

FORTUM'S VIEWS ON ENERGY SECURITY: LESSONS FROM UKRAINE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU ENERGY COUNCIL

The war in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus the vulnerability of Europe's energy infrastructure in times of a possible conflict. **Russia has attacked Ukrainian energy infrastructure more than 2000 times since the start of the war, and almost all major power plants have been hit multiple times, with some, like CHP units in Kyiv, hit as many as six to seven times. It is clear that energy security is now inseparable from national and European security.** Recognizing these risks, Fortum initiated a report with Rasmussen global on the resilience of the Ukrainian energy sector as a proactive effort to strengthen preparedness for war scenarios and to draw actionable lessons for Europe's energy sector. The Ukrainian experience demonstrates that energy infrastructure is not only a strategic asset but also a potential target in hybrid and conventional warfare.

When the EU's energy ministers prepare to discuss energy security at the next Energy Council meeting on 15 December, Fortum wishes to share key insights and recommendations drawn from this recent work, "Resilience under Fire: How Ukraine's Energy Sector is Adapting – and What It Means for Europe".

Key Issues at the Intersection of Energy Policy and Security

- **Targeting of Energy Infrastructure:** Energy assets are now primary targets in conflict, with attacks ranging from missiles and drones to the occupation of facilities. Centralised grids are especially vulnerable, and while decentralisation can enhance resilience, it must be paired with robust physical, cyber, and personnel protection.
- **Human Capital and Operational Continuity:** Wartime conditions create acute shortages of skilled personnel, making the protection and upskilling of employees, as well as their mental well-being, essential for maintaining energy supply.
- **Supply Chain and Equipment Resilience:** Attacks and market disruptions threaten the availability of critical equipment and spare parts, highlighting the need for diversified suppliers and maintained inventories.
- **Regulatory Adaptation:** Ukraine's response has included new laws and energy strategies to diversify and strengthen its energy systems—across nuclear, renewables, and other sources—aligning with EU standards and enhancing long-term resilience.

Recommendations for the Energy Council

Fortum recommends the following actions for consideration:

1. **Strengthen Cross-Border and Cross-Sectoral Cooperation**
 - Enhance coordination between national authorities, energy companies, and military actors, including NATO, to improve situational awareness and crisis response.
 - Conduct joint exercises simulating cross-border disruptions and attacks on critical infrastructure.

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2. Support Operational Preparedness and Training

- Integrate security protocols, crisis training, and supply chain risk assessments into all energy operations.
- Promote regular drills for both physical and cyber threats, including comprehensive employee evacuation and first-aid training.

3. Incentivise Resilience Investments

- Establish EU-level resilience funds to support security upgrades and rapid repair capabilities for critical infrastructure.
- Recognise and reward companies that demonstrate best practices in preparedness and resilience, for example through a “Resilience Label” in public tenders.

4. Promote Public Awareness and Personal Preparedness

- Ensure that the key action in the joint communication to develop guidelines to reach population self-sufficiency of 72h is implemented in all Member States.

5. Deepen Dialogue with NATO

- Leverage NATO’s expertise in critical infrastructure protection and crisis management.
- Explore joint situational awareness platforms and information sharing between the Energy Council and NATO.

Conclusion

Energy security is a multifaceted challenge that demands a comprehensive and collaborative approach. By learning from Ukraine’s experience, investing in resilience, and fostering public-private cooperation, the EU can build a secure and sustainable energy future. Fortum stands ready to support these efforts and encourages the Council to act decisively in strengthening Europe’s energy security.+++