

New CER report

PIPELINES, POLITICS AND POWER

The future of EU-Russia energy relations

Edited by Katinka Barysch

Does the Kremlin use energy as a political weapon? Why is Russia's oil and gas output stagnating? Can and should the EU try to reduce its dependence on Russian hydrocarbons? Are the EU and Russia engaged in a pipeline war? What does energy solidarity mean? Which rules should govern EU-Russia energy relations?

These are just some of the questions debated in 14 poignant articles written by eminent experts, officials and politicians from the EU, Russia and the US:

★ Dmitri Trenin, from Moscow's Carnegie Centre, explains Russia's decision to temporarily cut off gas supplies to Ukraine in terms of Gazprom's business strategy, not any neo-imperialist design on the part of the Kremlin.

★ Konstantin Kosachev, who heads the Duma's foreign affairs committee, accuses the EU of scaremongering and unrealistic expectations in its energy policy towards Russia.

★ Andris Piebalgs, EU energy commissioner, insists that EU-Russia energy relations are mutually beneficial. But Russia must invest more in the exploration of new oil and gas fields to guarantee future supplies.

★ Cliff Gaddy and Barry Ickes, two leading American experts on Russia's economy, argue that the stagnation in Russian oil output is the result of deliberate Kremlin attempts to stabilise the economy and limit cronyism and corruption.

In addition, Pavel Baev explores Russian plans to sell more energy to China and the global LNG market; Vaclav Bartuska and Pawel Swieboda disagree over the meaning of energy solidarity; Christian Cleutinx and Jeffery Piper outline what the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue is (or should be) about; Roland Götze shows why Russia is so keen on Nord Stream and similar 'strategic' offshore pipelines; Daniel Gros calculates how much the EU could save by investing in Nabucco and other projects to diversify its gas supplies; Andrey Konoplyanik makes the case for the Energy Charter Treaty; Tatiana Mitrova explains what Gazprom needs for its future success; and Sergey Yastrzhembsky criticises the EU's double standards in blocking Russian investment.

Notes for editors:

1. This paper can be ordered in hard copy or downloaded free of charge from the CER website (www.cer.org.uk) or by contacting Kate Mullineux at kate@cer.org.uk or on +44 20 7233 1199.

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