

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0476/09  
by Cristian Silviu Buşoi (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: New transport corridors for natural gas

19 January 2008 saw the presentation, in the context of a working group organised by Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, of the conclusions of a study by the Hudson Institute entitled 'Security Aspects of the South Stream [gas pipeline] Project'.

Can the Commission state its position on some of the conclusions of this study?

One of the conclusions is that 'South Stream does not enhance European energy security', since it does not diversify the sources of supply, but, rather, 'increases Russian influence over Europe'. Does the Commission find this conclusion valid?

A second striking conclusion is that 'South Stream is in direct competition with Nabucco' and that 'the European Commission's backing of South Stream' would create major problems for Nabucco. What is the Commission's strategy concerning the two projects? Should the European Council's conclusions of spring 2007 on the strategic importance of the Nabucco project still be considered relevant?

Another key point made in the study is that 'South Stream would deny Europe direct access to gas from Azerbaijan and Central Asia, as well as possibly the Middle East and North Africa'. Does the Commission endorse this conclusion of the study?

Regarding the Nabucco project, what is the Commission's view on the work done by the European coordinator of this project, notably now that he has been appointed mayor of The Hague? Is the Commission content with the work performed by him? What concrete action will the Commission take in the near future to promote the Nabucco project?