Assessing the Climate Commitments of the European Union in Energy Challenges Due to the Russia-Ukraine War 2022

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji komitmen iklim di Uni Eropa selama perang Rusia-Ukraina tahun 2022. Uni Eropa sebagai organisasi internasional yang proaktif dalam pengelolaan iklim global, telah melakukan berbagai upaya melalui mekanisme perumusan dan penerapan kebijakan, dan strategi, serta dengan memainkan peran penting dalam negosiasi iklim internasional. Namun, Perang Rusia-Ukraina telah memengaruhi keamanan energi dan agenda transisi energi di Uni Eropa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan metode analisis studi kasus, dengan sumber data sekunder yang diperoleh melalui teknik pengumpulan library research. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian, digunakan kerangka konsep 'environmental security' *untuk menganalisis respons energi di Uni Eropa yang didasarkan pada pertimbangan-pertimbangan perlindungan lingkungan, yang kemudian menggambarkan komitmen iklim di Uni Eropa selama Perang Rusia-Ukraina. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa meskipun terdapat langkah-langkah yang dinilai dapat mengorbankan upaya mitigasi iklim Uni Eropa dalam jangka pendek. Namun, secara keseluruhan respons energi yang dilakukan Uni Eropa untuk menghindari negara-negara anggotanya dari krisis energi tetap menunjukkan komitmen yang kuat dalam perjuangan melawan perubahan iklim global.*

Kata Kunci: Climate Change; Energy; European Union; 'environmental security.

Abstract

This research examines the European Union's (EU) climate commitments during the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022. EU as a proactive international organisation in global climate management, has made various efforts through policy and strategy formulation and implementation mechanisms, as well as by playing an important role in international climate negotiations. However, the Russia-Ukraine War has affected the EU's energy security and energy transition agenda. This research uses a qualitative approach and case study analysis method, with secondary data sources obtained through library research collection techniques. To answer the research questions, the conceptual framework of 'environmental security' *is used to analyse the energy response in the EU based on environmental protection considerations, which then illustrates the climate commitments in the EU during the Russia-Ukraine War. The research found that while some of these measures may come at the expense of the EU's climate mitigation efforts in the short term, the EU's overall energy response to avoid an energy crisis in its member states still demonstrates a strong commitment to the fight against global climate change.*

Keywords: Climate Change; Energy; European Union; 'environmental security'.

Introduction

The EU is one of the international organisations at the forefront of policies to combat global climate change. This is evidenced by the EU's contribution to global climate finance as the world's largest donor. In 2021, the EU contributed around €23.04 billion to the fight against climate change outside Europe (European Commission n.d.). Then, at the end of 2021, European Commission President Von Der Leyen added €4 billion to the EU budget for climate finance until 2027. This large budget makes the EU the largest donor to action against climate change globally (European Commission n.d.). Global climate change is the condition of long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns across the Earth. These changes include warming temperatures that have the effect of warming the earth as a whole (United Nations n.d.). Climate change is caused by global warming due to adverse human activities, such as the use of fossil fuels, cutting down trees in forests and farming cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, as well as other activities that can release large amounts of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. This causes the Earth's temperature to rise and drives global climate change (Reddy 2015).

By far, the main cause of global climate change is the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which account for more than 75 per cent of global GHG emissions (Osman et al. 2023). The world's seven largest emitters are China, the United States, India, the European Union, Indonesia, Russia and Brazil, which accounted for about half of all global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 (United Nations Environment Programme 2020). Nonetheless, among the world's largest emitters, the EU is the international organisation at the forefront of the fight against climate change. The EU has made a series of policies in the fight against climate change, including referring to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) Article 11 and Articles 191 to 193. Article 11 states that *"Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting* sustainable *development*" (European Council 1957).

