



THE **ZURICH** CONFERENCE

NATO

Study Guide for Zurich Model United Nations

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Letter from the Chairs

Honorable delegates,

It is with great honor that we welcome you to NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We hope you understand that the topics of this committee are of utmost importance when bearing the current world scenario in mind. On one hand, you will tackle a historical topic embodied by the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and on the other hand, you will debate on how to adapt and overcome the long-term security threats posed by climate change and depletion of resources. You will deal with urgent matters while also arguing about past actions which should help you improve your critical thinking skills.

However, you should not only comprehend the topics, but also act in regards to it. During the conference, you will need to find diplomatic solutions that take into consideration both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 and the Charter of the United Nations from 1945. A quick overview on the aforementioned documents is recommended by the chairs for better preparation. Afterall, from you, delegates of NATO, nothing but detailed short-term and long-term solutions are expected. Do not write superficial clauses: make sure that you state how, and under which conditions the proposed solutions would take place. Remember to always defend your country's external policy, and facing the foundations of the topics, discuss them in cooperation with as many countries as possible: this is diplomacy.

Finally, the chairs must inform you: this guide should not and will not provide you with all the information you need to sustain a productive debate. Delegates are required to do their research separately so that they can, through their own effort, highlight themselves among the others. We are expecting your position papers with great enthusiasm and hope for a fruitful debate. Remember to debate with passion, raising your voices and your placards. And remember to enjoy the journey as much as you possibly can. We are looking forward to meeting you under such incredible circumstances! Do not hesitate to contact us in case in questions arise about the topics or the procedures. You can find our contact information below. Good luck!

Sincerely,

André Torreão
Chair, NATO

Sarah Luna Mongin
Chair, NATO

NATO – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

About NATO

NATO is a collective-defense alliance between thirty countries in Europe and North America. It sets a strong bond between these two continents, enabling them to consult and cooperate in the field of defense and security, and conduct multinational crisis-management operations together¹. The current Secretary-General is Jens Stoltenberg, former prime minister of Norway. As the principal spokesperson for the Organization, his main goal is to ensure that decisions are implemented².

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was at first a military alliance organized in Washington in 1949. It was originally signed by twelve countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They created the Organization as a response to World War II for mutual assurance and security in order to protect their democratic institutions against communist domination³. Nowadays, NATO holds thirty members including Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and North Macedonia (2020)⁴. NATO also has strong networks of partnerships. Through programs, training and consultations, the Organization helps its members build defense and reinforces their security institutions⁵.

Different structures are set in motion in order for NATO to reach its goals. Each member country has a delegation led by an ambassador (or permanent representative) who represents the country's government in the decision-making process and the consultations⁶. Each delegation has a military and political committee. The Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), which is one of NATO's delegations, acts upon nuclear matters between the Allies⁷. The NPG has the same authority as the North Atlantic Council (NAC), which is the principal political decision-making body of NATO, on nuclear power. Each representative of the thirty countries meets once a week or when needed in order to discuss current political or operational affairs⁸. NATO also holds a Military Committee composed of the Allied Command Operations and Allied

¹<https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html>

²https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50094.htm

³<https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/nato-the-21st-century-preparing-the-alliance-the-challenges-today-and-tomorrow>

⁴https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_52044.htm

⁵https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_84336.htm

⁶https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49205.htm

⁷https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50069.htm

⁸https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49763.htm

Command Transformations. As one of the oldest bodies of NATO, the Military Committee gives advice to the NAC and the NPG in regards to military policy and strategy. It provides a link between the political decision-making process of NATO and its military structures with the aim of translating the political guidance and decisions into military directions⁹.

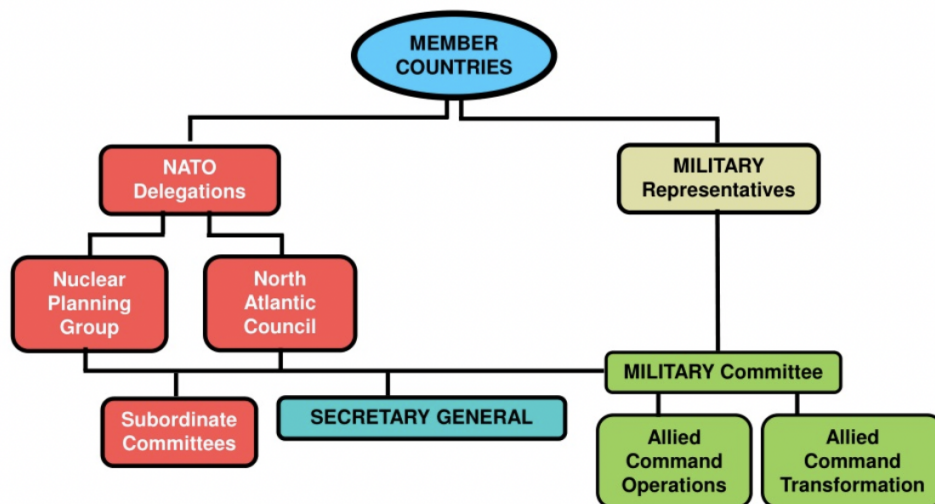


Figure 1: NATO's working structure

Lastly, NATO is financed in two different ways. The first one is through general NATO funds, which are given by member states and based on a formula set out according to each country's growth domestic product. For example, the United States, which is the strongest world economy, contributes to 22% of the funds and Germany, which also has a strong economy, contributes to 14%. In the end, however, every country ends up paying its share. The second stream of financing is through national contribution. Each country has to spend a certain amount of their budget on defense. Under the Trump administration, the United States threatened to leave NATO as not every country was respecting the given benchmark. Indeed, every country needs to spend 2% of their GDP on defense and, in addition, spend 20% of these 2% on actual military equipment. But many countries are struggling to reach that benchmark yet. In 2017, only five of the twenty-eight members were respecting the financial measures. Although it has kept increasing as in 2018 already eight countries were respecting the criterion¹⁰.

⁹https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49633.htm

¹⁰<https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/nato-the-21st-century-preparing-the-alliance-the-challenges-today-and-tomorrow>

Operations and Mandate

NATO's crisis-management operations are carried out under Art 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate. In 2018, NATO initiated a training mission in Iraq, which aims at developing the capacity of Iraq's security forces, its national and international defense as well as security institutions and academies. NATO also supports the African Union and conducts air policing missions on the request of its Allies. Furthermore, NATO is assisting with the response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe and has Patriot missiles and AWACS aircraft deployed in Turkey. It also carries out disaster relief operations and missions to protect populations against natural, technological, or humanitarian disasters. The tempo and diversity of operations and missions in which NATO is involved have increased since the early 1990s, as an example NATO is leading nowadays operations in Kosovo and the Mediterranean¹¹.

Functions

NATO's main goal is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. On the basis of trust, the organization is trying to build long term cooperation on defense and security in order to prevent conflicts. It is through a democratic process that decisions are made in consultation. All decisions are made by consensus under Art 4 of the Washington Treaty and any member countries can bring an issue to the attention of the North Atlantic Council and discuss it with the Allies.

*"The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened."*¹²

NATO focuses on crisis management whether before, during or after a crisis. Its military power is only deployed if diplomatic crisis-resolution is not achieved. NATO only acts upon the principle of collective defense explained under the Art 5 of the Washington Treaty:

"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security

¹¹https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_52060.htm

¹²https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.”¹³

Until now, Art 5 has only been invoked once after the 9.11 terrorist attacks which took place in the United States in 2001.

Recent History

NATO has been very successful between 1949 and 1991 while its main objective was to protect its members from the Soviet invasion. After the fall of the USSR, the necessity of NATO was questioned. This questioning stopped when, in 1995, NATO engaged in its first major crisis-management operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to help the country's reconstruction after the 1992-1995 war. In 2001, after invoking Art 5 for the first time, NATO developed a broader approach to security. The organization shifted its focus on “area operations” to protect territories out of Europe¹⁴. Under a United Nations Security Council mandate, NATO started to be present in the fight against Al Qaeda and the Taliban especially in Afghanistan. The main goal was to assist the Afghan government in maintaining security, originally in and around Kabul exclusively. In December 2014 the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces assumed full responsibility for security across their country¹⁵.

In 2010, NATO redefined its main tasks in the *2010 Strategic Concept* report. The focus is put on collective-defense, crisis-management, and cooperative security to adapt to the 21st century security challenges. More focus is put on climate change, the rise of technology and nuclear weapons:

“It commits NATO to the goal of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons – but reconfirms that, as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance”¹⁶.

¹³https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

¹⁴<https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/nato-the-21st-century-preparing-the-alliance-the-challenges-today-and-tomorrow>

¹⁵https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm

¹⁶https://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_publications/20120214_strategic-concept-2010-eng.pdf

Topic A – The Annexation of Crimea

Historical Background

During February 2014, anonymous pro-Russian militants seized public buildings in Crimea. Russia insisted they were not their soldiers until much later when Putin admitted Russian troops did help and led to the annexation of Crimea to Russia marking the biggest land-grab in Europe since the Second World War.

Putin's claim over Ukraine

Modern day Russia has its original roots in Ukraine, and to be more precise, in Kiev. In the Middle-Ages, from the 9th to the 13th century, Kiev was the first capital of Russia. In 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution gave rise to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which was established in 1922. Agreements between Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Transcaucasus (modern Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan) composed the USSR¹⁷. Russia and Ukraine thus shared the same culture and economy amidst Ukraine being a very resource-rich and industrious place. Nowadays, still 17% of the population is Russian and Russia has an important influence on the grounds. Indeed, Russia has a strong military navy base and 58% of the gas used in Ukraine comes from Russia. In order to prevent the West from expanding its influence in Ukraine, Putin offered advantageous measures to the Ukrainian government in 2010. These measures were: lowering gas prices, financial help but blocking Ukrainian exportation at the border. In spite of Putin's relentless efforts, the country has been closer and closer with the West, electing pro-western presidents and getting closer to a membership with NATO¹⁸.

When NATO was formed in 1949, its main purpose was to deter the Soviet Union from expanding. But the collapse of the USSR in 1991 brought each soviet republic to become independent even though they had strong cultural ties. Ex-Soviets countries started joining NATO and believing in western ideology and capitalism (you can find dates and countries in the first chapter).

Vladimir Putin sees the collapse of the USSR as the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century¹⁹. But Putin still views the region as the old cold war slavic empire. Like this:

¹⁷<https://dmerharyana.org/countries-in-soviet-union/>

¹⁸https://www.lemonde.fr/europe/video/2014/02/27/pourquoi-l-ukraine-est-elle-tiraillee-entre-europe-et-russie_4375125_3214.html

¹⁹<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-rues-soviet-collapse-demise-historical-russia-2021-12-12/>



Figure 1: The USSR or Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1924-1991²⁰

For the past decade, Putin has been trying to bring back Ukraine into Russia by sending secret soldiers into Ukraine to help people reunite with Russia. This behavior is one of the many causes of the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Revolution of Dignity

In November 2013, the pro-Russia president Viktor Yanukovych who is supported by Vladimir Putin refused to sign a planned association deal with the European Union leading to massive protests on the Maidan square also known as the Independence Square in Kyiv. The Euromaidan protests, also named the Revolution of Dignity led to the occupation of Kyiv's city hall. The wave of demonstrations continued, encompassing other cities and wider causes, including outcry against perceived government corruption and lack of accountability.

