

Moldova Declares Energy Emergency Ahead of Expected Russian Gas Cutoff

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SA Moldovagaz

Moldova's parliament [voted](#) early Friday to declare a state of emergency in response to an expected cutoff of Russian energy supplies as Ukraine prepares to halt gas transit through its territory next month.

The emergency measure, effective from Dec. 16 for 60 days, grants Moldova's government the authority to impose power cuts and limit energy exports to mitigate a potential humanitarian crisis.

The decision follows Ukraine's announcement that it will end a gas transit deal allowing Russian gas to flow to Europe, including Moldova, after Dec. 31.

Moldova's government has worked to reduce its reliance on Russian energy by securing supplies from European providers since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. However, the Moscow-backed breakaway region of Transnistria continues to receive Russian gas at a relatively low fixed price.

Transnistria declared its own energy emergency earlier this week.

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Moldovan Prime Minister Dorin Recean [accused](#) Russian President Vladimir Putin of using Transnistria to “hold hostage” the region and create an “artificial problem” despite the existence of alternative energy routes.

“This winter must be the last in the country’s history when we can be subject to energy blackmail,” Recean said before the emergency vote, which passed with the support of 56 out of 101 members of parliament.

“Moscow is doing this to destabilize the situation in Moldova,” he added, as quoted by Reuters.

Last month, Moldova’s energy minister held rare talks with Gazprom’s CEO, Alexei Miller. The Russian state energy giant [said](#) both sides “agreed to continue discussing options for organizing deliveries of Russian natural gas to Moldova from Jan. 1, 2025.”

Future gas supplies remain uncertain as Russia demands Moldova settle an estimated \$709 million in debt for past natural gas deliveries.

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