

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Biden's Pause on LNG Terminals Earns International Praise**

*European and Asia-Pacific Energy Experts Applaud Biden Administration's Decision to Halt LNG Export Terminal Approvals*

(BRUSSELS, KYOTO, D.C) – Energy experts across Asia and Europe are applauding the Biden administration's [decision](#) to halt approvals of new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals, like the controversial CP2 project in Louisiana. This pause will allow the U.S. to review and update the process for assessing the public interest impact of such proposals.

In the Asia-Pacific region, analysts warned that additional LNG is unnecessary and further expansion will inflict ecological harm. "Asia does not need any new LNG. The region is already suffering impacts from unsustainable LNG development. Further expansion risks severe ecological and economic damages," said **Gerry Arances, executive director at the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development in the Philippines.**

Citing Australia's experience where LNG exports squeezed domestic manufacturers with higher prices, **Tim Buckley, director at Climate Energy Finance in Australia noted:** "There is a powerful cautionary lesson for the U.S to learn from the Australian experience of letting global gas multinationals exploit domestic resources for their global benefit, squeezing domestic consumers and industry alike. The U.S. should learn from Australia's mistake of letting the gas industry's global ambitions undermine domestic energy security. Only surplus supplies should be considered for export."

**Ayumi Fukakusa, deputy director at Friends of the Earth Japan,** agreed: "Stopping LNG development is the surest path to avoiding the very worst impacts of the climate crisis and achieving long term energy security in Japan and across Asia. This decision recognizes the tremendous damage inflicted on communities worldwide by the LNG industry's unchecked expansion. Halting this development is essential to avoiding climate catastrophe."

Meanwhile in Europe, [sixty parliamentarians](#) sent an [open letter](#) to President Biden yesterday also welcoming the halt of LNG approvals. Citing EU climate policies, the parliamentarians note Europe's gas demand will steeply decline as renewable energy and efficiency measures expand. By 2026, Europe's gas demand could [fall 20% below](#) 2021 levels per International Energy Agency estimates.

*"Europe should not be used as an excuse to expand LNG exports that threaten our shared climate and have dire impacts on US communities,"* the letter states. It details how Europe's current gas demand is already being met and existing import infrastructure is [underutilized](#) at just 60% capacity in 2023.

"The EU has already initiated its gas phase out, our analysis shows the EU will cut its oil and gas demand by one third by 2030 and gas can be effectively phased out by 2040," **said Linda Kalcher, executive director at Strategic Perspectives.** "New LNG investments will be a white elephant US investors will live to regret."

Underscoring this point, **Dr Jan Rosenow, Director at the Regulatory Assistance Project,** added: "Europe's ambitious climate goals mean that gas demand will decline dramatically over the coming years. Instead of locking in new infrastructure to export fossil gas to Europe we need a renewed drive for improving energy efficiency, renewable energy and electrification to move away from gas for good."

Experts in Indonesia also welcomed Biden's decision, noting it sends a warning to companies expanding LNG capacity across Asia. "As the LNG business becomes increasingly unattractive economically, this pause signals that the option of using LNG as a 'transition' fuel makes less sense," **said Bhima Yudhistira, economist at the Center of Economic and Law Studies in Indonesia.** "This is a positive push for Asia to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and minimize losses for communities from failed oil and gas investments."

*Additional quotes from international energy experts and climate scholars can be found below:*

"The U.S. is already the largest exporter of LNG and Europe's demand will diminish to meet its climate targets. Having agreed at COP28, with all other countries, to transition away from fossil fuels in line with science and with young people looking for climate leadership in an election year - support for CP2 has no political, economic or scientific upside." **Rachel Kyte, CEO of Sustainable Energy For All**

**Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator, Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), Philippines:**

"This decision will help advance rapid and just transition to renewable energy-based systems in the Asia region and other places where the US exports LNG. For far too long, our communities in Asia have been used to justify continued fossil fuel expansion despite the massive harm to our lives, ecosystems, and planet. We urge the Biden Administration to go further and put a full stop to LNG expansion and fulfill its climate finance obligations to countries in the Global South."

**Yuri Okubo, Senior Climate Engagement Strategist, Renewable Energy Institute, Japan**

Biden's decision is a positive stride for Japan and the wider Asia-Pacific region, sending a clear signal to its financiers eyeing LNG expansion. With the imperative to keep global warming below the critical 1.5°C threshold, the pause on new LNG export permits signifies a reassessment of priorities. What Japan and Asia urgently require for their energy and national security is a rapid expansion of domestically generated renewable energy. The decision sets the stage for a more sustainable path, underscoring the need for a mindful and responsible approach to our energy landscape."

**Fanny Tri Jambore, Head of Campaign Division, Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Indonesia** [trijambore@walhi.or.id](mailto:trijambore@walhi.or.id)

“By reflecting on the situation in Indonesia, where the gas and LNG industry apart from contributing to increasing greenhouse gas emissions is also not free from the problem of human rights violations and environmental destruction. From genocide in Aceh to ecocide in Sidoarjo, East Java, a trend of destruction accompanies various gas projects in Indonesia. The promotion of gas and LNG and their derivatives, such as the use of co-firing hydrogen and ammonia in PLTUs, cannot be considered an energy transition, but rather an effort to accommodate corporate interests in continuing to use fossil fuels. So, President Biden's decision should be further used to truly stop the use of fossil energy and start increasing electricity generation based on clean, renewable and fair energy, instead of being trapped in false solutions.”

**Joojin Kim, Chief Executive Officer, Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC), South Korea**  
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“The latest decision from the United States reflects the need to center our energy system around people, not the fossil fuel industry. Each year, we see worsening climate disasters in Asia, driven by fossil fuels, costing the region countless lives and economic detriment. To put it quite simply, Asia does not want or need LNG. This region has rich resources for solar and wind energy, and investments in renewable energy in the area are ramping up. As the role of gas begins to dwindle, reassessing the need for new LNG exports is not only an important move to accelerate Asia's energy transition but to avoid stranded asset risk for the United States.”

**Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute in Germany and Professor at Wageningen University, The Netherlands:** “Europe does not need LNG from the USA in the long run. The current infrastructure is more than sufficient to secure the energy supply – even under extreme scenarios.”

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert, economic expert at DIW Berlin (German Institute for Economic Research) and Leuphana University, Germany:**

“Expanding LNG infrastructure in the USA and in the EU is a high economic risk that will very likely end up as stranded assets.”

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Rahmstorf, climatologist, PIK and University of Potsdam, Germany:**

“We are already very close to the 1.5 °C climate change limit, so we can only emit more CO<sub>2</sub> if at the same time the fossil methane emissions are reduced drastically. Expanding LNG production would do just the opposite.”

**Robert Rozansky, Global LNG Analyst, Global Energy Monitor, Washington, DC**

“According to the IEA, two-thirds of all LNG export projects currently under construction could fail to recover their initial capital investments if countries meet their climate goals. Applied to the U.S., this forecast suggests upcoming liquefaction capacity valued at approximately \$40 billion could be unprofitable.”

**Mark Ogge, Principal Adviser, The Australia Institute, Australia:**

“Australia’s LNG experience should be a warning to US authorities considering approving enormous new LNG projects.

“Like the US, Australia had abundant cheap gas for decades until three large LNG terminals were approved in eastern Australia. This meant Australian customers were forced to compete on the global market for our own gas and prices tripled within a few years. It also exposed Australians to global oil and gas price shocks like the Ukraine war, even though Australia doesn’t import any gas.

“Australia’s LNG experience has been devastating to manufacturers who rely on gas and driven up electricity prices, while delivering windfall profits to the gas companies.