

Two new major gas pipelines into Europe

The first is the 'Southern Corridor' which is actually three separate pipelines bringing Azerbaijani gas to Italy and into Europe. The South Caucasus pipeline already gets it to the Turkish border and the Trans-Anatolian (across Turkey) pipeline is under construction. The third section, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) expects to be ready by late next year. Last week an agreement among Caspian states was signed which may allow a fourth section to the route, a link from Turkmenistan across the sea to Azerbaijan.

Major natural gas transit pipelines



The other plan is for a second pipeline direct from Russia into Germany - Nord Stream 2. Europe currently gets a third of its gas from Russia, though almost none comes to the UK (ours comes from the North Sea, UK and Norwegian sides, and Qatar). Nord Stream 2 is particularly controversial as Europe worries about an over-reliance on Russia, and Ukraine sees this as part of a Russian strategy to deprive it of essential pipeline transit fees policy (Ukraine currently delivers more than half of Europe's imports from Russia).



As neither Turkey nor Russia are seen as reliable allies, both strategies come with **political risks - and enormous price tags**. Once in place, all host countries - and owning companies - will want to see them used as much as possible. The problem is that natural gas is methane - one of our most potent greenhouse gases - and we know that there are 'fugitive emissions' at every stage of production, processing, transport and local distribution. So we are building ourselves into long-lasting fossil fuel dependence that possibly is no cleaner than coal.