Between February 18 to 20, approximately 108 civilians were killed by police snipers. The brutal repression ordered by Yanukovych led him to flee the country in head towards Russia. Putin believed the coup to be backed by Western powers and that it was putting the ethnic Russians particularly in Crimea in danger. On 26 February 2014, 150'000 troops seized the parliament of the Crimean Peninsula and raised the Russian flag. A day after that they took control of two airports in the region.

On 1 March 2014, Putin won parliamentary approval to invade Ukraine, responding to what he called a threat to Russian lives. The Ukrainian interim president at the time, Oleksandr Turchynov considered the Russian behavior to be a direct aggression against Ukraine's

²⁰<https://chronicle-of-current-events.com/work-in-progress/russia-and-the-ussr/>

sovereignty. The US Secretary of State John Kerry condemned Russia and threatened economic sanctions in order to isolate Moscow²¹.

Crimea's annexation

In a matter of weeks Putin annexed the region and justified it as a rescue operation. He encouraged separatists from eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk to rebel against Ukraine's armed forces. On 16 March 2014, a disputed referendum – Western leaders claimed it was held in an intimidating atmosphere - found that an overwhelming number of voters in Crimea supported joining Russia – leading Putin to say that he would respect the people's wishes. Yet the vote was boycotted by many Crimean's loyal to Kyiv and condemned illegal by Western powers. On 17 March 2014, Crimea's parliament formally declared independence from Ukraine and asked to join the Russian Federation. The following day Putin signed a treaty of accession with Crimean leaders and declared that Russia was within its rights to reclaim Crimea.

On 24 March, the ruble was officially introduced and on 27 May it became the peninsula's only legal currency leaving thousands of. People without access to their savings, salaries, and pensions. A year and a half later, the ruble was worth about half of what it was before the annexation. On the evening of 30 March, the peninsula skipped forward two hours to formally join Moscow's time zone. The control of time and currency marked the symbol of the bigger shifts in the Crimean Peninsula.

On 7 April 2014, the separatists proclaimed the Donetsk People's Republic. The war in Donbass started and the entire region in eastern Ukraine became flooded with Russian soldiers.

On 11 April 2014, Crimean lawmakers voted to adopt a new, Kremlin-backed constitution which stipulated that Crimea would “be fully integrated into Russia” by 1 January, following a short transition period²².

²¹ <https://www.theweek.co.uk/news/world-news/russia/956112/a-timeline-of-crimeas-annexation>

²² <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>



Figure 18: The area of separatist control is approximate and reflects the state of things before the Feb. 24, 2022, invasion. Gray shading within Ukraine represents urban areas²³.

Ukraine's relationship with NATO

Ukraine and NATO's relationship started in 1992 when the Allies were contemplating adding central and Eastern Europe for the first time. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk visits NATO's headquarters in Brussels at the time but nothing changes in their status in regards to NATO. Years later in 2008 pro-democracy leader Yushchenko who was elected in 2004 attempts for Ukraine to join NATO. Along with vice-president Tymoshenko, they requested that Ukraine be granted a "membership action plan" as the first step in joining the alliance. The US President at the time George W. Bush supported Ukraine's membership, but France and Germany were opposed to it after Russia voiced against it. In April later that year NATO responded with a compromise promising that Ukraine would one day be part of the alliance but did not put a specify how or when. In February 2010, Yanukovych was elected president and claimed that Ukraine should remain a "neutral state" cooperating with both Russia and Western alliances like NATO. Cooperation has been intensified in 2014 in critical area²⁴.

²³ <https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2022/02/24/1082795427/photos-show-the-calamity-as-russia-invades-ukraine?t=1646317957182>

²⁴ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37750.htm

Expectations & guiding questions

This topic will be placed in a historical setting. You need to place yourself back to the situation that happened in 2014. What you will be expected to discuss is the situation in Donetsk and Luhansk region following the annexation of Crimea. You will also discuss the ambiguous status of Ukraine regarding NATO and Russia's behavior and influence in the Crimean Peninsula. You need to forget everything you saw these past weeks and place you and your country back in time. What would you have done?

Remember, history is written by the victors, so you need to condone your research keeping that in mind. Who are the stakeholders? What role do they play in the field? Who are they influenced by?

With regards to *Topic A – The annexation of Crimea*, the chairs would like to propose some questions that the delegates' research preparation should answer.

To which Block does your country belong to?

Does your country find economic sanctions adequate?

What is the opinion of your country on state sovereignty?

What is the opinion of your country on Ukraine entering NATO?

What consequences would it entail if Ukraine was joining NATO?

Would there be any consequences on your alliance with NATO and its members?

What kind of relationship does your country entertain with Russia?

What impact military actions had on the situation in Crimea and could potentially have in the Donetsk and Luhansk region?

How would your country react in case these regions were annexed? Would a specific alliance be formed?

Are there any important resources in the Crimean Peninsula?

Why is Putin interested in the Crimean Peninsula, what is his claim over the territory?

Topic B – Re-evaluating the energy security of NATO's infrastructure and military in response to current and future challenges

What makes a country and its allies strong? How can its defenses be trustworthy? That is a matter of stability. A country that can guarantee that its forces are strong under any circumstances is a strong country, for it cannot be destabilized.

When one thinks about stability of an army, one must probably consider the number of men or how much the government is able to spend on weapons and cutting-edge technology. These are likely the most important factors, in a superficial analysis. However, an army that relies on technology for the logistics, maintenance and security of its troops automatically depends on what makes the technology work: fuel. Simply put, any army nowadays that does not fight with spears mounting on horses is completely dependent on energy sources to function. Therefore, if those energy sources fail, so does the security of the country. And, over the last few years, the instability of energy sources has been a major topic of discussion with emerging economic and environmental problems that concern the supply of energy. How can NATO prepare to guarantee it's the stability of its armies and security of its countries in the long run? Now, it's time to understand more about this urgent and unpopular topic.