Then, more details are set out in Articles 191 to 193, as Cifuentes argues that the fight against climate change is an explicit objective listed in Article 191 TFEU. Furthermore, Articles 191 to 193 TFEU also support the EU's participation at the international level to address environmental issues, in particular to combat climate change, through cooperation with other countries and international organisations (Cifuentes-Faura 2022). In the fight against climate change, the EU is faced with various challenges, both from internal and external aspects of the EU. For internal aspects, the EU has complex institutional characteristics and the diversity of its member states, so that each policy set requires adjustments from various sides,

including different levels of wealth and economic size, interests, visions, and domestic political situations. This diversity sometimes creates contradictions, so it requires a strong sense of unity so that member states have the will to act collectively (Rayner, et al. 2023). The external challenge is related to the political will of countries around the world to adhere to climate agreements responsibly, as addressing climate change requires a concerted multilateral response. In reality, a country's political priorities often marginalise the climate change agenda. For example, the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in November 2020 was a setback in the fight against global climate change. The US stance has hindered international efforts to fight climate change and made the goal of achieving global carbon emission reduction targets more difficult. Moreover, the US is one of the world's highest emitters (Jackson 2020).

Moreover, in a global system interconnected with other international actors and agendas, the EU's climate change policy is also challenged by a dynamic international political landscape that often poses obstacles to achieving the targets in its climate change policy. Among the challenges faced, the most severe one is the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine War in early 2022. The Russia-Ukraine War has led the EU to issue a new energy response that affects its climate change commitments. This is because the EU is highly dependent on Russian fossil fuels. At the time of the Russian War on Ukraine, Russia was the largest exporter of oil and natural gas to the EU. According to European Commission data, in 2021, the EU's energy supply from Russia accounted for more than 40% of gas imports, 46% of coal imports and 27% of oil imports (European Commission 2022c). The Russia-Ukraine war has led to less energy to the EU-this is because in response to Russia's attacks, the EU and its member states imposed massive sanctions on Russia, including on its fossil energy products. As of June 2022, the EU has banned the import of trans-sea crude oil and refined oil products from Russia. This covers almost 90% of Russian oil imports to Europe by the end of 2022 (European Council 2022). In addition to oil, the EU also imposed an import ban on all forms of Russian coal. These measures are intended to suppress Russia's income from energy exports that were used to finance the war in Ukraine. In response to the EU sanctions, Russia stopped gas supplies to several EU member states, including Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, and the Netherlands, and closed the Nord Stream 1 pipeline indefinitely since 2 September 2022 (Kuzemko et al. 2022).

The cut-off of Russian gas supplies to the EU could affect the EU's climate change commitments, this is because gas is energy identified as a transition fuel in the EU's process towards transitioning to renewable energy. Therefore, the EU continues to transition from coal and oil to gas energy because it emits fewer emissions than other fossil fuels.

The reduction of gas to the EU has led EU countries to increase their coal production again, which has the potential to increase emissions to the atmosphere and threaten the achievement of climate change policy targets agreed in various EU climate commitments (Chestney 2022). Therefore, the EU needs to take the right energy response to prevent its member states from an energy crisis due to war while maintaining its climate change commitments. This research seeks to assess the EU's climate commitments amidst the energy challenges posed by the Russia-Ukraine War in 2022. This is because the issue of energy security has always been closely linked to the global fight against climate change, and slowing the rate of climate change requires comprehensive decarbonisation through a fundamental reorganisation of energy supply (Arndt 2023). As a proactive organisation in the global climate fight, the EU is an important unit of analysis as it has a significant role in leading global efforts to address climate change. Therefore, EU commitments can influence the dynamics of the global agenda in the fight against climate change. To understand this, this research examines the energy response and climate commitments in the EU from the start of the Russia-Ukraine War in 2022 until December 2022. In doing so, this research will reveal how the EU's climate commitments have fared amidst the energy challenges posed by the Russia-Ukraine War in 2022.

Conceptual Foundation

To obtain the research results, the researcher uses the concept of "environmental security" to review whether the EU's climate commitments during the 2022 Russia-Ukraine War have regressed or not. In general, there is no agreed definition of the concept of 'environmental security', but according to Simon Dalby, the concept of 'environmental security' focuses on the ecological conditions necessary for sustainable development. The concept includes a discussion of the relationship between environmental change and conflict, as well as larger global policy issues that link resources and international relations to the need to conduct development and security differently with an eye to future environmental impacts (Dalby 2010). Based on the concept of 'environmental security', the author tries to explain that the EU's climate commitment during the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 shows the implications of an energy response based on 'environmental security' considerations that illustrate the situation of climate change commitments in the European Union amid the energy challenges faced.

