summit, which was held in the presence of US President Joe Biden.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (12) [FONTE: Saudi Gazette, 16/07/2022]

The Saudi minister said that the Kingdom's hand is extended to Iran to reach normal relations, pointing out that the talks that took place with Iran were positive, but did not reach any results.

He also noted that there were no messages from Iran to the Jeddah Summit, stressing that dialogue and diplomacy are the only solution to Iran's nuclear programme.

The Saudi minister said that no type of military or technical cooperation with Israel was raised or discussed and that there is no such thing as an "Arab NATO," reiterating that there was no discussion of a "defensive alliance" with Israel.

Prince Faisal said that the joint Arab action system has reached a stage of "maturity."

"We know what we want, and we know how to achieve it... We do not wait for anyone to fulfil our needs."

"We did not discuss the issue of oil production at the Jeddah Summit, and OPEC+ continues its work to assess the markets and what they need," he said.

"The US remains our main strategic partner, stressing that "the kingdom's partnership with America is old and continuous... and the agreements we signed with the US did not come to fruition overnight."

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (13) [FONTE: France 24, 19/07/2022. FOTO: CNN]

Putin in Tehran for Syria summit with leaders of Iran and Turkey



In only his second trip abroad since Russian tanks rolled into its neighbor in February, [Putin](#) is scheduled to hold talks with Iran's President [Ebrahim Raisi](#) and Turkish President [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) about the pressing issues facing the region, including the conflict in Syria and a U.N.-backed proposal to resume exports of Ukrainian grain to ease the global food crisis.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (14) [FONTE: France 24, 19/07/2022]

From Jerusalem and Jeddah, Biden urged Israel and Arab countries to push back on Russian, Chinese and Iranian influence that has expanded with the perception of America's retreat from the region.

It was a tough sell. Israel maintains good relations with Putin, a necessity given Russian presence in Syria, Israel's northeastern neighbor and frequent target of its airstrikes. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have declined to pump more oil beyond a plan approved by their energy alliance with Moscow.

But all the countries - despite their long-standing rivalries - could agree on drawing closer to counter Iran, which has rapidly advanced its nuclear program since former U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned Tehran's atomic accord with world powers and reimposed crushing sanctions. Talks to restore the deal have hit a deadlock.

Backed into a corner by the West and its regional rivals, the Iranian government is ramping up uranium enrichment, cracking down on dissent and grabbing headlines with optimistic, hard-line stances intended to keep the Iranian currency, the rial, from crashing. Without sanctions relief in sight, Iran's tactical partnership with Russia has become one of survival, even as Moscow appears to be undercutting Tehran in the black market oil trade.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (15) [FONTE: France 24, 19/07/2022]

'Turning point'

In his fifth visit to Tehran, Putin will meet Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with whom he has a "trusting dialogue," Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said. He will also hold talks with President Raisi on issues including Tehran's nuclear deal, of which Russia is a key signatory. The leaders met in Moscow in January and again last month in Turkmenistan.

The focus of the talks among the three presidents will be the decade-old conflict in Syria, where Iran and Russia have backed President Bashar Assad's government, while Turkey has supported armed opposition factions. Russia intervened in the conflict in 2015, pooling efforts with Iranian forces and using its air power to shore up Assad's fledgling military.

Ushakov said the parties will discuss efforts to encourage a political settlement, while Erdogan is expected to take up Turkey's threats of a new military offensive in northern Syria to drive away U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters from its borders. The operation is part of Turkey's plan to create a safe zone along its border with Syria that would encourage the voluntary return of Syrian refugees.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (16) [FONTE: Associated Press, 19/07/2022]

Putin, in Tehran, gets strong support from Iran over Ukraine



TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin won staunch support from Iran on Tuesday for his country's military campaign in Ukraine, with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei saying the West opposes an "independent and strong" Russia.

Khamenei said that if Russia hadn't sent troops into Ukraine, it would have faced an attack from NATO later, a statement that echoed Putin's own rhetoric and reflected increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran as they both face crippling Western sanctions. NATO allies have bolstered their military presence in Eastern Europe and provided Ukraine with weapons to help counter the Russian attack.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (17) [FONTE: Associated Press, 19/07/2022]

In only his second trip abroad since Russia launched the military action in February, Putin conferred with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the conflict in Syria, and he used the trip to discuss a U.N.-backed proposal to resume exports of Ukrainian grain [to ease the global food crisis](#).

Turkey, a NATO member, has found itself opposite Russia in bloody conflicts in Syria and Libya. It has even sold [lethal drones that Ukrainian forces have used to attack Russian troops](#). But Ankara hasn't imposed sanctions on the Kremlin, making it a sorely needed partner for Moscow. Grappling with runaway inflation and a rapidly depreciating currency, Turkey also relies on the Russian market.

Erdogan made Putin wait for nearly a minute before entering the room for talks and then praised what he described as Russia's "very, very positive approach" during last week's grain talks in Istanbul. He voiced hope a deal will be made, and "the result that will emerge will have a positive impact on the whole world."

Speaking to Erdogan as their meeting began, Putin thanked him for his mediation to help "move forward" a deal on Ukrainian grain exports. "Not all the issues have been resolved yet, but it's good that there has been some progress," Putin added.

