

**Question for written answer E-010774/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU measures to alleviate the effects on gas transit through Slovakia of the Nord Stream gas pipeline becoming operational

The first Nord Stream gas pipeline, passing under the Baltic Sea, started carrying gas to Europe on 8 November 2011. The gas will be transferred from a terminal on the German coast into other pipelines and carried from there to other countries in the European Union. For a good number of EU Member States, Nord Stream's coming on line will enable them to strengthen considerably their energy security.

From 8 November 2011, Slovakia too will be better equipped to cope with any sudden cutting off of the Ukrainian pipelines. However, Nord Stream becoming operational will also bring about a sizeable drop in the volume of gas transiting through Slovakia to other EU Member States, and hence a fall in the revenue the country earns from gas transit fees.

Experts set this loss in revenue at EUR 174 000 000 per year, which corresponds to the estimated transit price for gas which will no longer pass through Slovakia but via the Nord Stream pipeline under the Baltic Sea.

What measures has the European Union planned, or is it preparing, to compensate Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland for the loss of gas transit revenue now that the new Nord Stream gas pipeline, which receives support from the EU, is operational?