What the Germans think:
Securing energy supplies with natural gas

In a representative survey conducted in March 2017, the forsa independent opinion research institute surveyed the German public to find out what they think about the future energy provision and the importance of natural gas.*

Clear majority:
Germany needs more gas, or at least as much as today

70% of Germans believe that Germany will need even more natural gas in the future (48%) or at least as much as today (22%). Only 21% think that the demand for gas will decrease.

Domestic production plus three preferred partner countries

Natural gas should also be produced in future in Germany

Germany’s domestic production is not capable of meeting the country’s natural gas requirements on its own. Which supply countries are trusted by the Germans? They particularly consider Norway (67%), Canada (45%) and Russia (38%) to be reliable. On the other hand, they have less confidence in other countries and regions such as the USA, North Africa and the Middle East.

Where should the gas for Germany come from? A clear majority of 62% says that Germany should continue to produce natural gas. Only a minority of 29% is against domestic production.

* Nationwide survey conducted between 6 and 8 March 2017.
1,002 citizens in the Federal Republic of Germany over the age of 18 were randomly chosen.
The figures in the graphics are percentages.

** Multiple answers possible
Clear priorities: Electricity should above all remain affordable

It is very important that electricity and energy ...

- remain affordable 65
- are always secure 51
- are environmentally friendly 42

What is particularly important to the Germans with regard to the future energy supply? A large majority (65%) considers its affordability to be a decisive factor. Half of them consider it very important that the supply remains reliable and secure at all times. 42% of the citizens emphasize the importance of environmentally friendly energy generation.

The majority of the public continue to see bottlenecks in Germany's energy transition

The energy transition will succeed as planned ...

The opinion of the Germans is divided when it comes to assessing its „Energiewende“ – Germany’s energy transition. A little less than half (44%) believe that the energy transition will succeed as planned. A small majority (53%), on the other hand, believes that there could be bottlenecks, disruptions and failures in the supply. However, the confidence in the energy transition has increased somewhat in recent years. In March 2014, 64% feared there might be bottlenecks and failures.

Natural gas as the most important partner for renewables

The best supplement to the renewable energies is**

- Natural gas 57
- Wood 24
- Crude oil 21
- Nuclear energy 19
- Coal 17
- None 10

Which energy sources should supplement renewable energies in order to secure the energy provision? Here, natural gas is clearly ahead in the ranking list and is preferred by a clear majority of Germans (57%). Ranking behind it, wood and oil are preferred by 24% and 21% of Germans.

Less than one-fifth of those surveyed were in favour of nuclear energy and coal. Only 10% of Germans believe that renewables do not need a partner as a supplement.