He later told reporters that Moscow would accept a deal to facilitate Ukrainian grain shipments if the West lifts restrictions on Russian grain exports.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (17) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 22/07/2022]

US warns Iran risks becoming dependent on Russia after hosting Putin

State Department spokesman says Tehran dropped 'veil of neutrality' to support Ukraine invasion after Supreme Leader called for 'long-term cooperation' with Moscow



WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday warned Iran that it risked dependency on an isolated Russia after it welcomed President Vladimir Putin, although the CIA chief acknowledged the two nations have uneasy ties.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (18) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 18/07/2022]

Ahead of Mideast summit, US warns Iran is seeking to sell attack drones to Russia

Delegation from Moscow twice toured Iran base to view showcase of weapons-capable UAVs, Jake Sullivan says, revealing satellite photos of drones in flight during Russian visit



JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Iran is preparing to sell Russia hundreds of attack drones, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan revealed Saturday while US President Joe Biden was in Saudi Arabia for a Mideast summit where leaders were looking to collaborate against the Islamic Republic.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (19) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 18/07/2022]

"We have information indicating that the Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with several hundred UAVs, including weapons-capable UAVs," Sullivan said in a statement, with the White House assessing that Russian delegations twice visited Iran's Kashan Airfield on June 8 and July 5 to view showcases of the drone technology.

The White House also released three photos of the Shahed-191 and Shahed-129 unmanned aerial vehicles capable of carrying precision-guided missiles. The satellite photos also show the drones in flight while a Russian transport was at the site.

Ukraine has made extensive use of armed drones in its fight against the invading Russians, who have not made acquiring such capabilities a priority until now.

The US intelligence assessment was first reported by CNN, prompting Iran to deny it.

On Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, in a phone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, rejected reports on exporting Iranian drones to Russia, calling them "baseless."

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (20) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 18/07/2022]

Khamenei adviser says Tehran 'capable of building nuclear bomb'

Tehran will also directly respond against Israel should its security be targeted, the report says citing the advisor.



Tehran is technically capable of making a nuclear bomb but has yet to decide whether to build it, a senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei told Al Jazeera's Arabic service on Sunday.

Tehran will also directly respond against [Israel](#) should its security be targeted, the report says citing the advisor.

"In a few days we were able to enrich uranium up to 60% and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium ... Iran has the technical means to produce a nuclear bomb but there has been no decision by Iran to build one," Kamal Kharrazi said.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (21) [FONTE: Guardian, 20/07/2022. FOTO: AFP]

Erdoğan asks Russia and Iran to back Turkey's incursion into Syria

Turkish president cites Kurdish forces in north-west Syria as justification for extending zone of control



O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (22) [FONTE: Guardian, 20/07/2022]

The visit to Tehran provided Erdoğan with an opportunity to reaffirm ties to both Tehran and Moscow, along with plentiful opportunities to court Moscow's cooperation on key issues.

Putin and Erdoğan greeted each other warmly at the start of their bilateral talks, [despite a brief moment](#) where the Turkish leader kept his counterpart waiting. The talks provided an opportunity for Erdoğan to secure Moscow's backing for a tentative agreement to evacuate grain across the Black Sea with a control centre in Istanbul, with UN-backed talks expected to continue in Istanbul this week.

"With your mediation, we have moved forward. True, not all issues have yet been resolved, but the fact that there is movement is already good," [Putin told Erdoğan](#). The Turkish president later referred to his counterpart as "my dear friend Putin" during a roundtable discussion on Syria.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, Turkish authorities have insisted on balancing the country's Nato membership with its longstanding relationship with Moscow.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (23) [FONTE: Guardian, 20/07/2022]

"Russia can't afford not to engage with [Turkey](#). They want a relationship with Turkey as a Nato ally – that wouldn't change even if Putin and Erdoğan step aside tomorrow," said Hanna Notte, an analyst at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. "But the fact they deal so efficiently and closely on issues, that you can put down to the Putin-Erdoğan rapport," she added, saying the leaders share elements of anti-western sentiment that has fuelled a longstanding personal relationship.

"They share a view of the world as multipolar, where countries outside of the west should have a say on how things are run."

Yet Erdoğan's approach to foreign policy rests on showing that Turkey acts independently, putting its interests first. This aids his appeal to a domestic audience ahead of an election expected in the coming year, where Erdoğan faces increasing opposition.

Despite previously lifting objections to Finland and Sweden joining Nato and securing the lifting of some weapons sales in the process, Erdoğan this week [repeated threats](#) to "freeze" their accession if Turkish demands aren't met. At a Nato summit in Madrid in late June, Erdoğan's tactics secured him a meeting with the US president, Joe Biden, who stated his support for sales of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey, despite ongoing opposition from Congress.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (24) [FONTE: Daily Sabah, 22/07/2022]

Turkey does not need permission for counterterrorism ops in Syria: FM



Turkey does not need anyone's permission to conduct military operations against terrorist groups in Syria, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Thursday.

"We exchanged ideas, but we never asked and we never ask permission for our military operations," Çavuşoğlu said two days after a summit in Tehran at which both Russia and Iran urged against Turkey's proposed new military operation in northern Syria.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (25) [FONTE: Daily Sabah, 22/07/2022]

He emphasized that Turkey has disagreements with Iran and Russia on the issue of Syria, and that the two countries' support for the Syrian regime is unacceptable to Turkey.

"It is clear that these two countries are against our operations today as they were in the past. Of course, the statements of these countries are obvious, what we say is important, what our president says is important. We have not received permission from anyone in the past," he said.

