Nord Stream 2 and its impact on Europe

Nord Stream 2 is one of the biggest infrastructural projects to be carried out in Europe that is fraught with many economic and political consequences. This debate aims to provide an overview of its impact on the whole continent and its conformity with European energy and competition legislation.

The goal of the Nord Stream 2 project is to double the capacity of the existing Nord Stream pipeline to up to 110 bcm and therefore double direct shipments of cheap Russian gas to Germany and further to other Western European countries. But at the same time the extended pipeline will make the currently used Ukrainian route basically redundant. It may also discourage investment into alternative infrastructure (LNG, other pipelines) and undermine gas-market integration.

But is it necessary? Would Europe suffer from gas shortage otherwise? How does it comply with EU regulation, including the Energy Union? What will be the impact on the Energy Community countries, and most notably efforts of Ukraine, the most important country for transit of European gas to date, to comply with the EU regulation? Finally, is it only the gas/energy market that will be affected by this game-changer investment?

Our excellent guests will try to answer these and other questions concerning the NS2 project and its long-term economic and political consequences for Europe and discuss whether it reflects the Energy Union’s goal of ensuring “secure, sustainable, affordable and competitive energy for all citizens”.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Vienna, holding the V4 presidency, and the Secretariat of the Energy Community in Vienna would like to encourage Austrian and international public and decision-makers to join the debate on Nord Stream 2.

Programme

8.45 Registration/coffee

9.15 - 9.30 Introductory remarks
Artur Lorkowski, Ambassador of Republic of Poland in Vienna
Janez Kopač, Director, Energy Community Secretariat

9.30 - 10.45 Legal aspects
Alan Riley, City University of London, United Kingdom
Walter Boltz, Senior Adviser European Energy, Former Executive Director E-Control, Austria
moderation: Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Economic aspects
Andriy Kobolyev, CEO, Naftogaz, Ukraine
Reinhard Mitschek, Senior Vice President, OMV, Austria
Maciej Woźniak, Vice President, PGNiG SA, Poland
moderation: Jakob Zirm, Die Presse

12.30 - 13.15 Sandwich Lunch

13.15 - 14.45 Geopolitical aspects
Reinhard Bütikofer, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Germany
Olena Zerkal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Integration, Ukraine
Samuel R. Schubert, Webster University Vienna, USA
moderation: Christian Ultsch, Die Presse

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Energy Community Secretariat

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