

### European trends and situation on bitumen

Is current situation effecting availability and quality of bitumen

NaBin 2023 – Oslo Krister Persson





# Who



- Krister Persson
- TotalEnergies Marketing Norge AS
  - Situated in Sweden
- Market Manager Specialties Nordics
  - More than 30 years in the asphalt and bitumen industry.
    (Skanska, Nynas and TotalEnergies)

- Why me?
- My colleague Jonathan Tinsley was unfortunately unavailable...



# What



- Short on TotalEnergies
- Supply challenges and trends in the bitumen industry
- How will the current situation potentially effect the trends.

### **TotalEnergies Bitumen**

The European leader on the bitumen market

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ranges Altek Modulotal • Azalt • Emulsis Regenis Aqualt Covrex Styrelf

product

 Kromatis Stelox 90% roads

10% industry, Mostly waterproofing membranes

Sustainable technologies

> ECO2, RC, Kromatis, Long Life · Lower working temperatures Recyclability Durability

projects

of the R&D budget dedicated to sustainable development

4 research labs

solutions labelled products

**Global Key customers:** 



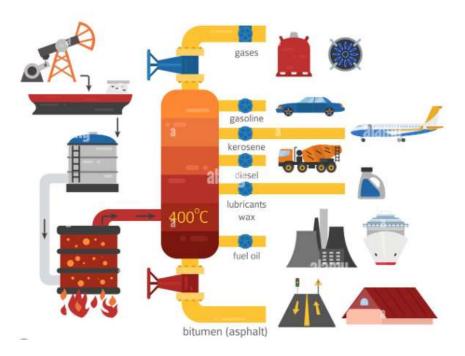
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### Bitumen production in the refineries



- Bitumen is produced from crude residue (bottom of the Barrel)
- In Europe there production is 15 million tons of bitumen produced in 74 refineries (out of 115 in total) (eurobitume.org)
- BTM production requires processing of heavy and high Sulfur (HS) Crudes (Sour crudes).
- BTM production are market environment driven, as :
  - its production is costly for the refineries (high variable costs; production & heated storages, etc)→ High energy prices drives the costs
  - ➤ HS crude availability is decreasing (sanctions on BTM adapted crudes like Iranian & Venezuelan and now Russians)→ competition on buying available high sulphur crude oils are high

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# Supply challenges 2019 until 2021 in a nutshell



- ➢ IMO 2020 → Bitumen is an alternative to HSFO (High Sulfur Fuel Oil) production
  - Pricing of BTM; HSFO or Brent quotations? Conclusion: Bitumen is still a sustainable alternative to HSFO production and so it's pricing should stay on HSFO quotations.

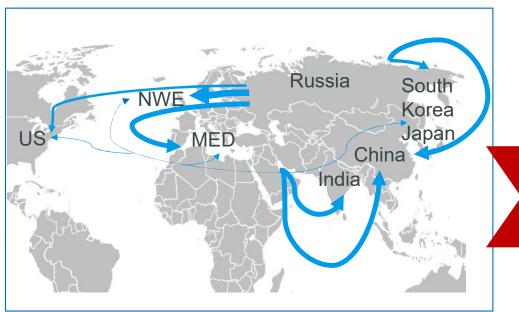
> 2020-2021:

- ➢ COVID Lock downs→ Demand Volatility
- Some refineries closures or transforming in to depots and emerging of bitumen "champions refineries" (refineries more specified in producing bitumen)
  - ➤ imbalances in Europe addressed by larger trading activities including inter region arbitrages (MED to NWE)→ emerging of new Trading companies + depots
- Increased exports of russian bitumen exports to Northwestern Europe (NWE) (NWE became longer on softer bitumen vs hard bitumen)

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# Supply challenges increases after Ukraine crisis - Globally