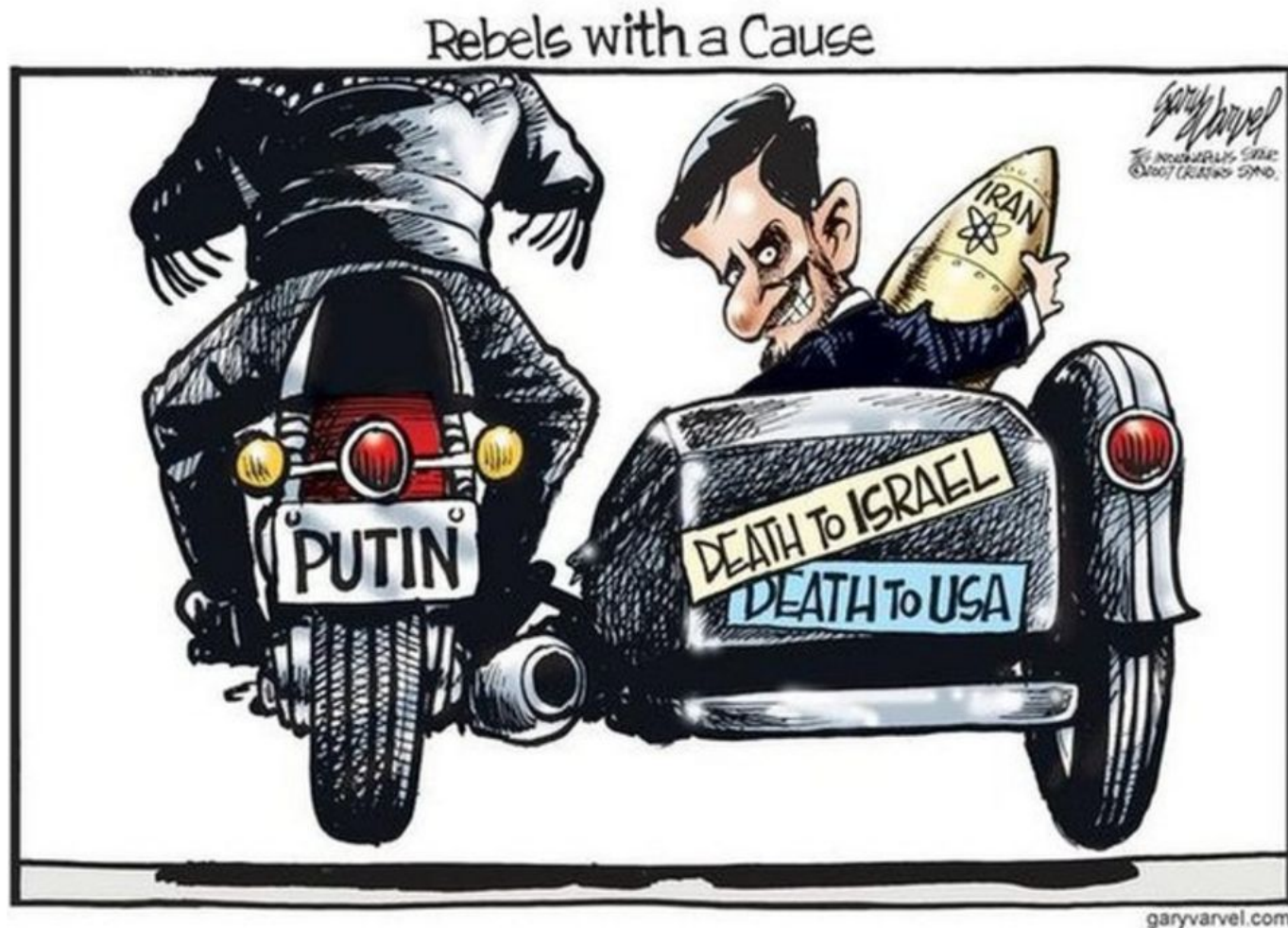
"We paused our operation against the YPG/PKK in the east of the Euphrates, both within the framework of America's commitments, Russia's commitments and the agreements we reached. Both of these countries have made a commitment to clear the YPG/PKK terrorists from this region. Since this has not happened so far, these terrorists have started to increase the attacks against our own lands from there, as well as continuing the attacks against the Syrians, the opposition, our soldiers, and our police. What would the U.S. do in such a situation now? What would Russia do?"

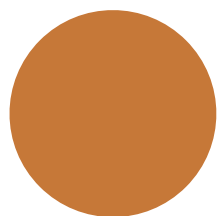
"In such a case, the threat will continue as long as these terrorists are here. We can't keep our hands tied, after all, we have not received permission from anyone in the operations we have carried out so far," he added.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Wednesday that Turkey's plan for a new military operation in northern Syria will be on the table as long as the PKK terrorist group's Syrian branch YPG continues to pose a security threat to his country.

O Médio Oriente entre as estratégias dos EUA e da Rússia (26)

[FONTE: Gary Varvel/ Indianapolis Star, Creators Syndicate / BBC, 16/07/2015]





PARTE II – NOTAS BREVES

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (1) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]



Comissão Europeia - Comunicado de imprensa



Poupar gás para garantir um inverno em segurança: Comissão apresenta plano para reduzir a procura de gás e preparar a UE para novos cortes no abastecimento

Bruxelas, 20 de julho de 2022

A União Europeia pode vir a sofrer novos cortes no abastecimento de gás proveniente da Rússia, pois o Kremlin tem estado a utilizar as suas exportações de gás como arma. Praticamente metade dos Estados-Membros já foram afetados pela redução das entregas de gás. Se adotarmos já as medidas necessárias poderemos reduzir os riscos e os custos para a Europa caso ocorram novas perturbações ou um corte no aprovisionamento, aumentando assim a resiliência do mercado energético europeu.

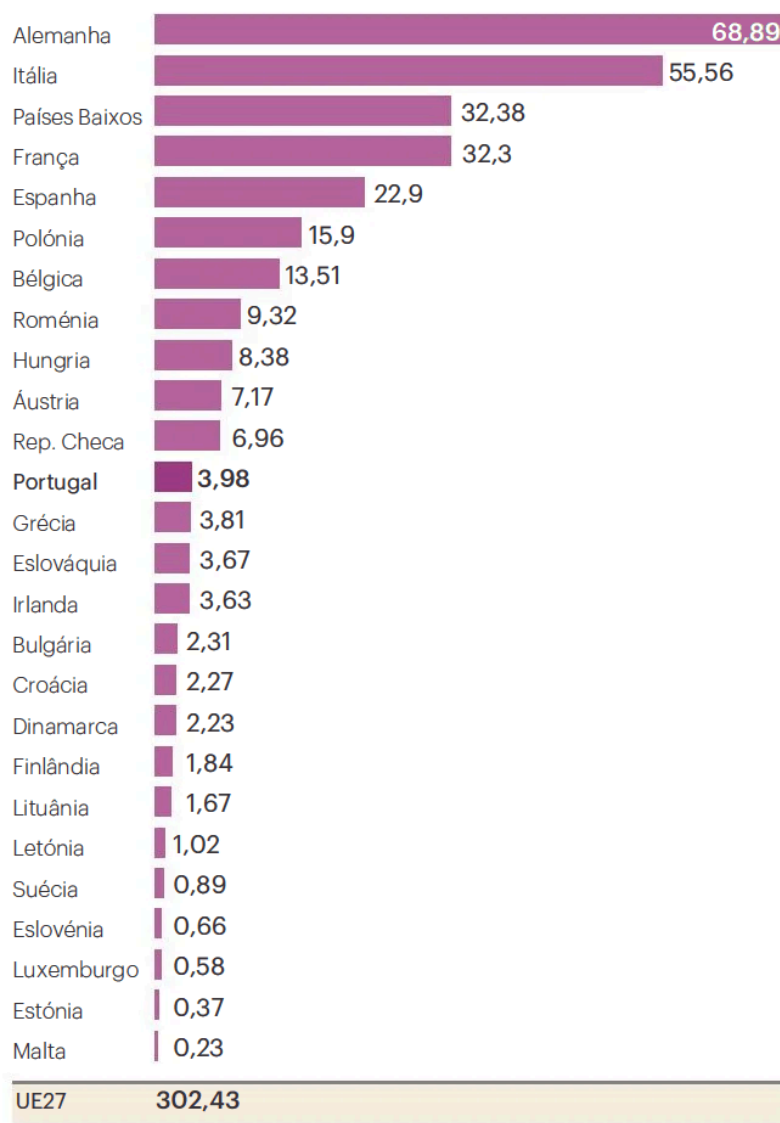
A Comissão propôs hoje, por conseguinte, **um novo instrumento legislativo e um plano europeu de redução da procura de gás, para reduzir até 15 % o consumo de gás na Europa até à próxima primavera**. Todos os consumidores, administrações públicas agregados familiares, proprietários de edifícios públicos, distribuidores de energia e empresas podem e devem adotar medidas para reduzir o consumo de gás. A Comissão irá também **acelerar os esforços para diversificar o aprovisionamento, incluindo a aquisição conjunta de gás**, aumentando assim as possibilidades de obter fornecimentos alternativos de gás.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (2) [FONTE: Público, 26/07/2022]

Consumo de gás na UE*

Média 2017-2021, de Agosto a Março

Em milhares de milhões de metros cúbicos**



Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (3) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]

A Comissão acaba de propor um **novo regulamento do Conselho relativo à coordenação das medidas de redução da procura de gás**, com base no [artigo 122.º do Tratado](#). Se for aprovado, o novo regulamento estabelecerá uma meta para todos os Estados-Membros reduzirem a procura de gás em 15 % entre 1 de agosto de 2022 e 31 de março de 2023. O novo regulamento permitirá igualmente à Comissão **declarar, após ter consultado os Estados-Membros, um «alerta da União» quanto à segurança do aprovisionamento, impondo uma redução obrigatória da procura de gás** a todos os Estados-Membros. Poderão ser declarados alertas da União sempre que se verifique um sério risco de escassez extrema de gás ou uma procura excecionalmente elevada. Os Estados-Membros devem atualizar os respetivos planos nacionais de emergência até ao final de setembro, indicando como tencionam cumprir a meta de redução do consumo e informando a Comissão, de dois em dois meses, dos progressos realizados. Os Estados-Membros que solicitem solidariedade no aprovisionamento de gás deverão demonstrar as medidas adotadas para reduzir a procura a nível interno.

A fim de ajudar os Estados-Membros a concretizar a necessária redução da procura, a Comissão adotou igualmente um **plano europeu de redução da procura de gás que enumera as medidas, os princípios e os critérios para uma alcançar esse objetivo**. Esse plano centra-se na substituição do gás por outros combustíveis e na poupança global de energia em todos os setores. Visa **salvaguardar o abastecimento das famílias e de utilizadores cruciais**, como os hospitais, mas também das empresas que fornecem produtos e serviços essenciais à economia e às cadeias de abastecimento, assim como à competitividade da UE. O plano formula ainda orientações que os Estados-Membros deverão ter em conta ao planearem as restrições a impor ao consumo de gás.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (4) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]

O plano de redução da procura de gás proposto pela Comissão tem por base as consultas mantidas com os Estados-Membros e as empresas. Existem muitas medidas que permitem reduzir a procura de gás. Antes de ponderarem impor limitações ao consumo, Os Estados-Membros deverão ter esgotado todas as possibilidades em termos de substituição de combustíveis, de regimes de poupança não obrigatórios e de fontes de energias alternativas. Sempre que possível, **a prioridade**

deve ser atribuída à transição para as energias renováveis ou a opções mais limpas e com menores emissões carbónicas ou poluentes. No entanto, poderá ser necessário efetuar uma transição temporária para o carvão, o petróleo ou a energia nuclear, desde que se previna uma dependência do carbono a longo prazo. As medidas assentes no mercado poderão ajudar a reduzir os riscos para a sociedade e a economia. A título de exemplo, os Estados-Membros poderão lançar sistemas de leilões/concursos públicos para **incentivar as empresas a reduzir o consumo de energia**. Os Estados-Membros poderão oferecer **apoio nos termos da alteração do [quadro temporário de crise para os auxílios estatais](#)** hoje adotada pela Comissão.

Outro pilar importante da poupança de energia consiste na redução dos sistemas de aquecimento/arrefecimento. A Comissão insta todos os Estados-Membros a **lançarem campanhas de sensibilização do público para reduzir a utilização dos sistemas de aquecimento/arrefecimento** e a implementarem a [comunicação da UE «Poupar Energia»](#), que prevê inúmeras alternativas para realizar poupanças a curto prazo. A título de exemplo, os Estados-Membros poderão impor uma **redução específica da utilização dos sistemas de aquecimento/arrefecimento nos edifícios geridos por autoridades públicas**.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (5)

[FONTE: Tratado sobre o Funcionamento da União Europeia]

Artigo 122.º

(ex-artigo 100.º TCE)

1. Sem prejuízo de quaisquer outros procedimentos previstos nos Tratados, o Conselho, sob proposta da Comissão, pode decidir, num espírito de solidariedade entre os Estados-Membros, das medidas adequadas à situação económica, nomeadamente em caso de dificuldades graves no aprovisionamento de certos produtos, designadamente no domínio da energia.
2. Sempre que um Estado-Membro se encontre em dificuldades ou sob grave ameaça de dificuldades devidas a calamidades naturais ou ocorrências excecionais que não possa controlar, o Conselho, sob proposta da Comissão, pode, sob certas condições, conceder ajuda financeira da União ao Estado-Membro em questão. O Presidente do Conselho informará o Parlamento Europeu da decisão tomada.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (6) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]



Brussels, 20.7.2022
COM(2022) 361 final

2022/0225 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION

on coordinated demand reduction measures for gas

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (7) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]

Article 3

Voluntary demand reduction

Member States shall use their best efforts to reduce their national gas consumption between 1 August 2022 and 31 March 2023 at least by 15% compared to their average consumption between 1 August and 31 March during the five years preceding the entry into force of this Regulation ('voluntary demand reduction'). Articles 6, 7 and 8 shall apply to those voluntary demand reduction measures.

Article 5

Mandatory demand reduction in case of a Union alert

1. Where the Commission declares a Union alert, each Member State shall reduce its natural gas consumption in accordance with the methodology set out in paragraph 2 ('mandatory demand reduction').

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (8) [FONTE: Comissão Europeia]

2. For the purpose of mandatory demand reduction, for as long as the Union alert is declared, overall consumption of natural gas in each Member State over a period from 1 August of each year until 31 March of the following year ('implementation period') shall be reduced by at least 15% compared to that Member State's average consumption over the period between 1 August and 31 March ('comparison period') during the five consecutive years preceding the date of entry into force of this Regulation. Any voluntary demand reductions achieved by Member States during the implementation period before the alert was declared shall be taken into account for the purpose of the mandatory demand reduction.
3. Member States may request to limit the mandatory demand reduction by a maximum of 5%, provided they can demonstrate that they cannot, due to no or limited interconnection with other Member States, substantially contribute to increasing the direct or indirect supply of gas to other Member States.
4. Member States who request a derogation from the mandatory demand reduction pursuant to paragraph 3 shall submit evidence that their interconnector capacities with other Member States or their domestic LNG infrastructure are used to re-direct gas to other Member States to the utmost extent.
5. Before deciding on the request for a reduced mandatory demand reduction, the Commission shall consult the GCG, the risk groups and, as appropriate, other relevant bodies.
6. The Commission shall decide on the request at the latest within two months after having received all the relevant information from the Member State.
7. Articles 6, 7 and 8 shall apply to mandatory demand reduction measures.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (9) [FONTE: Der Spiegel

International, 15/07/2022]

A Stress Test for Solidarity Looming Natural Gas Shortages Has the EU Scrambling for Solutions

With the threat of recession and further inflation, Vladimir Putin could deal a devastating blow to the European Union if he cuts gas supplies this winter. Should that happen, it would be a major test of solidarity for the block.



The Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which is currently shut down for routine annual maintenance, makes landfall at this terminal in Lubmin, Germany.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (10) [FONTE: Der Spiegel International, 15/07/2022]

The first stress test for European solidarity could come on July 21. That's when the annual mandatory maintenance on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which delivers gas directly from Russia to Germany, will be completed. Russian gas should start flowing to Europe again on that day, unless Russian President Vladimir Putin decides otherwise.

Whether the Europeans will truly succeed in sticking together is, of course, an open question. In June, when Russia throttled gas deliveries via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, onward shipments of Russian natural gas from Germany to France came to a halt. The French, though, already have the means to meet their (much lower) demand using other sources – by importing liquified natural gas through their four LNG terminals, for example.

But if there is a total loss of Russian gas, radically different distribution issues are likely to arise. Will Germany still deliver sufficient gas to the Czech Republic, even if its own industry is suffering? And will partners be ready to help a Germany that they perceived as not showing much solidarity during the euro crisis?

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (11)

[FONTE: Der Spiegel

International, 15/07/2022]

Worse than the Euro Crisis

The gas crisis could have repercussions that dwarf even the euro debacle. Recession, unheated apartments, high prices – solidarity within the EU would be subjected to a stress test.

During the euro crisis, it was primarily the smaller EU countries like Greece or Portugal that had to make significant cutbacks. This time, though, it could be the EU's largest country that gets hit hardest. Germany not only consumes more natural gas than all other EU member states – it is also the most important transit country for the fossil fuel. Habeck said at the end of June that there would be no permanent reduction in the amount of gas transmitted to the neighboring countries. "That would be illegal – and absurd."



German Economy Minister Robert Habeck (left) and Chancellor Olaf Scholz are in crisis mode.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (12)

[FONTE: Der Spiegel

International, 15/07/2022]

In Southern Europe, too, where the euro crisis has left deep scars, the willingness to step up to help Germany remains limited.

Portuguese politician Bruno Maçães negotiated with the Germans as his country's secretary of state for European affairs during the euro crisis. He says the German government spent years blocking alternatives to Russian gas. As a result, he says there is a dearth of pipelines between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe.

Solidarity with the Germans?

"During the euro crisis, (then German Finance Minister Wolfgang) Schäuble always said that the costs should not be socialized," Maçães says. "Why should that happen now – after all the German mistakes?"

Germany's actions on the international gas markets have done little to assuage such resentment. The German government has so far made 15 billion euros available to fill its own gas storage facilities. Largely unnoticed by the German public, the market area manager for the German gas market, Trading Hub Europe, has used this money to buy up whatever natural gas is available on the world markets.

It has been a success, at least from a German perspective. Domestic gas storage facilities had filled up to over 64 percent by this week, almost 2 percent more than the European average. Another consequence, however, is rising prices. It is becoming increasingly difficult for many European countries to pay for gas.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (13) [FONTE: Der Spiegel International, 15/07/2022]

Germany Blocks Joint Gas Purchases

A number of EU countries have come out in favor of making joint gas purchases, as has the European Commission. This, it is hoped, would allow more favorable prices to be achieved because member states would not be competing against each other. The gas purchased would then be distributed to individual countries, similar to the way coronavirus vaccines were disbursed during the pandemic.

The plan, though, has been blocked at several EU summits by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, even though the government in Berlin is anything but united on the issue. There are influential advocates of making these pooled purchases within Habeck's Economy Ministry, for example.

But resistance is coming from large natural gas utilities in Germany, like RWE, and from industrial customers as well. They want to buy their own gas and fear that they won't be allocated sufficient supplies by the EU. They are exerting pressure through the unions, the result being that European leaders were only able to agree on a voluntary procurement pact at the last EU summit.

In addition to all the political issues, it is unclear whether the European gas network is at all equipped to meet the challenges of winter.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (14) [FONTE: Politico, 21/07/2022]

Southern rebellion threatens to sink EU gas rationing plan

Brussels doesn't have the votes to pass sweeping emergency powers.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans give a press conference on the 'Save gas for a safe winter' package at the EU headquarters | John Thys/AFP via Getty Images

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (15) [FONTE: Politico, 21/07/2022]

The emergency measure — widely perceived as being designed to save Berlin should its gas link to Russia, the [Nord Stream pipeline](#), stop operating — would allow the EU executive to impose [a mandatory 15 percent cut](#) in gas consumption from August to May. Such action could be "triggered at any moment," should scarce supplies make sharing necessary among EU neighbors.

But ministers in [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Spain](#), Cyprus and Greece have already emphatically said "no" to the proposed power grab and binding gas consumption reductions, while three EU diplomats confirmed there are currently not enough votes to pass the new rules. Approval requires a qualified majority — 15 countries representing 65 percent of the bloc's population. Individual vetoes are not allowed under the controversial emergency procedure.

Hungary has taken a step further, announcing it has no intention of letting any gas leave its borders beginning next month. Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó actually [boarded a flight to Moscow](#) on Thursday in a bid to buy more Russian supplies while it's still possible.

EU energy ministers are set to discuss the proposal and looming winter gas crisis when they meet [next Tuesday](#), but by that point, the Commission's proposal could already be a lost cause.

For once, that means Germany may not get its way.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (16) [FONTE: Politico, 21/07/2022]

Geographical vote splits are nothing new in the Brussels bubble. But unlike previous spats over economic aid — pitting frugal Nordics and northwesterners against a southeastern bloc in need of funds — this time it's the EU periphery with access to non-Russian gas that is unwilling to throw Germany a lifeline.

Leaders have been girding for a possible shutdown of Russian gas deliveries, after 12 EU countries were hit with supply reductions or outright disconnections in recent weeks. But so far, that's not enough to convince capitals to give up control over energy usage at home.

"This is really Mission Impossible stuff – even Tom Cruise couldn't get it passed now," said an EU diplomat from a country in favor of the measure.

German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck on Thursday criticized the countries unwilling to get on board.

"We have to save energy in Europe, and above all gas," Habeck said at a press conference. "And that also means that countries that are not directly affected by gas reductions from Russia should help other countries. Otherwise, there would be no European solidarity."

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (17) [FONTE: Politico, 21/07/2022]

Many disagree, not least in Athens — which has bitter memories of [demanding financial solidarity](#) from Germany during the 2015 debt crisis.

"Let's say we reduce [gas use] by 15 percent, this does not mean that more gas will go to Germany. It does not mean that there are empty pipelines that could be filled," Greek Energy Minister Kostas Skrekas said Thursday on local radio. "It is curious how the Commission has made this announcement without serious consultation."

Spain's Ecological Transition Minister Teresa Ribera denounced Brussels' plan as "not the most effective, nor the most efficient, nor the fairest."

"We are completely against it," [said](#) Portuguese Secretary of State for Energy and Environment João Galamba.

The EU's island nations are rebelling too, arguing that they aren't linked up to the core network and thus can't send precious gas to needy Continental neighbors.

"It should not apply to Cyprus until the island is directly interconnected with the EU's natural gas network," a Cypriot official said Thursday.

Skrekas said he and Ribera are co-authoring an opposition letter to be signed by the discontented capitals, which Skrekas said may also include Paris, Rome, Valletta and Bratislava.

Spanish ministry officials confirmed they were in contact with counterparts in Greece, Italy, France and others, but clarified the joint letter would seek alternative solutions to achieve the desired gas savings across the bloc.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (18) [FONTE: FT, 22/07/2022]

EU solidarity frays as some member states question plan to slash gas use

Spain and Portugal among those pushing back on proposal to cut consumption by 15% ahead of winter supply crunch



The 'Save gas for a safe winter' plan has come under fire, with Portugal saying it was being asked to make a 'disproportionate sacrifice' © Dwnld/Dreamstime

A proposal for European countries to slash gas use ahead of a possible winter supply crunch has prompted bickering among EU capitals and doubt over its approval at a meeting of energy ministers next week.

