
Securing gas supplies

Sir, While control over the gas pricing mechanism is a significant ongoing ideological fight, the importance of the security of supply should not be forgotten ("Sellers on the spot as a gas war is set to erupt", Carl Mortished, World Business Briefing, Oct 15). It is with the objective of maintaining a flow of energy to consumers across the EU that the European Commission has been required to propose a regulation on the security of gas supplies.

Given the EU's dependence on gas imports (60 per cent of consumption), market players need to be able to deal with a supply disruption. They also need to avoid unilateral action that may aggravate the overall situation.

To respond properly, the EU will require sufficient infrastructure, market transparency and proactive demand management. If the market is unable to solve the impasse, then and only then do the authorities need to step in.

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