

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

**2007/2118(INI)**

7.5.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Petitions

on the Environmental impact of the planned gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea to link up Russia and Germany  
(2007/2118(INI))

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Petitions, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls the decline in gas production in the EU and the corresponding increase in demand for gas imports over the coming years both to meet rising household and industrial needs and to replace less environmentally-friendly fossil fuels; considers it necessary to assess the long-term impact on the environment of the new gas infrastructure, with regard to guarantees of stable gas supply;
2. Recalls the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of 8 and 9 March 2007 endorsing the European Council Action Plan (2007-2009) for achieving the objectives of the Energy Policy for Europe, based on solidarity and diversification of supply, in order to tackle the increasing energy supply dependency of the EU;
3. Regrets that, the energy mix falling within the competence of the Member States, some national strategic decisions concerning major bilateral agreements with third countries are undermining the development of a credible, effective and consistent common energy policy;
4. Calls on the Member States to put into effect in a transparent fashion a coordinated strategy when securing energy supply; notes the Decision No 1364/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 laying down guidelines for the trans-European energy networks aimed at diversifying geographically transport routes for and suppliers of energy imports; recalls, in that context, that the Nord Stream pipeline is only one of many gas supply routes included within trans-European energy networks;
5. Recalls that the Baltic Sea has been identified as a 'particularly sensitive sea area' by the International Maritime Organisation and that, due to the relatively shallow waters and slow water replacement rate of the Baltic Sea, its ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to the smallest of disruptions and the slightest pollution; therefore recommends that the utmost care be taken when considering the Nord Stream gas pipeline project;
6. Recalls that, although the laying of submarine pipelines on the continental shelf is in accordance with the freedoms of the high seas, Article 79 of the 1982 UN convention on the law of the sea provides that 'the delineation of the course for the laying of such pipelines on the continental shelf is subject to the consent of the coastal State';
7. Calls on Nord Stream AG, the developer of the pipeline, to justify the choice of the current route and thoroughly assess alternative routes, including inland routes, for the pipeline between Russia and Germany; calls that the integrated environmental, economic and technical studies be appended to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) that is being carried out;
8. Calls on Nord Stream AG to carry out an assessment of the potential cumulative adverse effects of both the pipe-laying and the operational phases as part of the wider EIA and to incorporate into the EIA an assessment of the potential effects of the Nord Stream gas

pipeline project on the Baltic Sea Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites;

9. Calls on Nord Stream AG to publish the measures for reducing the adverse effects on the environment, should this project be carried out; urges Nord Stream AG to lay the pipeline at the most appropriate time and to avoid using in installation and maintenance of pipeline potentially damaging glutaraldehyde to minimise the negative effects upon ecosystems;
10. Regards both the sunken warships and the chemical weapons dumped during the 1940s at the bottom of the Baltic Sea as a possible threat to the successful laying of the gas pipeline and therefore calls on Nord Stream AG to draw up an inventory, to be shared with the relevant national authorities, of all shipwrecks and explosive or chemical substances located in proximity to the proposed pipeline route, such as two "ships' graveyards" of vessels sunk with their munitions in August 1941 near Hogland Island and midway between Helsinki and Estonia's Lahemaa National Park; the inventory should also include an assessment of the risks these shipwrecks and substances pose;
11. Considers that the pollution caused by the activities of Russian military bases may have ecological consequences once the Nord Stream project has been carried out, and therefore calls for this aspect also to be assessed;
12. Calls upon the states directly involved in the Nord Stream gas pipeline project to clarify before the final authorisation for the construction of the pipeline is given, where legal liability rests for the possible consequences of accidents on the ecology of the Baltic Sea and on the coastlines, inhabitants and economies of Baltic Sea states, including when vessels in the narrow navigation zones of the Gulf of Finland and of the Baltic proper cause damage to the pipeline on sinking.
13. Recalls the recent earthquakes such as the 2004 earthquake in Kaliningrad region, calls upon the project developer to submit relevant studies as required by the EIA;
14. Acknowledges that Nord Stream AG has been carrying out the ongoing EIA process, and urges therefore the company to make the results of studies and the full set of research data concerning the ecological situation of the project site, collected during environmental investigations, available to HELCOM and to all interested states;
15. Urges the Commission to include in its forthcoming implementation report relating to Decision No 1364/2006/EC an assessment of the progress made clearly identifying any possible breach of Community law committed by Nord Stream AG;
16. Calls on the European Commission to evaluate the EIA of the gas pipeline conducted by the Nord Stream company, its conformity with EU environmental legislation and its accuracy, thoroughness and objectivity;
17. Calls on the Commission as signatory to HELCOM to seek to put into effect the HELCOM recommendation for the establishment of standard requirements regarding the scope of investigations necessary for the approval procedures for submarine cables and pipelines in the Baltic Sea;

18. Mindful of the third legislative package on the internal market in gas, calls on Nord Stream AG to maintain easy access to the Nord Stream gas pipeline for neighbouring Member States if they wish to be directly connected to the pipeline by means of spur lines.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	6.5.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ :           31 - :           0 0 :           2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Březina, Jerzy Buzek, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Fiona Hall, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Atanas Papanizov, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Anni Podimata, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Catherine Trautmann, Nikolaos Vakalis, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Dorette Corbey, Göran Färm, Juan Fraile Cantón, Vittorio Prodi, Silvia-Adriana Ţicău