The European Commission's "Save gas for a safe winter" plan, which recommended on Wednesday that all member states [cut gas use by 15 per cent](#) between August and March against an average of the previous five years has been met by outright opposition from Portugal and Spain and serious concerns from several other EU countries.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (19) [FONTE: FT, 22/07/2022]

Spanish energy minister Teresa Ribera added a veiled jibe at Germany, which relies on Russian supplies for more than half its gas consumption: "Unlike other countries, we Spaniards have not lived beyond our means from an energy point of view."

German energy minister Robert Habeck retorted on Thursday: "The principle applies — we in Europe must save gas and that means even those countries that aren't directly affected by the cut in gas supplies from Russia should help other countries. Otherwise, there is no European solidarity."

Brussels has been under pressure to find ways to counter serious economic shocks across the bloc should Moscow further weaponise [energy](#) supplies. But, as winter looms, the request for member states to cut gas use by 15 per cent marks an early test of the EU's united front in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Hungary last week declared an energy emergency and banned exports to other EU states. The Századvég institute, a think-tank with ties to Budapest's ruling Fidesz party, said on Thursday that the latest proposal from Brussels breached fundamental EU rights. The same day, the country's foreign minister Peter Szijjártó met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow to [request additional gas supplies](#).

"The European Commission, which attacks Hungary with baseless accusations of the rule of law, came up with a plan that disregards EU law, which violates fundamental rights, as well as both individual and national sovereignty," it said.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (20) [FONTE: Jornal Económico, 21/07/2022]

Governo português vai chumbar proposta de Bruxelas para reduzir consumo de gás natural

Portugal vai chumbar a proposta de Bruxelas para reduzir o consumo de gás natural nos estados-membros no próximo inverno. Este chumbo de Lisboa vai ser apresentado aos parceiros no conselho europeu da próxima semana, a 26 de julho, onde será debatido e votada a proposta apresentada pela Comissão Europeia para os países da UE reduzirem em 15% o consumo de gás no próximo inverno voluntariamente. Mas a proposta também prevê um corte obrigatório de 15% do gás natural, se se verificar que falta gás noutros países.

“Esse plano seja na versão voluntária ou na versão obrigatória é manifestamente desadequado da realidade portuguesa e é por essa razão que o Governo português esta completamente contra esta proposta da Comissão Europeia e irá opor-se”, disse ao JE o secretário de Estado da Energia.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (21) [FONTE: Jornal Económico, 21/07/2022]

“Num sistema não interligado, um consumidor ao poupar mais 10% ou 15% não vai estar disponibilizar este gás a outro consumidor; estou apenas a reduzir o consumo. Num país não-interligado, para o gás ficar disponível, tem que se organizar o transporte, que não existe, para outros países. Neste sentido, não tem em conta a realidade portuguesa”, afirma.

O responsável também destaca que a proposta também não tem em conta a realidade portuguesa noutro ponto. “Este ano tivemos um aumento de 67% do volume de gás face à média histórica dos últimos cinco anos só para consumo de eletricidade. Este ano, estaríamos a consumir mais 1,5 BCM [mil milhões de metros cúbicos] só para produção de eletricidade. Isto são consumos de gás que se revelaram necessários para garantir a segurança de abastecimento em termos de eletricidade”.

“Se tivéssemos que reduzir 15% face à média histórica dos últimos cinco anos, teríamos que anular o aumento deste ano, mais 15% da média histórica, tínhamos que reduzir o consumo de gás em dois BCM, o que equivaleria a quase 40% do nosso consumo histórico. Isso é impossível para qualquer país, mas ainda mais para um país que não depende do gás para aquecimento doméstico”, acrescenta.

O governante dá o exemplo de países do norte da Europa onde 40% a 50% do gás natural consumido serve para aquecer lares ou outros edifícios, face aos 10% de Portugal. “Há uma medida muito fácil de redução de consumo de gás: baixar o termostato, um, dois ou três graus, de 23 graus para 21 graus. E isso poupa uma catrefada de gás. Ora, não há termostato na indústria e na eletricidade: ou há gás ou não há gás”.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (22)

[FONTE: Expresso, 22/07/2022. FOTO: European Council Newsroom]

Corte de 15% do gás na Europa,
um acordo para todos os gostos:
Portugal consegue exceções, mas
não a isenção total



Os 27 chegaram a acordo para cortar 15% do consumo de gás até à primavera. Mas o compromisso fica marcado por várias exceções que se aplicam também a Portugal. No caso português, o corte deve ficar abaixo dos 7%. O governo quer ainda tirar partido do Porto de Sines para fornecer gás à Europa

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (23) [FONTE: Expresso, 22/07/2022]

O corte de 15% do consumo de gás na União Europeia é mesmo para avançar, de forma voluntária já a partir de 1 de agosto. No entanto, se isso não for suficiente para garantir a segurança energética europeia durante o Inverno, ou se Vladimir Putin mandar fechar a torneira do gás, o corte pode passar a obrigatório e praticamente todos os Estados-membros são chamados a reduzir o consumo.

O que há uma semana era inaceitável para Portugal, Espanha e mais de uma dezena de países, foi aceite esta terça-feira. O segredo do acordo está nas muitas exceções, isenções e derrogações inseridas no documento a pedido dos vários países, permitindo satisfazer e responder às preocupações de cada um. Se assim não tivesse sido, dificilmente se teria fechado o regulamento a tempo de poder começar a ser aplicado a partir de 1 de agosto. Falhar o entendimento significava uma vitória de Moscovo, e, por isso, a reunião arrancou com pressão acrescida para o compromisso.

A presidência checa da União Europeia, que geriu as negociações, congratulou-se com "uma missão que não foi impossível". Em cinco dias, conseguiu pegar na proposta da Comissão Europeia e reescreve-la de alto a baixo, acrescentando vários parágrafos e acomodando a vontade de todos. Manteve a meta de 15% para o corte de gás, mas alterou tudo o resto. A estratégia permitiu ir além da maioria qualificada necessária para a aprovação. Ao que o Expresso apurou, dos 27 países só a Hungria - que desta vez não tentou negociar qualquer exceção - esteve contra.