Historical background

Information about non-renewable/renewable energy sources

The definition of a renewable energy source is straightforward. Deriving energy from the Earth requires a given input: light, heat, organic matter, or many other varied possibilities. An energy source is renewable when its inputs are naturally produced in large scale by the Earth and/or abundant enough for their use by humans to be considered negligible. These include solar energy, biomass, hydropower, geothermal and wind power. Non-renewable energy, on the other hand, relies on finite resources like oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear power. Once they are used, they can no longer be replaced in a rate that is high enough to avoid depletion. Plus, it also accelerates climate change on Earth.

It is estimated²⁵ that without a drastic change in how we use fossil fuels, they could be completely depleted within the next generation's lifetime. Yet, we have a very high dependence on them. For example, the US relies on fossil fuels for 80% of all energy consumed. This is too high to risk such a quick depletion of energy resources, which would absolutely destroy our energy system.

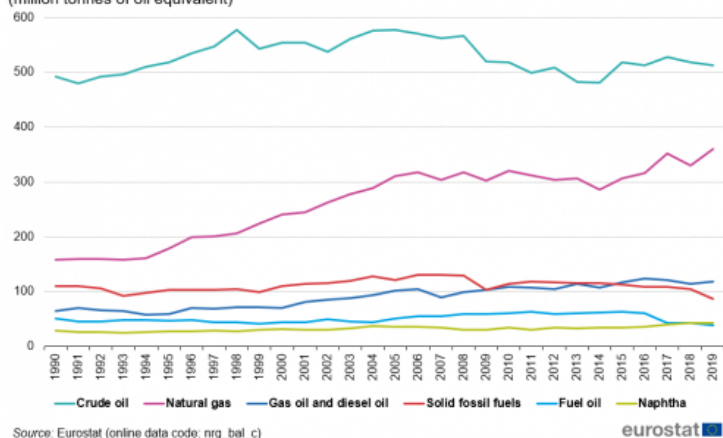
²⁵ <https://justenergy.com/blog/just-the-facts-renewable-energy-vs-nonrenewable-energy/>

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (2020), renewable energy is getting cheaper compared to fossil fuels. In fact, wind and solar powers are currently the most affordable energy sources in the market. Replacing coal for the aforementioned renewable energies could up to \$23 billion in annual power system costs, as *Just Energy* states. However, it must be stated that there are considerable negative points concerning renewable energies, such as the effect of seasonal variations, high initial investment requirements, noise and visual pollution.

Deals concerning energy supply

For many years after the industrial revolution, the main energy source in Europe was coal, being extracted locally or internationally. Each country or company would figure out where they wished to buy coal from. With time, however, the economic pressure of getting cheaper fuel (oil, coal, natural gas) from other countries led many countries in NATO to switch their energy systems to rely on imported fuels. This led to a rapid increase of imports of fuel from countries such as Venezuela, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and others. Meanwhile, there would be increased investment in the developing of sustainable and innovative energy sources in the countries that were now importing fuel.

Imports of selected energy products, EU, 1990-2019
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



U.S. petroleum consumption, production, imports, exports, and net imports, 1950-2020

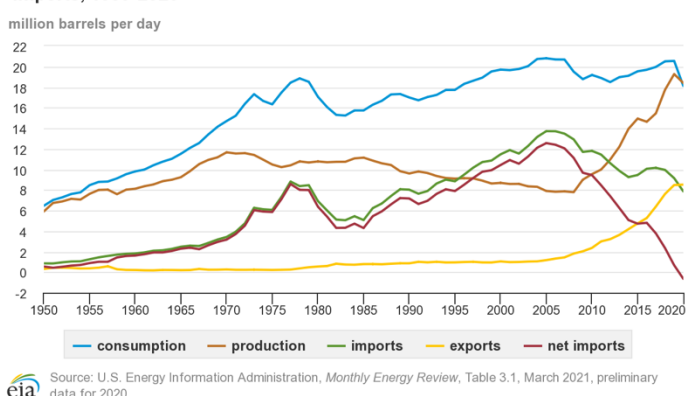


Figure 1: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Energy_statistics_-_an_overview#Imports_and_exports

Figure 2: <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/oil-and-petroleum-products/imports-and-exports.php>

Disclaimer: the phenomenon described above is a generalization of the energy sector developments in NATO countries and in no way substitutes research about a given country's own energy supply history. Neither do increase fuel imports mean that a country is not producing fuel.

Nord Stream 1 & Nord Stream 2: why are they important?

Nord Stream is a gas pipeline that connects Russia to Europe across the Baltic Sea. It was designed so that Gazprom, a Russian company that is partly controlled by the government, could have direct access to its market in Europe and decrease costs. It is, by far, one of the most important ways for the supply of natural gas in Europe and is key for NATO's energy security. Germany, in particular, is the biggest buyer of Russian gas in the world and has signed its first contract with former USSR as German Democratic Republic in 1968.

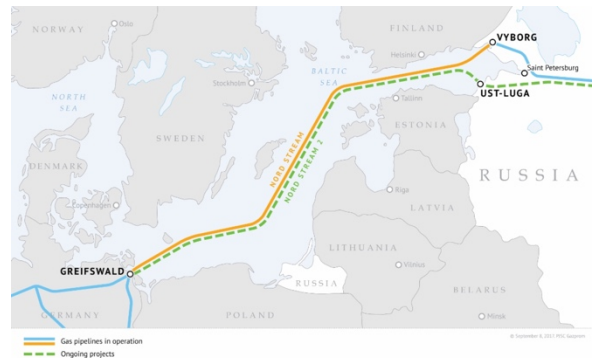


Figure 3: <https://www.gazprom.com/projects/nord-stream/>

In September 2018, the construction of Nord Stream 2 was commenced. However, the pipeline has recently been subject of conflict between Germany and the US. As tensions between Russia and Ukraine increase, the dependency of Germany's energy in regards to Russian supply has been seen by Washington as a way of granting political leverage for Moscow in Europe. Furthermore, Ukraine and Poland, allies of NATO, have formally opposed the use of the pipeline and pressured Berlin to halt it as soon as possible. However, Germany has no other partners than Russian that can meet its needs.²⁶ Without that natural gas, Germany's national security will inevitably be vulnerable. What could be done it regards to this standoff?

