

Head Of IEA Urges EU To Improve Energy Efficiency

The head of the International Energy Agency is urging the European Union to improve its energy efficiency and increase its use of renewables. Claude Mandil says Europe needs to put a brake on its oil and gas demands as supply worries escalate. "I don't think goals and targets in shares of renewables or in decreasing energy consumption is a useful tool. We think the [European] Commission could be bolder on norms and standards. It's within its responsibility," he says. The IEA is concerned about the increasingly monopolistic status of Russian energy giant Gazprom and says that the fact that Europe cannot import gas from Russia unless Gazprom agrees, undermines European energy security. The agency is also concerned about political interference in cross-border mergers in Europe, saying it can pose a "real threat" to the development of competition within the European energy market. "Such interventions based on national strategic considerations seem outdated and incompatible with the spirit of a transparent, efficient and functional internal market," the agency says in a statement.

[Source ESAA]