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (24) [FONTE: Expresso, 22/07/2022]

INVERNO RIGOROSO PODE NÃO ESTAR SALVAGUARDADO

E é aqui que se levanta uma segunda questão. O que é que acontece ao objetivo da Comissão de poupar 45 mil milhões de metros cúbicos de gás, essencial para salvaguardar um Inverno mais rigoroso? Nas contas da Comissão, estes 45 mil metros cúbicos eram conseguidos graças a uma redução global de 15%. Porém, com tantas exceções a Comissão terá de recalcular.

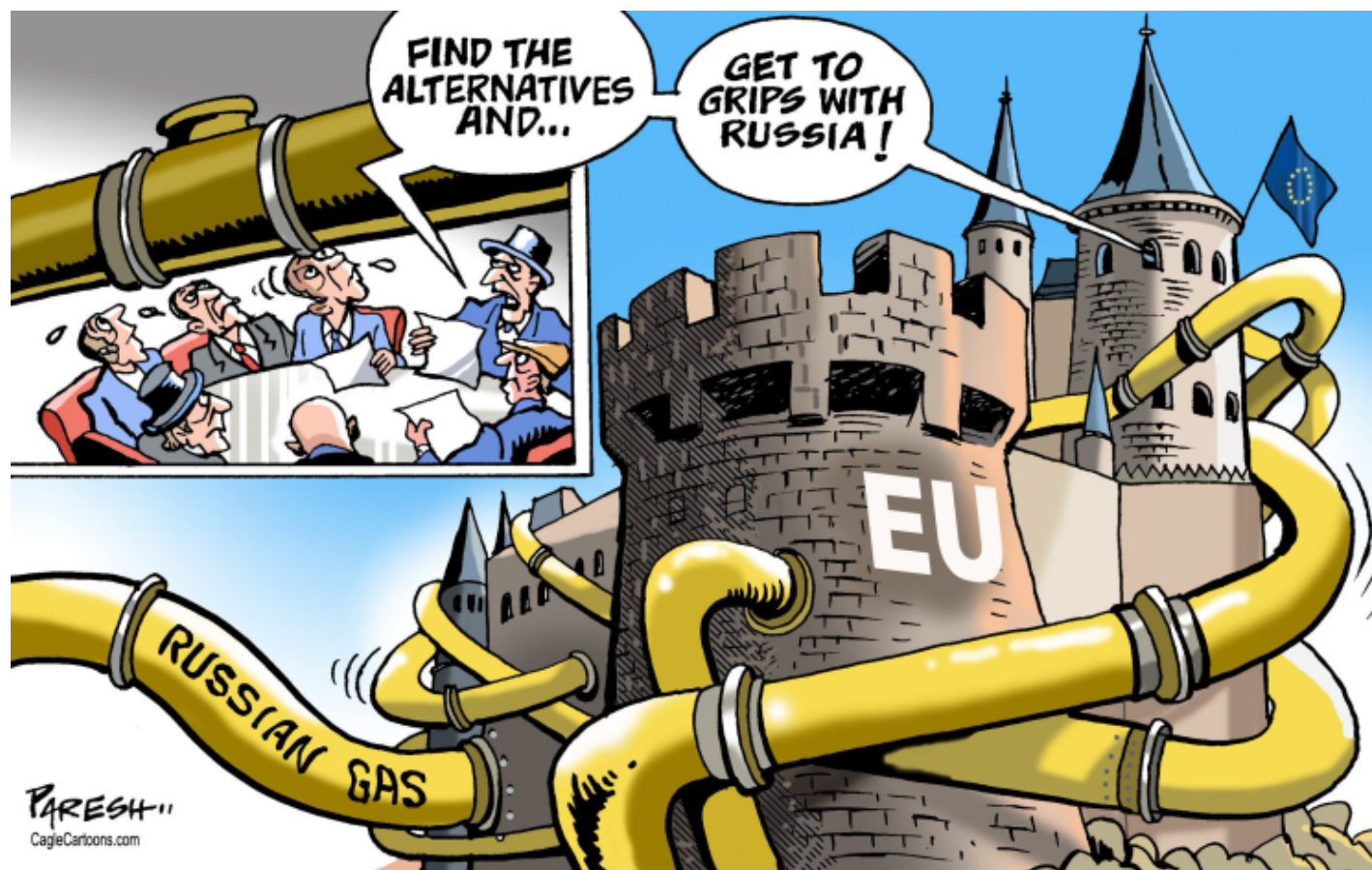
De acordo com a Comissão com a pasta da Energia, um "Inverno normal" exigiria uma poupança de 30 mil milhões de metros cúbicos, ao passo que um "Inverno frio" exigiria os tais 45 mil milhões. Kadri Simson adianta, ainda, que "os cálculos iniciais" indicam que mesmo com todas as exceções acionadas, os 27 poderiam poupar o suficiente "para ajudar a ultrapassar um Inverno normal". O que deixa antever que um Inverno longo e rigoroso pode fazer derrapar os planos.

Só que as exceções são o preço a pagar por um acordo europeu, forjado em menos de uma semana e que serve de resposta a Moscovo. Diz a ministra espanhola para a Transição Energética que é "uma mensagem clara de unidade face à chantagem energética de Putin". Teresa Ribera, que na semana passada acusava alguns países - leia-se Alemanha - de andarem a viver acima das possibilidades energéticas, vem agora aceitar o corte no consumo e uma possível partilha do gás com os países que mais precisam (os mesmos que, segundo ela, andaram a beneficiar dos baixos preços do gás russo).

Gás natural: o início das divisões europeias face às sanções à Rússia? (25)

[FONTE: Cartoon de Paresh /

Cagle cartoons, 2/05/2022]



Sugestões de leitura