As Braden R. Allenby argues, international actors' responses are potentially influenced by 'environmental security' concepts, such as foreign policy, security policy, environmental policy, and science and technology policy (Allenby 2000). However, as 'environmental security' is a broad and

complex field, one way to generate an analytical framework that supports the concept of 'environmental security' in the responses of international actors, is to see it as a composite of four conceptually separate aspects, including Resource security, Energy Security, Environmental security, and Biosecurity (REEB) (Allenby 2000). Based on this analytical framework, the author will analyse these components in the EU's actions to address energy disruptions while maintaining its climate commitments so that they are considered to meet the criteria to prove that the EU's response is based on 'environmental security' protection considerations.

Research Method

This research uses a qualitative research approach with a case study analysis method. In qualitative research, researchers try to understand the context and interpret what researchers find as an interpretation (Creswell & Creswell 2018). One method commonly used in qualitative research is the case study method. The case study method is a research method that develops an in-depth analysis of a case, event, activity, or process, against individuals or institutions (Creswell & Creswell 2018; Yin 2014). So using the case study method allows the author to detail a more specific context about the events of the Russia-Ukraine war and its influence on climate commitments in the EU.

The data used in this research are secondary and come from official websites of EU institutions, international scientific articles, books, and official reports from international institutions related to climate change such as IPCC, NASA, IEA, and UNEP, as well as credible mass media such as Reuters and Deutsche Welle. The data was obtained using the *library research* collection method. The purpose of the *library research* technique is to collect relevant and quality information to understand the context, conceptual framework, and literature related to the research topic, thus enabling the author to obtain data relevant to the research.

Research Results

The EU Energy Response to the Energy Challenge

The response of the EU and its member states in response to military action in Ukraine was swift and concerted, even before the start of a full-scale offensive by Russia. This was demonstrated by the issuance of the first round of economic sanctions on 23 February 2022, in response to Russia's recognition of the breakaway republics in Donbas. Russia declared full-scale war by invading Ukraine in the early hours of 24 February 2022 (Ellison et al. 2023). Energy trade is a key pillar in EU-Russia relations. Both the EU and Russia are highly dependent on each other in their energy

cooperation. Based on European Commission data in 2021, EU energy imports from Russia accounted for more than 40% of gas imports, 46% of coal imports and 27% of oil imports. Nevertheless, the EU continues to encourage its member states to increase the transition from coal and oil energy to cleaner gas energy (European Commission 2022d). However, despite the EU's high energy dependence on Russia, the EU and its member states imposed massive sanctions in response to Russia's military actions in Ukraine, including sanctions on its fossil energy products.

These actions were intended to suppress Russia's revenue from energy exports to finance the war in Ukraine. In response to the EU sanctions, Russia stopped gas supplies to several EU member states, including Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, and the Netherlands, and closed the Nord Stream 1 pipeline indefinitely on 2 September 2022 (Kuzemko et al. 2022). As of November 2022, Russian gas exports to the EU were only around 12.9% (European Council 2023). Apart from being a major exporter of energy to the EU, Russia is also one of the major players in the global energy market, so the occurrence of war also causes instability in the world energy market. Energy prices have started to increase in 2021 due to the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the occurrence of the Russia-Ukraine War has made energy prices further increase and become a severe global energy crisis, in which natural gas prices have reached record highs, which has an impact on high electricity prices. In addition to gas, oil energy prices have reached their highest level since 2008 (IEA 2022). For the EU itself, the turmoil in the energy market has had a major impact on its economy. According to a report by Santander, the economic impact of the war in Ukraine on the EU and its members could reach €175 billion or around 1.1 to 1.4% of GDP by 2022 (Santander 2022).

Besides affecting the economy, the impact of energy shortages has also affected the green transition agenda in the EU. Due to EU countries' fear of energy shortages, some countries have increased their coal production, these countries include: 1) Austria, the Austrian government agreed in June 2022 to convert gas-fired power plants to coal-fired power as a preventive measure for energy emergencies, 2) Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the government in March 2022 approved a plan to increase the operational period of the Tuzla 4 and Kakanj 5 coal-fired thermal power plants by the end of 2023, 3) France, the French government decided in early October 2022 to reuse the Emile Huchet coal-fired power plant that had been shut down six months earlier, 4) Germany, in late September 2022 issued two decrees to extend the operation of sizable coal-fired power plants to increase supply, 5) The Netherlands, Dutch energy minister Rob Jetten stated in June 2022 that the Netherlands would remove production limits

on coal-fired power plants to save gas, 5) The Netherlands, the Dutch energy minister Rob Jetten stated in June 2022 that the Netherlands would remove production limits on coal-fired power plants to save gas (Chestney 2022).