Environmental awareness in NATO

Like many other organizations, NATO has grown aware of the environmental catastrophe slowly and has put in practice many initiatives that are questionable in terms of results. Nonetheless, it has become increasingly clear that not only NATO but also any other country on Earth relies on renewable and sustainable energy sources to ensure a prosperous future. In terms of environmental initiatives, it is more effective to let NATO's website timeline speak for itself, you can find the link in the *further research* section.

²⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/25/ukraine-russia-what-is-nord-steam-2-and-why-is-it-contentious>

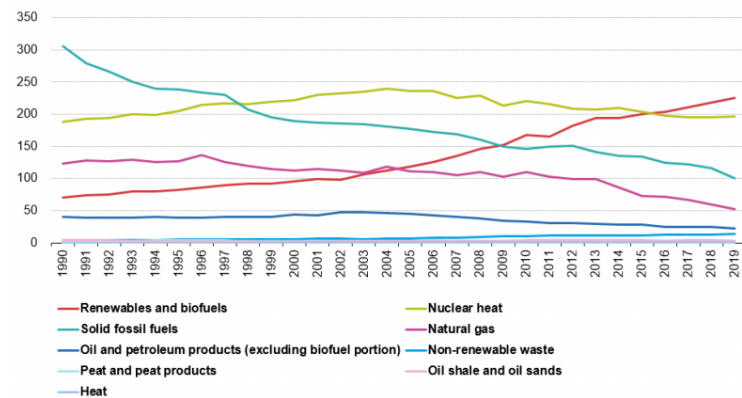
Current situation

Energetic matrix in (some) NATO countries

When analyzing the energy security of NATO, the most important things to be considered are the components of the energetic matrix of member countries, i.e., where does their energy come from. This subtopic will be mostly descriptive, as the interpretation of the information is expected from the delegates as a critical thinking exercise. The diagrams regarding the EU were taken from Eurostat²⁷. Those from the US were taken from EIA²⁸.

Production of energy by European countries (left) and consumption energy in the EU including imported resources (right):

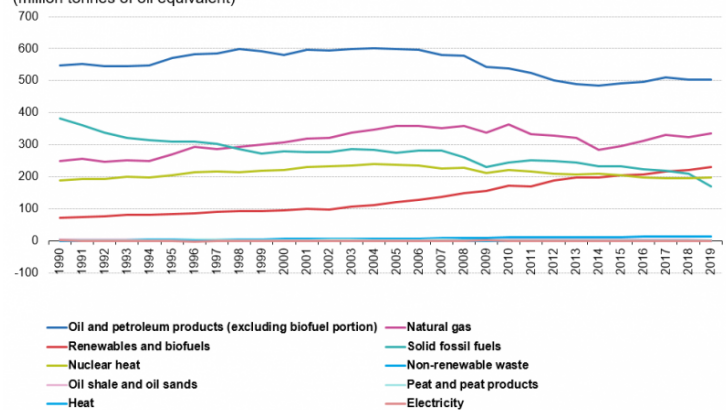
Primary energy production by fuel, EU, 1990-2019
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_c)

eurostat

Gross inland energy consumption by fuel, EU, 1990-2019
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_c)

eurostat

²⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Energy_statistics_-_an_overview#Imports_and_exports

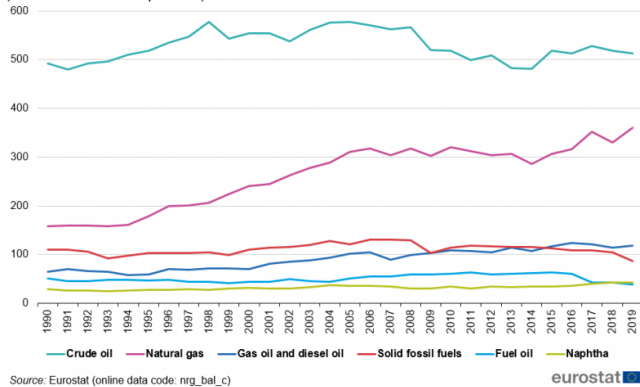
²⁸ <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/>



