

The Transit Dimension of EU Energy Security: Russian Gas Transit Across Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova

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Abstract

This book analyses how EU transit (and hence energy) security is affected by the governance structures of the Eurasian gas network and by asymmetrical power relations between its actors, in particular between Russia and western CIS states (Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova) and their national gas companies. It views the Eurasian gas network as the overlap and interaction of four spaces: the regulatory space, the contractual space, the space of flows, and the space of places, and asserts that the discontinuities between and within the spaces adversely affect EU gas transit security. The volume suggests ways in which these discontinuities can be reduced, and how their negative effect can be minimised. The book identifies the threats to security of Russian gas transit across the western CIS, explains why and how unresolved Russia-western CIS bilateral issues led to the appearance of these threats, and determines whether the existing

bilateral frameworks (supply and transit contracts and intergovernmental agreements) are adequate and sufficient to ensure security of transit across the western CIS. Furthermore it identifies EU energy policy gaps and explains why these gaps reduced the Union's ability to deal with such threats. It shows how transit security threats can be reduced through the joint employment of both bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

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