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### How big a deal is the Dec 5th date to oil markets?

We still think that the imposition of the Western phase out and then the price cap via the maritime insurance ban, will disrupt the market. Europe has to stop its shipped imports from Russia, especially of Urals crude from the Black Sea. Italy has been frontloading a lot of oil from Russia so that will have to stop. But it will be sapped up elsewhere. The Chinese might underwrite some shipments themselves as governments can underwrite their own national tankers. But the big one I would look at is India, because it doesn't have its own fleet or own insurance market and relies on third party merchants. Overall, there is probably enough crude in the market to meet current demand levels, so full on disruption will be fairly limited because of that.

### Should we stop saying that Europe has an energy crisis?

Not yet but the very mild weather in October-November so far has really helped. Industrial consumption is also down by a third in northwest Europe, so far without a loss of output. The efforts made, especially by industry, to reduce consumption by investing in efficiency gains, are remarkable. And the alternative supply side of things has also worked very well - LNG from the US, pipelined gas from Norway, Mozambique just delivered its first LNG cargo on schedule into Europe. So, we're cautiously optimistic about this winter but still expecting a recession.

### Expectations for COP 27?

We can't expect another range of big announcements as we got last year, and the world is distracted with so many other issues. Still, the fact that people are meeting and talking is always a positive development and the fact that COP 27 is being held in Africa gives a different sense than it being in a rich G7 nation. ■

*\*Paraphrased Comments*