The phenomenon of coal increase leads to a worrying situation from the point of view of climate mitigation goals, as coal is the dirtiest fossil energy that can worsen the climate change situation. Thus, it can be seen that the occurrence of the war has led to reduced gas supplies to EU member states, soaring energy and electricity prices, exacerbating price inflation of basic consumer goods and further complicating the realisation of the green transition, which certainly affects the EU's climate commitment as a global leader in the fight against climate change (Rayner et al. 2023).

REPowerEU: Steps to Turning Challenges into Opportunities

To address the energy challenges posed by the Russia-Ukraine War, the EU launched a plan called REPowerEU published on 18 May 2022. REPowerEU is a series of incremental measures aimed at rapidly reducing the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels and accelerating the green transition by joining forces to create energy independence and security. According to EU President Von Der Leyen's statement, REPowerEU consists of 3 key measures that can immediately end the EU's dependence on Russian fossil energy. These measures include, firstly, an immediate focus on energy savings, secondly the diversification of energy sources and suppliers, and thirdly the acceleration of renewable energy (European Commission 2022d).

Firstly, energy saving, which is a measure taken by the EU to reduce energy demand. This is important because energy saving is the fastest and cheapest way to tackle the energy crisis. In addition, reducing energy consumption can also improve energy efficiency, which is an important step towards a green energy transition. To improve energy efficiency in the EU, the REPoweEU policy increases the energy efficiency target based on 'Fit for 55' from 9% to 13% (European Commission 2022a) . Furthermore, the EU also limits gas demand to maintain the security of supply by setting a 15 per cent gas demand reduction target for its member states (Falkner 2023). According to Kuzemko (2022), the EU's energy saving measures under REPowerEU represent an unprecedentedly powerful energy saving measure (Kuzemko et al. 2022).

Second, diversification of energy sources and suppliers, that is actions taken to replace Russia's diminishing gas supplies and avoid its member states from becoming energy dependent on a single state actor. In terms of gas energy diversification , the EU does so through *liquefied natural*

gas (LNG) imports and pipeline imports, as well as increased production volumes and greater imports of biomethane and renewable hydrogen through cooperation with its various international partners (European Commission 2022g). To support this, the EU established the *EU Energy Platform for the voluntary common purchase of gas, LNG and hydrogen* on 5 May 2022. The platform aims to aggregate demand, coordinate the use of import, storage and transmission infrastructure, and negotiate with international partners to facilitate the voluntary common purchase of gas, LNG and hydrogen (European Commission 2022f).

In essence, the energy response that the EU is undertaking in REPowerEU to compensate for lost Russian gas is to encourage a more open, flexible, global LNG market, involving major producing countries (US, Australia, Qatar, Nigeria, Egypt, etc.) and consuming countries (China, Japan, Korea), the G7, the G20, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other international forums (European Commission 2022b). Other measures to diversify energy supply have also been taken by EU countries through the construction of new and existing LNG infrastructure, as well as by the expansion and reactivation of coal-fired electricity to replace Russian gas-fired power plants. Some of the countries taking such measures include Germany, France, Austria, Italy and the Netherlands (Chestney 2022).

Thirdly, the increase in renewable energy, which is an EU action that is directly and closely related to the green transition in the EU. To accelerate the process of transition to renewable energy, the EU made changes in regulations related to the renewable energy transition process, namely by amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (European Commission 2022e). These changes were made to simplify administrative procedures related to renewable energy projects, by implementing a maximum duration of the licensing process applicable to renewable energy power plants. This is because lengthy and complicated administrative procedures are often a major obstacle to investment in renewable energy and related infrastructure. The EU also changed the renewable energy target contained in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 to 45% from the original 40% by 2030 (European Commission 2022e:2–3).

Furthermore, to increase the use of renewable energy, the EU's main target is to decarbonise the building sector. This is because buildings are a 40% energy-consuming sector, creating 36% of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions due to the amount of energy they consume (European Commission 2022e). Therefore, the EU took the initiative to increase the deployment of solar installations in the building sector. As such, the EU increased its solar energy target by 2025 through simplified licensing regulations and further investments of €29bn (Proedrou 2023). Another

renewable energy policy is the installation of ten million new heat pumps in the next five years with funds coming from the REPowerEU scheme, and member states. To facilitate this renewable energy development EU as through the REPowerEU plan will provide €210 billion (Proedrou 2023). To assess whether or not the EU's energy measures during the Russia-Ukraine War weakened its climate commitments, it is necessary to first analyse whether or not the measures taken qualify as the result of environmental protection considerations. This study found that the measures in REPowerEU have covered all aspects of 'environmental security' proposed by Allenby (2000: 14), namely: (1) Resource security, (2) Energy security, (3) 'environmental security', and (4) Biological security, or REEB for short.

The first is resource security. According to Allenby, resource security involves two subcomponents, namely (a) local or regional competition for resources, and (b) patterns of resource flow and use. In the context of the REPowerEU plan, the two subcomponents in the resource security aspect are reflected in the first and third pillars of REPowerEU, namely energy saving and increasing renewable energy (European Commission 2022h). The first subcomponent, competition for resources, is reflected in the third pillar of REPowerEU, namely the increase in renewable energy, which aims to increase renewable energy production in the EU to reduce energy imports and reduce the EU's dependence on energy sources from other countries and reduce competition for these energy resources. The second subcomponent, 'patterns of resource flows and use' in REPowerEU measures is reflected in the first pillar, energy savings, which focuses on increasing energy efficiency targets. Increasing the EU's energy efficiency targets to manage limited energy wisely, this pattern of reducing the use of gaseous fuels has helped the EU achieve a sharp reduction in emissions from gaseous energy by 2022 (Falkner 2023).

Secondly, energy security, as the goal of REPowerEU is to quickly break the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels, this phrase explicitly indicates the energy security aspect, as dependence on one energy source may pose geopolitical risks in the future. In addition, the three pillars of REPowerEU also clearly include energy security, as the purpose of launching REPowerEU is to respond to the energy challenges of war and avoid EU countries from an energy crisis. Therefore, both pillars of energy saving, diversification of energy sources and suppliers, and increasing renewable energy are measures to achieve energy security and independence of EU member states (European Commission 2022d).

Third, 'environmental security', the 'environmental security' aspect of REPowerEU is contained in the first and third pillars, namely energy saving and increasing renewable energy. In the first pillar of REPowerEu, an increase in energy efficiency targets can help the EU reduce energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, in the third pillar, the increase in renewable energy targets in REPowerEU shows the EU's efforts to quickly achieve the transition to environmentally friendly renewable energy. Thus, both pillars include 'environmental security' aspects, which aim to prevent global temperature rise by accelerating the green transition (European Commission 2022g).

Fourth, biosafety, although not directly aimed at protecting biodiversity, ultimately success in the third pillar, namely increasing renewable energy, will lead to protecting biodiversity. This is because renewable energy comes from energy sources that are cleaner and more environmentally friendly than fossil energy. This means that renewable energy can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and water pollution, which can help protect the environment from the negative impacts of climate change and pollution. For example, by increasing renewable energy, the EU will contribute to lowering global emissions, which will prevent the Earth's temperature from rising, which will prevent Greenland ice caps from melting. This also prevents an increase in the temperature and volume of seawater, which has been endangering biodiversity in the oceans (Buis 2019).

Thus, based on the identification and analysis above, the measures in REPowerEU have covered the four aspects of the concept of 'environmental security' proposed by Allenby. Thus, it can be understood that the EU's energy response through the REPowerEU plan is based on considerations for environmental protection. However, it is undeniable that other factors also influence the steps in REPowerEU, including economic motives, according to the Gramscian approach. In the Gramscian approach, the EU's energy response may involve consideration of the concept of 'environmental security' that aims to create protection for the environment, but ultimately such measures are also motivated by economic interests. This is because safeguarding the environment prevents environmental disasters from occurring, which can hamper economic goals such as economic growth and stability. As reported by the *European Environment Agency* (EEA), between 1980 and 2022, economic losses due to the impacts of change are estimated to have reached €650 billion in the EU (EEA 2023).

