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How to Decouple from Russia: Czech Experience and Hungarian Option for the Future of the Energy Sector

1 April 2026 from 10:00 am – 12:00 am CET
Corvinus University of Budapest, Gellért Campus, Rooftop bar
(1118 Budapest, Mátyóki út 9.)

On 26 January 2026, the EU member states [endorsed](#) a full ban on the imports of the Russian energy resources coming to the EU. The ban should come into force by the end of 2027,¹ which represents a final deadline for the energy sector. This step of the EU-27 represents a key milestone in the energy security and energy policy of Europe.

Hungary and Slovakia voted against this ban and continue to pursue energy imports from Russia. In the case of Hungary, up until the disruption of the Druzhba pipeline in January 2026, we witnessed an increasing dependency on the Russian crude oil imports into the country. In that context, Czechia can possibly share its experience with decoupling from Russian oil and gas, even if some other challenges still remain in place, including most notably in the nuclear sector.

Thus, the question is what (both good and bad) lessons can Hungary learn from the Czech example? What are the main challenges and next steps to take when decoupling from the Russian energy resources in Central Europe? How is the situation in the nuclear domain in both countries? How can the existing plans and instruments, such as the RePowerEU be better used for Slovakia and Hungary to cut off the Russian energy ties?

Agenda

10:00 – 10:10 WELCOME by László Szabó, director of REKK

10:10 – 10:30 CZECH EXPERIENCES WITH DECOUPLING FROM RUSSIAN FUELS: Oldřich Sklenář, Research Fellow and Member of Climate Team, Association for International Affairs (AMO)

10:30 – 11:45 PANEL DISCUSSION

- **Oldřich Sklenář**, Research Fellow and Member of Climate Team, Association for International Affairs (AMO, Czechia)
- **Borbála Tóth**, Senior research associate, Corvinus University of Budapest, REKK
- **András Lukács** President of Clean Air Action Group
- **Andrej Nosko**, Visiting Researcher, Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
- Moderator: **Pavel Havlicek**, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs (AMO)

11:40 – 11:50 Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE

11:50 – 12:00 CLOSING REMARKS by László Szabó, director of REKK

The event is held under the Chatham House Rule.
Participation is free, but [registration](#) is required due to limited capacity of the venue.

¹ By 1 March 2026, EU countries must prepare national plans to diversify gas supplies and identify potential challenges in replacing Russian gas. To that end, companies will be required to notify authorities and the Commission of any remaining Russian gas contracts. EU countries still importing Russian oil will also have to submit diversification plans. European Council - Council of the European Union, "[Russian gas imports: Council gives final greenlight to a stepwise ban](#)".