

EN
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Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.3.2024)

The Commission services are closely following the developments on the Bulgarian gas market and the South-eastern region at large, in particular since the start of the war in Ukraine and the cut off of Gazprom supplies to some Member States.

The Commission learned about the agreement soon after its signature, as it has not been notified officially prior the signature by Bulgarian competent authorities. Such notifications are not systematically mandatory, however, 'in case it has doubts whether a given contract [...] puts the security of gas supply of a Member State or a region at risk, it shall notify the contract to the Commission'¹.

The Commission has been monitoring the issue and engaging with stakeholders since early 2023.

The Commission has been in touch with the relevant authorities and stakeholders and has been gathering views and data on the agreement, including by sending requests for information. In case of indications of non-compliance, including a breach of EU anti-trust rules, the Commission will not hesitate to take appropriate action.

At this point in time, the Commission cannot give any indication on the possible outcomes of this assessment nor on a final timeline as the analysis is ongoing.

¹ Regulation EU 2017/1938, Article 14(6): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R1938>