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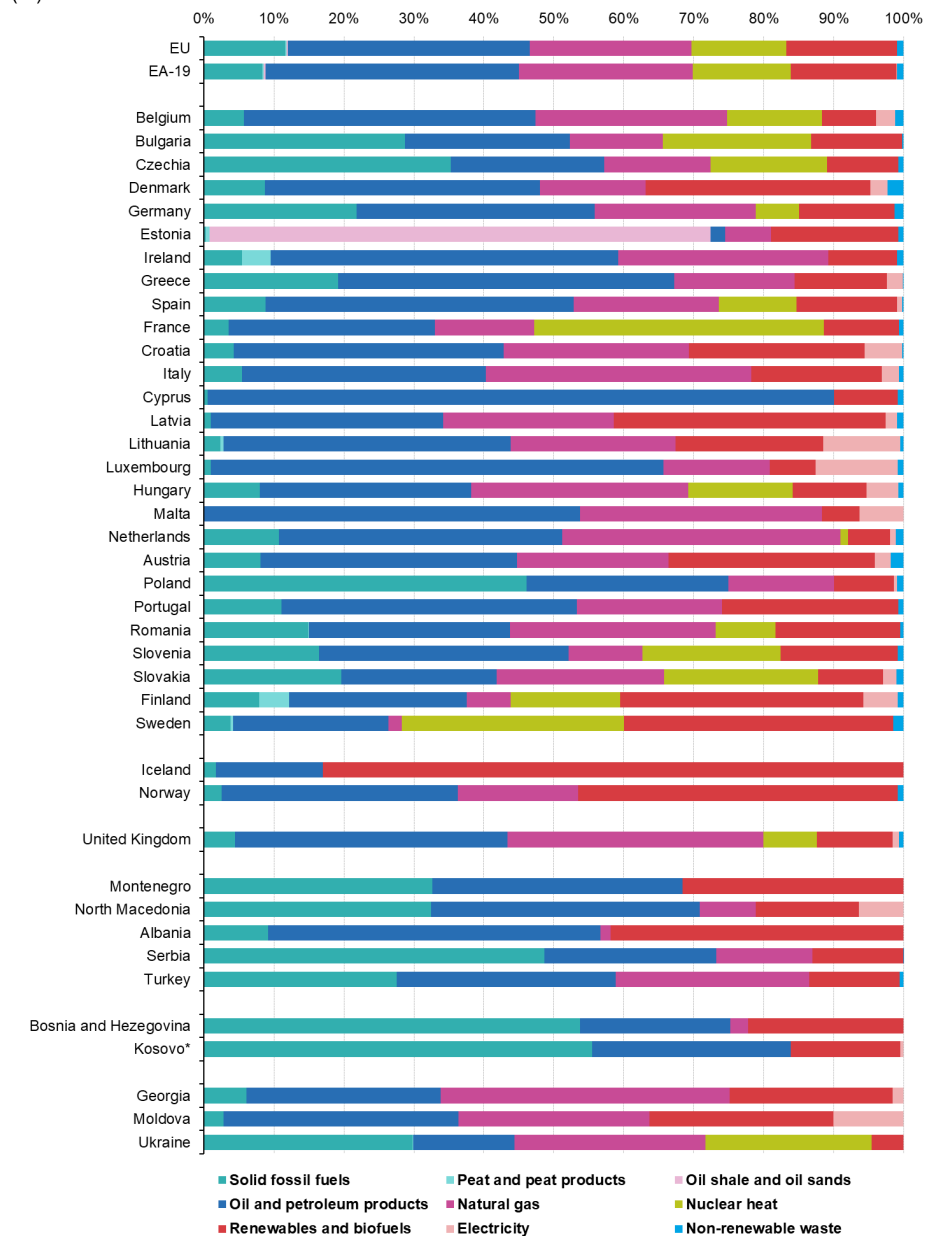
Imports:

Imports of selected energy products, EU, 1990-2019
(million tonnes of oil equivalent)



Energy consumption in each country in the EU

Gross inland energy consumption by fuel, 2019
(%)



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_c)

eurostat

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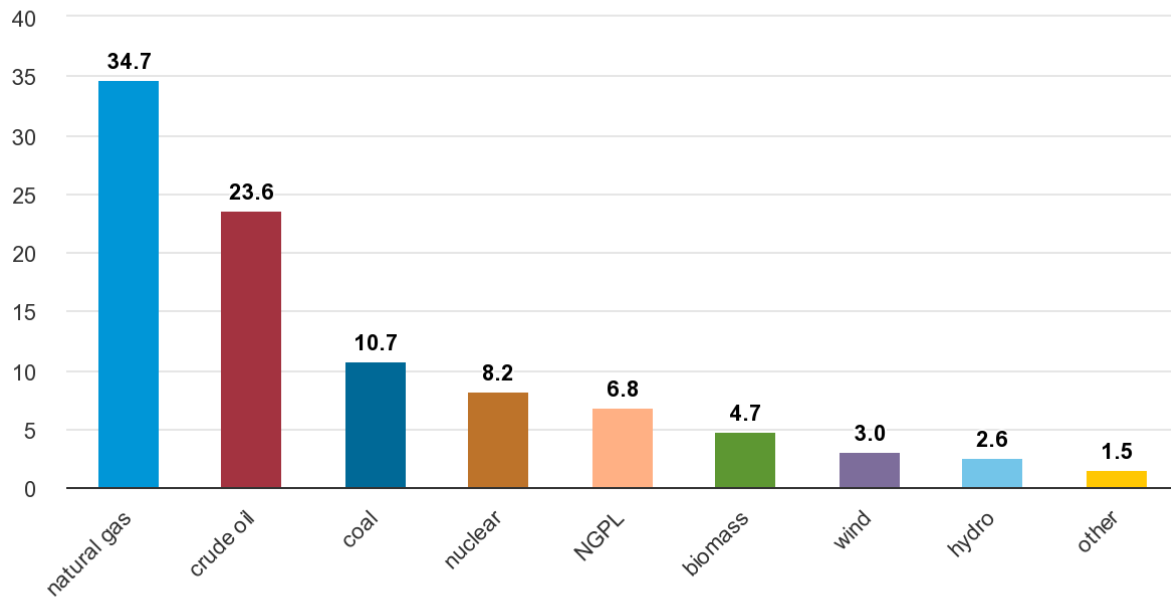
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US energy production:

U.S. primary energy production by major sources, 2020

quadrillion British thermal units



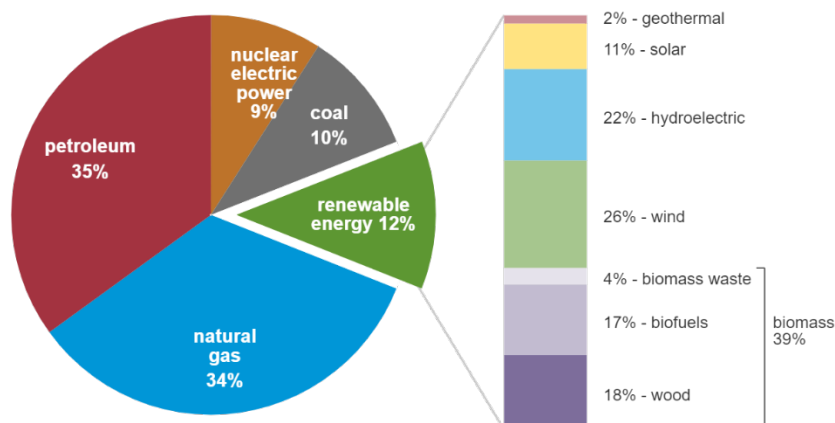
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, April 2021, preliminary data
Note: NGPL is natural gas plant liquids; other is geothermal and solar; hydro is conventional hydroelectric.

US energy consumption:

U.S. primary energy consumption by energy source, 2020

total = 92.94 quadrillion
British thermal units (Btu)

total = 11.59 quadrillion Btu



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.3 and 10.1, April 2021, preliminary data
Note: Sum of components may not equal 100% because of independent rounding.

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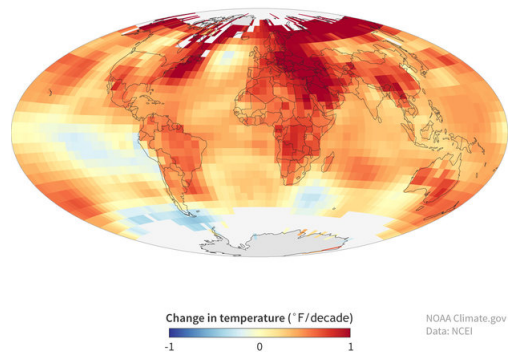
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Climate change and resource depletion

Since 1880, Earth's temperature has risen by about 0.08°C per decade.²⁹ This endangers not only life on land and in the sea, but also puts the whole future geographical organization of humanity at stake, with up to 1.2 billion people estimated to be displaced by 2050³⁰. Hence, it is of utmost importance to guarantee that energy sources that emit greenhouse gases are increasingly avoided through active efforts by countries worldwide. In the image below, it is possible to notice that some of the most significant temperature changes have occurred in territories under the rule of NATO member countries:

RECENT TEMPERATURE TRENDS (1990-2020)



Hence, NATO has, indeed, a big share of the responsibility to prevent a climate catastrophe. Nonetheless, the problem is not limited to long term, environmental, near-apocalyptic effects: there is also a very significant energy security concern behind the use of non-renewable energy sources, the resource depletion. If the energy supply is limited to a considerable extent to resources that are being rapidly depleted and are causing a climate crisis, then the chances of having an energy crisis and a climate catastrophe simultaneously are real. Therefore, climate change and resource depletion combined are one of the most important problems to be solved when discussing energy security. Yet, countries seem to continuously ignore this potentially devastating issue. Plus, the depletion is much more severe than imagined by common sense, making the problem much more urgent. According to Octopus Energy³¹, all of our known fossil fuel reserves should run out by 2052 if we maintain our current pace. Additionally, other fuels such as coal and natural gas should also be gone by 2060, making an average of two thirds of the current energy sources worldwide critically unavailable.

²⁹<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature#:~:text=Earth's%20temperature%20has%20risen%20by,land%20areas%20were%20record%20warm.>

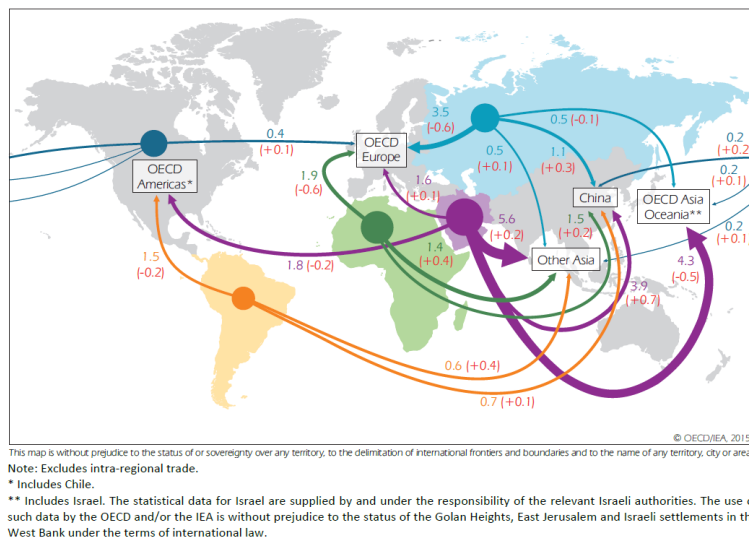
³⁰<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/09/climate-crisis-could-displace-12bn-people-by-2050-report-warns>

³¹<https://octopus.energy/blog/when-will-fossil-fuels-run-out/#:~:text=If%20we%20keep%20burning%20fossil,will%20be%20depleted%20by%202060.>

Dependence on other countries

It is important to remark that oil, natural gas and coal are resources that are spread out through the world in a heterogenous way, and, as a result, only some countries possess it. This is why there is a huge demand for such imports in many countries, especially in those whose fuel supply comes exclusively from foreign countries. However, since oil has proven itself to be an absolute necessity for practically all countries (especially in regards to the army and the economy), a relation of dependence was created. In the map below, provided by the International Energy Agency, it is possible to see the oil trade worldwide:

Map 3.1 Crude exports in 2020 and growth in 2014-20 for key trade routes



It goes without saying that this dependence on other countries poses a very significant security threat, given that a country may arbitrarily stop the fuel supply to another country and create an energy crisis whenever it wishes. This would also lower the risk of retaliation, as the consequent rationing of energy sources would compromise the army's ability to operate efficiently.

