

## Gazprom Starts Refilling European Gas Storage Sites

By AFP

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The Jemgum underground gas storage facility (UGS) in northwest Germany. Gazprom

Russian gas giant Gazprom said Tuesday it had begun implementing a plan to restock European gas storage facilities, after critics <u>accused</u> Moscow of holding back supplies.

Europe, which receives a third of its gas supplies from Russia, has seen energy prices soaring to record highs as economies come back online after the end of pandemic lockdowns.

Critics in Western capitals have blamed Russia for the price hikes, saying Moscow is not upping deliveries to <u>pressure</u> Europe to agree more long-term contracts and for the certification of the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Germany.

President Vladimir Putin in late October <u>instructed</u> Gazprom to increase supplies to Europe after it finished filling Russian storage facilities by November 8.

"Gazprom has approved and begun implementing the plan for injecting gas into five

European underground storage facilities," the company said on its Telegram channel, without specifying if gas deliveries had already begun.

"The volumes and routes of gas transportation have been determined," it said.

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