

ENERGY

LNG in Europe: Ready or Not?

by [Martin Armstrong](#), Nov 30, 2022

With the reliable supply of Russian gas to Europe a thing of the past since the eruption of [war in Ukraine](#), many European countries have been scrambling to find alternative sources of energy. Although the EU has agreed a plan to reduce natural gas consumption this winter by 15 percent compared to the past five year average, gas is not going to be abandoned as a source of energy any time soon.

One of Europe's answers to the crisis is the increase of [liquefied natural gas \(LNG\)](#) imports. Circumventing the use of pipelines from the east, LNG terminals open up a wider variety of potential suppliers. One of the main benefactors of this shift so far has been United States. In the first half of 2022, the U.S. became the [world's largest LNG supplier](#), with 71 percent of its exports going to the EU and the UK.

Germany, for example, which had developed a significant dependency on gas deliveries from Russia, has announced the construction of four LNG import terminals since the start of the war. As this infographic using Gas Infrastructure Europe [data](#) shows though, these will be the first terminals in the country. Where will the gas come from? In large part, Qatar. The state-owned Qatar Energy announced at the end of November that a deal had been struck with German firms, representing a 15-year deal to buy 2m tonnes of liquid gas. Deliveries will start from 2026, with the gas being sold by Qatar to the U.S. company [ConocoPhillips](#), before delivery to one of Germany's by-then-constructed terminals.

While this may serve as a medium-term solution, the use of liquefied natural gas is controversial. The German Federal Environment Agency claims that increased use of LNG, especially compared to gas transported via pipeline, cannot be justified from a climate policy and energy efficiency perspective. Nevertheless, the agency states that an expansion of LNG infrastructure over the course of the transition to cleaner energy could contribute to improved supply security as well as more competition.

**Martin Armstrong**

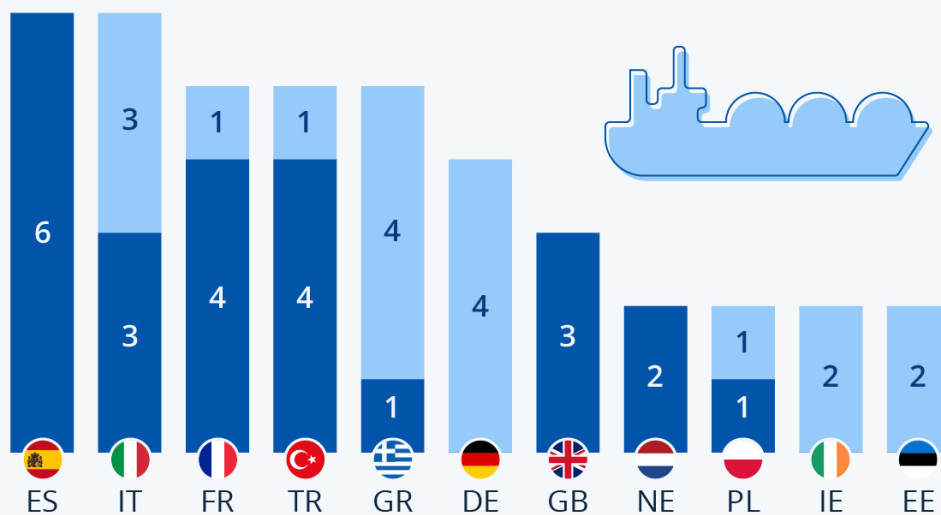
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European countries with the most operational/planned liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals (Nov. 2022)

■ Operational ■ Planned



Planned/under construction expansions of existing terminals not shown.
One of Greece's planned terminals is already under construction.

Source: Gas Infrastructure Europe

**statista****DESCRIPTION**

This chart shows the European countries with the most operational/planned liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals as of November 2022.

Report

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