

BUSINESSEUROPE



THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr Andris Piebalgs
Commissioner
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

7 January 2009

Dear Commissioner,

Re: Dispute between Gazprom and Naftogaz

European industry is very worried about the problems being experienced in European countries which have supply contracts for Russian gas transiting through Ukraine. This situation – which is becoming a regular January occurrence – cannot last longer without creating problems for companies and citizens.

The Czech Presidency and the European Commission should continue to address this issue with Russia and Ukraine as a matter of priority, as some Member States, which are very dependent on Russian gas supply, will be hurt more than others by the current supply cuts. This is unacceptable in today's economic context.

It is vital that both parties respect their contractual supply and transit obligations, since 80 % of Russian gas shipped to Europe passes through Ukraine.

We count on you to develop further initiatives ensuring immediate resumption of gas deliveries to Europe.

Yours sincerely,

best regards,

Philippe de Buck