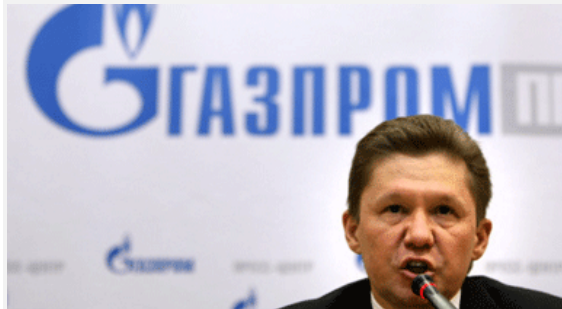


Article available on www.theparliament.com

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New cold war in Europe as Russia turns off gas supplies

Fears of a deep chill spread across Europe yesterday after a row between Russia and Ukraine over gas prices cut supplies to the rest of the continent on a day of plummeting temperatures and heavy snowfalls, reports the Independent.

The EU said the situation was "completely unacceptable" as thousands of businesses were urged to switch fuels, and households struggled to keep warm in sub-zero temperatures.

Reuters quotes Czech Europe minister Alexandr Vondra, who has urged the two sides to reach a compromise this week.

El País says that at least 16 European countries, 11 of them in the EU (and including Italy, France and Germany) have already suffered drastic reductions in the supply of gas, and many have not even received one cubic metre, due to the supply cut issued from Moscow yesterday.

The Irish Times says that Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic were hit by supply cuts today, as confidence ebbs away that the standoff will resolve itself any time soon.

The Guardian says that supplies to Romania were also halted early on Wednesday, through the Mediesu Aurit gas import station.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the European parliament is due to meet Gazprom and Naftogaz representatives on Thursday in a bid to resolve the dispute.

LINKS FOR FURTHER READING IN THE EU PRESS

- Deutsche Welle
- El País
- Irish Times
- Reuters
- Guardian
- Le Soir
- Le Monde