



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

**REGARDING THE REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING MEASURES TO
SAFEGUARD SECURITY OF GAS SUPPLY AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 2004/67/EC**

No COM(2009) 363 final

15 January 2010 No 100-P-1

Vilnius

Relevance of the proposal to Lithuania: **very relevant**

<...>.

- 2. Members of the Committee responsible for the participation in the process of drafting and coordination of the Opinion (rapporteur of the Opinion):** Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius.
- 3. Position drafted or approved by the Government or institution responsible for drafting the position:** the position of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania adopted on 20 October 2009 No. POZ-564 has been considered.
- 4. Conclusions of other Committees/Commissions or additional information on the position:**

Institution	Content	Committee opinion	Arguments in support of the opinion
Committee on Economics 11 November 2009 (P-39)	No possible violation of the principle of subsidiarity	Endorse	
	Endorse the position of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania of 20 October 2009	Endorse	

5. Proposals and comments provided by Members of the Seimas to the Committee in writing: not provided.

6. Proposals and comments provided by other state institutions, local authorities, or other interested parties: not provided.

7. Opinion or conclusion of experts, consultants, or specialists: the comments of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute submitted on 3 November 2009 have been considered.

8. Decision of the Committee:

The Committee on European Affairs

Endorsing in principle the position of the Republic of Lithuania of 20 October 2009 (POZ-564) on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing directive 2004/67/EC;

In consistence with its opinion and its protocol decision of 4 December 2009 on the position of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing directive 2004/67/EC;

Noting that the implementation of the so called N-1 standard in Lithuania requires efficient and immediate support from the European Union in order to resolve the problem of the isolation of the Baltic States from the gas market of the European Union since due to the closure of the Ignalina Nuclear Plant and the implementation of the NordStream gas pipeline project, there is an increasing risk of disruption of gas supply to Lithuania;

has resolved as follows:

1. The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing directive 2004/67/EC should emphasise that:

1.1 The process of diversification of sources of gas supply and transportation pipelines should be intensified. For this purpose adequate long-term measures should be provided for on the EU level and supported by financial instruments. Projects that enhance the security of supply but lack economic attractiveness should be given priority access to EU financial support. No later than within a year after the proposal for a Regulation enters into force, the European Commission should produce a report containing proposals on enhancing the security of supply on national, regional, and EU levels, as well as the overview of infrastructure projects underway and the assessment of underground gas storage and liquefied natural gas facilities.

1.2. Regional cooperation among EU Member States in implementing measures to enhance the security of supply should be intensified:

- 1.2.1. The proposal for a Regulation should establish the rules for the allocation of financial assistance to EU Member States for projects aimed at ensuring the security of gas supply;
- 1.2.2. EU Member States should jointly ensure the security of gas supply through the implementation of mutual cross-border agreements;
- 1.2.3. No later than within 3 years after the proposal for a Regulation enters into force, EU Member States should jointly create technical conditions necessary for mutual supply of gas;
- 1.2.4. EU Member States should implement other measures to enhance the security of supply on national, regional, and EU levels.

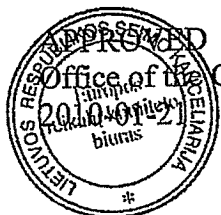
1.3. In crisis situations, the measures to safeguard security of gas supply, should ensure the security of gas supply to protected consumers even after the expiry of the minimum term for building up an obligatory reserve. Therefore, the European Commission should coordinate joint actions of Member States in the area of safeguarding the security of supply, especially in crisis situations. The European Commission should be able to compose crisis assessment teams to analyse the damage. They should be capable of working not only in the territory of Members States but also outside the EU. Moreover, the European Commission should be entitled to declare a general crisis situation when at least one EU Member State, especially one with no access to common EU sources of gas supply, declares a crisis situation. For this purpose, national, regional, and EU level emergency plans should be developed.

2. The Committee will request the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to seek, during its negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation, the inclusion of the proposals of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs, as set out in point 1, in the proposal for a Regulation.

9. Separate opinion of members of the Committee: not received.

Chairman of the meeting

Vydas Gedvilas



Office of the Committee on European Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania