International Relations · GS - II

Examine how energy dependence influences relations between Russia and Europe amid the Russia–Ukraine war and the transition towards renewable energy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Energy security, Russian oil and gas exports, Western sanctions, European energy dependence, diversification of suppliers, geopolitical leverage, renewable energy transition, strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Russia–Ukraine war has highlighted the link between energy trade and geopolitics. Despite sanctions, Europe has continued to import some Russian energy, while pursuing diversification and a transition towards cleaner sources.

1. Energy Dependence and Geopolitical Leverage:

Europe’s reliance on Russian oil and gas exposed vulnerabilities to supply disruptions and geopolitical pressure. However, dependence varies across countries, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

2. Impact of Sanctions and Diversification:

The EU’s REPowerEU plan aims to reduce dependence on Russian energy through alternative suppliers, energy

savings and renewable energy. In 2024, Russian gas accounted for around **19% of total EU gas imports**, while Russia's share of EU oil imports fell from **25.8% in 2021 to 2.2% in 2025**.

3. Economic and Environmental Implications:

Replacing Russian supplies can increase short-term costs and expose Europe to global price volatility. In the longer term, renewable energy and energy efficiency can reduce fossil-fuel dependence and improve energy security.

Policy Measures:

Europe should diversify suppliers, strengthen energy infrastructure, expand renewable energy and coordinate energy policies among member states.

Conclusion:

The Russia–Europe experience shows that energy security is a strategic concern. Diversified supplies and a gradual clean-energy transition can reduce geopolitical vulnerabilities while maintaining reliable and affordable energy.

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