#### **BEFORE** Russia-Ukraine Crisis

### AFTER Russia-Ukraine Crisis → European Sanctions on Russian Crude (from 5 dec 2022)



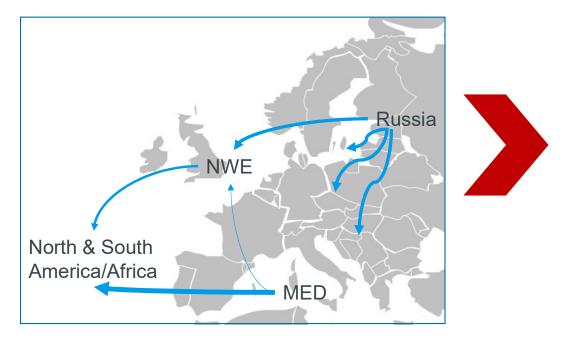
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# Supply challenges increases after Ukraine crisis - NWE



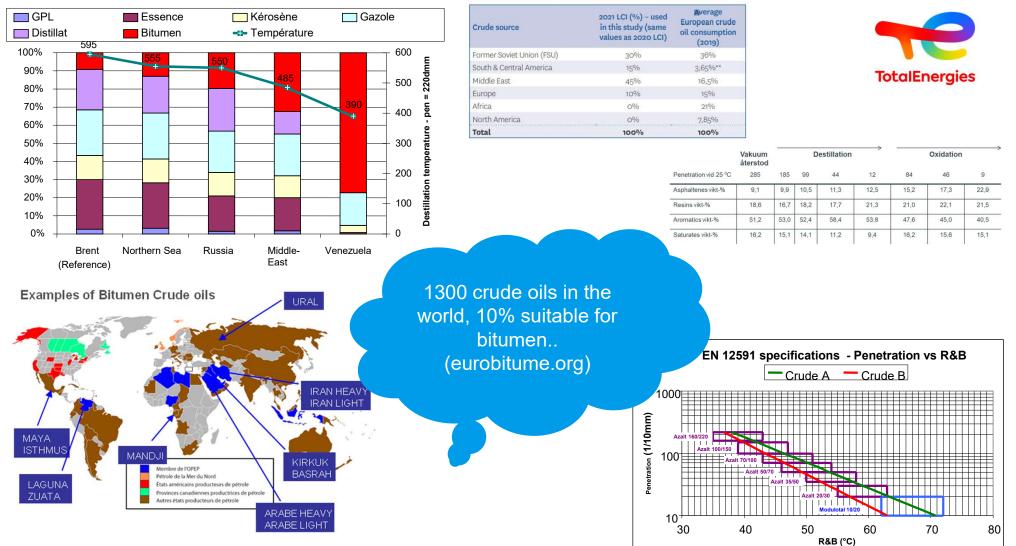
#### **BEFORE** Russia-Ukraine Crisis

AFTER Russia-Ukraine Crisis → European Sanctions on Russian Oil products from 5 Feb 2023; Bitumen not Included Bitumen included as of May 2023.





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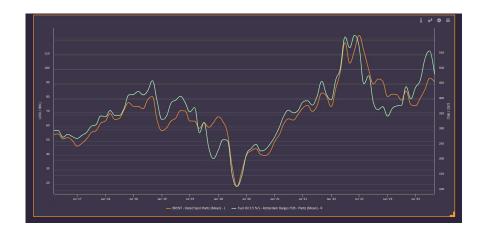
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#### Table 1. Crude basket used for the LCI review in 2020 and 2021 update

### What happens beyond ?

- What will the effects be short and longterm with the current situation in the **Middle East** ?
- What will happen with the **war in Ukraine** and sanctions/and availability of russian crudes?
- What happens when the refineries are moving towards **decarbonization** and more refineries are transformed in to **biorefineries**.
- If the crude oils comes from "harder" sources will it have an effect on the market if we are moving towards using softer bitumen in order to incorporate more recycled materials in order to reduce the carbon footprint?
- And what will then happen with the cost of asphalt ? ?

From April 2020 to May 2022 delta of 500 USD/ton for "bitumen" index (HSFO). With 6% in asphalt – 30 USD/ton asphalt. (source: Platts)



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