



## RESOLUTION

### **European energy security: reliable gas supplies to EU member states**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Vienna, 13.04.2019*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- Natural gas is the source of about one-quarter of all energy consumed in the EU, and many EU states import nearly all of their supplies and some of the Member States are also heavily reliant on a single source or a single transportation route for the most of their gas.
- In 2017, the total volume of EU gas imports was 408.7 bcm. At the same time, the EU imported 164.8 bcm of natural gas from Russia, accounting for 40.3% of the total volume of the imported gas.
- Ukraine is an integral part of the European energy market. Today, it is one of the largest transit countries of natural gas to Europe, and in 2017 only it transported 22,9% of the gas imported by the EU countries.
- The capacity of the existing transit routes of the Russian natural gas is enough to cover the annual demand of EU countries. Only the capacity of the Ukrainian gas transportation system can reach 142.5 bcm of gas transit to EU countries a year, without counting other transit routes.
- The main advantage of Ukrainian gas transportation system over other pipelines between EU and Russia is the possibility of balancing the volume of natural gas supply at the expense of underground gas storages, which allows it to respond quickly to sharp changes in gas demand in Europe.
- Russia has a transit route diversification strategy that provides for reducing the dependency on the Ukrainian transit routes and launching new trunk pipelines based on the assumption that the demand for gas imports in Europe will continuously grow until 2035.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- The European Union does not have a consolidated position on the construction of a new gas pipeline between the EU and Russia. The European Parliament and EU leaders have repeatedly expressed their negative opinion on this issue, emphasizing their deep concern over Russia's increasing influence on European politics via EU's energy dependence on Russia.
- The US government is extremely concerned over the construction of new pipelines for Russian gas and prepares to impose sanctions on the European companies that participate in the construction of the pipelines. It can negatively affect both diplomatic and economic relations between the US and the EU.

- The Russian Federation has always taken an aggressive stance in the framework of its relations with neighboring countries. Ukraine is a vivid example of this, which proves the absence of any international norms and rules that Russia cannot violate.
- Russia has been using its natural gas exports, prices, and contracts as a tool of political influence for decades. Such nature of the relationships with partners does not contribute to confidence-building and stability, especially in the field of energy security.
- The transit of big volumes of Russian gas via the Ukrainian gas transportation system to the EU countries is one of the safeguards against the full-scale Russian aggression on the territory of Ukraine, which can have a negative impact on the economic and social stability of the Eastern European countries.
- The Paris Climate Agreement, that stipulates bridging down to a minimum the use of fossil fuels in transportation as well as heat and electricity generation, will lead the European Union to a gradual phasing-out of natural gas use in Europe by 2050.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The European Commission to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the field of energy security and prevent potential risks of implementing the projects on the construction of transit gas pipelines bypassing Ukraine.
- The European Commission to preserve the gas transportation system of Ukraine as one of the key gas transit routes for EU countries and maintain a profitable level of gas volume for pumping via Ukraine.
- The EU Member States to reconsider the economic feasibility of the additional pipeline construction between the EU and Russia in the context of the planned reduction of the natural gas consumption according to the Paris Climate Agreement.