Economic motives are also indirectly reflected in the three pillars of REPowerEU, for example, the pillar of increasing renewable energy also aims to create new jobs and promote economic growth, then the pillar of energy saving can reduce energy costs and increase productivity efficiency,

while the pillar of diversification of energy sources and suppliers can improve energy security and economic competitiveness in the EU. Thus, the environmental protection measures in REPowerEU are ultimately also aimed at maintaining economic growth and development in the EU.

EU Climate Commitments during Russia-Ukraine War 2022

Based on the analysis of the concept of 'environmental security' on the three pillars of REPowerEU above, it shows that the steps taken by the EU have the potential to accelerate the green transition process that is being carried out. In particular, the EU's commitment is seen in increasing the renewable energy target from 40% to 45% by 2030 and increasing the energy efficiency target from 9% to 13% (European Commission 2022a). These increased targets for energy saving and renewable energy clearly show progress in the EU's climate striving measures. However, there is debate regarding the third pillar of REPowerEU, the diversification of energy sources and suppliers, which includes measures such as increasing coal production, building new and existing LNG infrastructure, and promoting a more open and flexible global LNG market (European Commission 2022b).

Based on these measures, it can be seen that diversification focuses on increasing fossil fuels. On the one hand, this measure aims to achieve the energy security of EU member states, but on the other hand, it also compromises the EU's climate change mitigation efforts by relying on fossil fuels that are not environmentally friendly (Lunde 2023). For example, infrastructure development on LNG is considered to be detrimental as it is included in the increasing amount of fossil energy infrastructure, potentially locking in high-carbon infrastructure that could drive future temperature increases (Balanyá dan Sabido 2017). Furthermore, the increase in coal production is also incompatible with the measures in the European Green Deal, which require a coal phase-out as soon as possible to achieve climate targets. However, according to Falkner (2023), the increase in coal is only a temporary, short-term response to avoid an energy crisis in the EU (Falkner 2023).

Based on the above explanation of the steps in the EU's energy response, this research argues that climate change commitments in the EU during the Russia-Ukraine War showed optimistic steps to achieve energy independence and security while remaining committed to the fight against global climate change. This is based on the supporting fact that despite the decision to increase coal-fired electricity production, EU countries did not really "go back to coal" as feared. In fact, most of the additional coal capacity that EU countries increased by 2022 remains unutilised. Coal power generation also started to decline again towards the end of

2023 (Falkner 2023) and is expected to continue to decline in the coming years. In addition, the EU countries did not change their target dates for phasing out coal from their countries, and remained on the timelines they had set for themselves (Falkner 2023). A further supporting fact is that investment in renewable energy in the EU is also on the rise. By the end of 2022, wind and solar power plants in the EU generated 22% of electricity, which exceeded gas (20%) and coal (16%) (Proedrou 2023).

These results show that the EU's energy response under REPoweEU is having a favourable impact on the progress of the energy transition in the EU. In addition, the increased renewable energy measures in REPowerEU are also projected to push EU countries to achieve 69% renewable energy share in electricity generation by 2030, which is up from the previous projection of 55% (Czyżak 2022). Another supporting fact is that the EU's efforts in demand management and energy savings in industry have led to a decrease in emissions in Europe as a whole. According to a report by the World Energy Agency (IEA), it is estimated that energy-related emissions in Europe will fall by 2.5 per cent by 2022, with a sharp decline in natural gas emissions offsetting increases in emissions from burning coal and oil (Falkner 2023). Thus, the facts have shown that the EU remains strongly committed to the fight against global climate change. This can be seen from the EU's steps to continue implementing the Fit for 55 proposal by sticking to the ambition of achieving at least 55% emission reductions by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050 as laid out with the EGD (European Commission 2022h).

Conlcusion

Based on the above, this research finds that, despite the energy challenges posed by the 2022 Russia-Ukraine War, the EU has been able to maintain its climate commitments in the fight against global climate change. Although on the one hand, its diversification efforts come at the expense of EU climate mitigation in the short term, on the other hand, the EU can balance this move with a sharp decline in gas consumption so that EU emissions in 2022 do not increase, but instead decrease by 2.5 per cent. In addition, the increase in electricity coming from renewable energy generation also shows that the energy response is having a good impact on the progress of the energy transition in the EU. Thus, based on the analysis using the concept of 'environmental security', this study found that the EU's energy actions in overcoming energy challenges show optimistic steps to achieve energy independence while maintaining a strong commitment and consistency in the fight against global climate change.

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