The new European Commission needs to fully unlock the short- and long-term potentials of natural gas to deliver its European Green Deal

European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen committed herself to very ambitious emissions reduction goals for 2030 – “at least 50%” instead of the current 40%. Key EU Member States have already signalled support. To achieve this, phasing out coal quickly is an essential first step. This will only be feasible with the help of natural gas as a flexible, efficient, storabe and reliable option to complement renewable energy sources.

Nord Stream 2 will contribute to achieving the EU’s ambitious, climate-friendly energy transition while safeguarding competitiveness, affordability and prosperity for European households and businesses.

Coal still accounts for 70% of Europe’s power sector emissions, but only 23% of power generation. Only by replacing it with natural gas can Europe achieve quick and efficient emissions reduction.

As a replacement for coal in power generation, the 55 bcm delivered annually by Nord Stream 2 could save 160 million tonnes of CO₂ – the equivalent of 34 million passenger vehicles driven for one year, or 14% of total EU emissions from power generation.

Natural gas is the most environmentally friendly fossil fuel…

… and Nord Stream 2 compares favourably to LNG. The liquefaction and shipping of the pipeline’s annual capacity of 55 bcm of gas would require 600–700 LNG tanker loads annually. Nord Stream 2 saves up to 46 million tonnes of CO₂ compared to shipping LNG.

1. The coal-to-gas switch is the quick win needed to put the European Green Deal on the right track for 2030.

The sooner we reduce emissions by switching from coal to gas, the more likely we are to reach our climate objectives also in 2030 – and the necessary pipeline infrastructure, gas-fired power stations and transmission lines already exist.

2. Beyond the coal-to-gas switch, decarbonized fuels, including hydrogen made from natural gas will be essential to making Europe the first climate-neutral continent.

Hydrogen has huge potential to contribute to the decarbonization of all parts of the energy sector, i.e. heating, transport and power – including those that cannot easily be electrified.

Plentiful import infrastructure ensures that Europe has access to a competitive natural gas supplies that can be the feedstock for hydrogen.