



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT ON THE GAS DIRECTIVE AMENDMENTS REINFORCING THE
EUROPEAN UNION'S ENERGY SECURITY OBJECTIVES**

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Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees),

recalling the Open Letter to Presidents of Parliaments of European States signed by the Presidents of the Parliaments of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine on 11 March 2018, which stresses that Nord Stream 2 is a geopolitical project and Russia's state policy instrument aimed at deepening energy dependence of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU), and especially of Central and Eastern European countries, on Russia and, consequently, maintaining their vulnerability, and which calls for a swift adoption of amendments to the European Commission Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas (hereinafter referred to as the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive) and its transposition into the national law, so as to establish a unified approach towards the natural gas import infrastructure from third countries to the EU market,

reminding that the original Proposal of the European Commission for amending the Gas Directive was presented on 8 November 2017 and *underlining* that the purpose of the amendment is to enforce the requirements of the EU Third Energy Package for existing and future pipeline interconnections between the Member States and third countries,

having regard to the fact that the Committee on Economics and the Committee on National Security and Defence of the Seimas approved the position of the Republic of Lithuania on the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive after examining, on 20 December 2017, the original

Proposal and the position of the Republic of Lithuania thereto drafted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Energy,

noting the European Parliament resolution of 12 December 2018 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine, which reiterates the crucial role of Ukraine in the European energy supply network, condemns the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, as it is a political project that poses a threat to European energy security and the efforts to diversify energy supply, and calls for the project to be cancelled,

having regard to the fact that the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive was classified as highly relevant by the Decision of 20 December 2017 of the Committees on the basis of the Commission Work Programme 2018,

welcoming a substantial breakthrough achieved by the Romanian Presidency at COREPER I on 8 February 2019 and the agreement reached, at the trilogue of 12 February 2019, by the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament on the text of the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive, whereby EU law will apply to new offshore interconnections with third countries completed after the entry into force of the amendments to this Directive,

taking into consideration that, on 14 December 2018, the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas approved the position of the Republic of Lithuania on the Proposal amending the Gas Directive,

are convinced that Nord Stream 2 is incompatible with the objectives of the Energy Union and that it is a geopolitical project whereby the Russian Federation seeks to deepen the EU's energy dependence and re-route natural gas exports from Ukraine's transit network;

believe that the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive is not only an important step towards the Energy Union, but also a more efficient guarantee for functioning of the EU internal market in natural gas and a prerequisite for increasing the security of natural gas supply in the EU;

express their full support for the objectives set out in the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive and the accompanying documents;

call for a level playing field to be established for natural gas interconnections with third countries and other EU natural gas infrastructure, as well as for putting in place uniform competitive conditions, uniform transparency requirements, non-discriminatory and regular procedures for ordering transmission capacities, and infrastructure use tariffs;

call for maximum limitation of the scope for exemptions or deviations in the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive as regards the unbundling of activities under the EU Third Energy Package;

welcome the unity of the EU Member States in achieving the EU objectives outlined above;

call on the European Parliament to approve the Proposal for amending the Gas Directive drafted by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU;

urge the EU Member States and the European Commission to work towards the effective and efficient implementation of the Gas Directive after its adoption.

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

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Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs