

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bogdan Golik and Bogusław Sonik

on the environmental threat posed by the construction of the North European gas pipeline

Lapse date: 26.7.2006

Written declaration on the environmental threat posed by the construction of the North European gas pipeline

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas following enlargement in 2004 the Baltic Sea became an internal sea of the European Union,
- B. whereas there is a high level of pollution in the Baltic Sea owing to a slow exchange of water and the build-up on the seabed of large quantities of chemical weapons (around 40 000 tonnes) and other dangerous chemical compounds dating from the Second World War and a lack of reliable information on their exact location,
- C. whereas the construction of the North European gas pipeline may be a threat to the environment and to the millions of people living in the Baltic region,
- D. whereas the Commission, which recognised the North European gas pipeline as a priority project of common interest in 2003 and granted it the status of part of the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E), should guarantee not only energy security but also environmental protection and should not subject these to unnecessary risks,
- 1. Considers it necessary to take all possible action to oppose the building of the North European gas pipeline without environmental guarantee and to prevent a potential environmental disaster in the Baltic Sea region;
- 2. Stresses that in spite of much anxiety about the construction of the North European gas pipeline the Commission has still not presented the assessment of this project's impact on the environment, which is required for all TEN-E projects;
- 3. Stresses that in spite of the absence of this assessment the construction of the gas pipeline has already begun, in flagrant breach of Community law and disregard for the safety of the Union's citizens;
- 4. Calls on the Commission to ensure that any further construction of the pipeline is carried out with respect for the environment and to draw up an environmental impact assessment for the planned project;
- 5. Calls on the European institutions to postpone any decisions on the co-financing of the project until the aforementioned environmental impact assessment has been presented;
- 6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, Commission and the parliaments and governments of the Member States.