The Gas War: The European Paradox Between Sanctions and Record Imports

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While the political rhetoric in Brussels aims for total energy independence from Moscow by 2027, the reality of trade flows paints an opposite scenario. The **gas war** is not only fought on the geopolitical field but through maritime routes and LNG terminals that, paradoxically, still see Europe as the main financier of the Kremlin's coffers.

The "Spain Case" and the Primacy of European Ports

Despite promises of disengagement, in March, imports of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Europe saw a dramatic surge. In this energy chessboard, **Spain** has become the new reference hub:

- **Purchase boom:** Madrid recorded a **+124%** increase in imports compared to February.
- **Overtaking Paris:** With 355 million euros invested in just one month, Spain surpassed France as the EU's largest importer.

- **Global flows:** 49% of the world's Russian LNG exports now end up in European ports, a share double that destined for China.

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The Industrial Front Splits: Pragmatism vs Dogmatism

The "gas war" is wearing down the unity of European leaders and energy giants. The strongest signal comes from Italy, where Eni's CEO, **Claudio Descalzi**, issued a direct warning to Brussels:

> "*It is necessary to suspend the ban that will take effect on January 1, 2027. Who will produce those 20 billion cubic meters missing from Russia?*"

According to Descalzi, Europe risks self-harm: without concrete and immediate alternatives (also considering supply deficits from Qatar), maintaining a dogmatic position is equivalent to "hitting oneself on the head with a hammer." On the other hand, Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** maintains the firm line, defining economic pressure as the only effective weapon to push Moscow towards peace.

The Ranking of Main Buyers (March 2026)

Country	Amount (millions of €)	Main Source
Spain	355	LNG (Bilbao/Sagunto)
Hungary	297	Pipeline (TurkStream)
France	287	LNG
Belgium	219	LNG

External Factors: The Iran Effect and the Gift to Putin

In this energy clash, tensions in the Middle East play a decisive role. The instability between **USA-Israel and Iran** has caused a spike in oil and gas prices. The result?

1. Moscow's tax revenues from fossil sources grew by **52%** in a month.
2. The increase in Russian profits is due more to price growth than volumes, turning the Middle Eastern crisis into an unexpected financial lifeline for the Kremlin.

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Conclusions: A Strategy at the Crossroads

While Germany takes refuge behind "force majeure" clauses to manage old contracts with Arctic LNG, the whole of Europe wonders: is it possible to win the gas war without crippling its own industrial system? 2027 is approaching, but Russian dependence, instead of disappearing, seems to have simply shifted from pipelines to LNG carriers.

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