Europe, above all other Non-European member states of NATO, is at stake. It can be seen in the map, in the aforementioned data and in the section that concerns Nord Stream 1 & 2 that most of the fuel consumed in Europe is imported from Russia, Africa and the Middle East. Remarkably, none of these countries is considered to be a very close ally from NATO. Hence, there is absolutely no guarantee that they would continue to supply these indispensable resources to Europe in the event of a conflict. And there is hardly anything that NATO could do to get those resources without aggravating this given conflict.

Therefore, a re-evaluation of the energetic matrix of NATO is absolutely urgent as to avoid the scenario described above, especially in these times of increasing global tension.

Initiatives & emerging and disruptive technologies (EDT)

Nonetheless, NATO has been conducting efforts to change this situation and rely on energy sources that are sustainable and owned by member countries and/or close allies. It is also very important to state that such initiatives are primarily a responsibility of national governments, but it is highly beneficial that NATO creates a coordinated plan of action. Here is an extract from NATO's official website regarding this matter:

“Energy security plays an important role in the common security of NATO Allies. The disruption of energy supply could affect security within the societies of NATO member and partner countries and have an impact on NATO's military operations. While these issues are primarily the responsibility of national governments, NATO Allies regularly consult on energy security to enhance Allied awareness and resilience. NATO seeks to enhance its strategic awareness of energy developments with security implications; develop its capacity to support the protection of critical energy infrastructure; and ensure reliable energy supplies to the military.”³²

Currently, NATO focuses on protecting critical energy infrastructure on its territory and organizes strong logistical operations to guarantee energy supply to the military. However, as mentioned above, this is not enough for an efficient energy security policy. This is why NATO has some initiatives that try to promote innovation and a response to this crisis. These include, but are not limited to, Science for Peace and Security (SPS), the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), and the Smart Energy initiative.

As a key facet of the NATO 2030, the development of Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDTs) is a significant priority of the Allies and, for NATO, is mainly focused on making military technologies more sustainable and efficient. Nonetheless, the current action is focused on seven main points:

1. artificial intelligence (AI);
2. data and computing;
3. autonomy;
4. quantum-enabled technologies;
5. biotechnology and human enhancements;
6. hypersonic technologies;
7. space.

³² https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49208.htm

It is remarkable that energy security is not included in the list, being limited to selected projects such as the Smart Energy initiative. Is NATO giving energy security the attention and dedication it requires?

Expectations & guiding questions

As in the welcoming letter, delegates are expected to propose specific solutions within their external policies. A detailed understanding of their countries' involvement and plan of action regarding the topic is crucial and knowledge about the involvement of other countries is highly recommended. A useful methodology to compose a plan of action is called 5W2H. It proposes a reflection on 7 basic questions that every plan should answer:

- What?
- Why?
- When?
- Where?
- Who?
- How?
- How much?

Every solution proposed within the committee is expected to answer at least these seven questions. Otherwise, opposing delegates are very likely to completely undermine the proposing delegation by stating that the proposed solutions are vague and use it as an example to state that the submitters are unprepared/unwilling to cooperate.

With regards to *Topic B – Re-evaluating the energy security of NATO's infrastructure and military in response to current and future challenges*, the chairs would like to propose some questions that the delegates' research preparation should answer.

What is the energy matrix of your country?

Where do main energy resources come from in your country? Are there significant imports/exports regarding energy supply? If yes, how much does your economy depend on them?

What kind of alliances/decisions has your country made that could directly or indirectly affect their energy supply?

How does your country contribute to NATO's innovation efforts?

What is your country's external policy with regards to innovations that concern energy sources? How much does it spend in such innovation?

How dependent is your country's energy supply on other countries?

What could your country do to improve their energy policy and become more sustainable?



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Are there any ongoing sustainability projects in your country? If yes, how could they possibly related to other countries' projects?

How does the geography and location of your country influence its energy matrix? Is your country a producer of resources that generate energy? Are there any unexplored resources?

How much does your country depend on fossil fuels? What could you do, with and without NATO support, to decrease the consumption of fossil fuels without harming the economy and the energy supply to the army?

Are there any official declarations of your country's future moves with regards to energy security? If yes, do they concern more countries?

How does/how could the current conflicts in Ukraine affect your countries' energy supply and make it vulnerable in the event of a World War? How can NATO, as an alliance, prevent this vulnerability?

What plausible solutions are there for the resolution of this topic? Brainstorm them.

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Further research

There are many ways that the delegates can improve their research and they should receive individual recognition for doing so. Nonetheless, there are always some sources that the chairs can recommend for further research.

Topic A

Relationship between Ukraine and Russia:

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>

Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation:

https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/41036701.pdf?casa_token=3nqdNstPdm4AAAAA:2icDHBjRvToNzX8mCMFJz-erEUBNwtirRLaRdgB-x1j61lim7iQS9u2EZDCsK2m7Agy-ij8qPGDKlnpPW2n-wTwcnmhBplwkqy_otFwAw9wwlGwmQ

History of Crimea:

<https://www.history.co.uk/article/10-facts-about-russias-history-with-crimea>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Crimea/History>

Topic B

Environment, climate change and security within NATO:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_91048.htm?

Transformation of Europe's power system until 2050, including specific considerations for Germany [PDF, 72 pages]:

https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/mckinsey/dotcom/client_service/epng/pdfs/transformation_of_europes_power_system.ashx

Europe's energy security worries NATO amid standoff with Russia [News report]:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/30/nato-europe-energy-security-ukraine-russia>

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<https://justenergy.com/blog/just-the-facts-renewable-energy-vs-nonrenewable-energy/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DlSoeWEefI>

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37750.htm

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-timeline-idUSBREA270PO20140308>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26248275>

https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Timeline_of_the_annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation

<https://www.theweek.co.uk/news/world-news/russia/956112/a-timeline-of-crimeas-annexation>