

**OPEN LETTER
TO PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS OF EUROPEAN STATES**

11 March 2018

We, the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Republic of Estonia, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Poland, and Ukraine, express our strong support for and commitment to the promotion of energy security and diversification of sources, suppliers and routes that are the building blocks of the Energy Union. Likewise, we are deeply concerned about Russia's persistent efforts to use energy interests for political reasons, thus undermining European and Euro-Atlantic unity.

Although formally Nord Stream 2 is presented as a commercial project, it in fact is an instrument of Russia's state policy. Nord Stream 2 is not about diversification of gas supply sources, but rather about deepening of energy dependence of the EU, and especially of Central and Eastern European countries, on Russia and, consequently, maintaining their vulnerability.

Energy security is a key component for a united and prosperous Europe, where competition and free market principles create a basis for success. Therefore, there is a need to invest in energy infrastructure, especially gas interconnectors and additional gas pipelines, which would allow fostering the diversification of natural gas supply.

Nord Stream 2 operation, if the pipeline is eventually built, must, like any other infrastructure project, fully comply with the EU law, especially with the provisions of the Third Energy Package. With this letter we therefore urge for a swift adoption of the EU Gas Directive amendment 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. It is detrimental to implement a large-scale project, which does not comply with the EU objectives of an open gas market and import diversification. It is even more concerning to see how major EU energy companies, which are being attracted to every major Russian gas infrastructure project, are being used to advocate Russia's interest at the European Parliament and European Commission. Further expansion of the Russian natural gas supply infrastructure may increase this influence, as well as the EU vulnerability, as it may strengthen the dependence on a single supplier and route.

Nord Stream 2 should be viewed in a wider context of today's Russian information and cyber hostilities and military aggression; therefore, we urge the European countries to limit Russia's ability to exert aggressive actions, and to ensure that Nord Stream 2 operation fully complies with the EU law.

We call on all the European countries and the United States for an enhanced and comprehensive dialogue, based on transparency and mutual trust, with a view to ensuring secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy for every citizen.

Yours sincerely,

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Ms Inara Mūrniece
Speaker of the Saeima
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Mr Viktoras Pranckietis
Speaker of the Seimas
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Mr Marek Kuchciński
Marshal of the Sejm
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Mr Andriy Parubiy
Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada
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