



## SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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Rīga, 11 March 2016  
No. 142.9/16-15-12/16

Mr. Michiel van Veen  
Chairperson of the Political Preparatory Group  
IPC Energy

Dear Mr. van Veen,

Thank you for the kind invitation to attend the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Energy on April 3-4 in The Hague. Energy policy issues are high on the agenda of the European Union as well as Member States and Latvia is no exception. The Saeima will definitely use the opportunity and will be duly represented.

We would also like to let you know that on 29 January 2016 the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia debated the *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank – State of the Energy Union* and adopted a statement on the gas pipeline project Nord Stream II.

In the spirit of solidarity and following the tradition of sharing information and opinion on processes that are of relevance to all Member States please find enclosed the aforementioned statement for your notice and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lolita Čigāne  
Chairperson  
of the European Affairs Committee

Romāns Naudiņš  
Chairperson of the Economic,  
Agricultural, Environmental and  
Regional Policy Committee



SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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**STATEMENT**  
**regarding gas pipeline project *Nord Stream II***

**Riga, 29 January 2016**

The European Affairs Committee of the Saeima,

*following* the obligation to ensure security of energy supply in the European Union inscribed in the Article 194.1(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

*recognising* that natural gas is one of the key energy resources for energy generation and industrial needs, secure transit of which from supplying countries to consumers in EU member states is becoming an increasingly important security concern,

*considering* that the European Union imports almost half of its consumed natural gas, and almost a third of imported gas is supplied by the Russian Federation to consumers in the EU via pipelines that cross several countries neighbouring the EU, as well as the Baltic Sea,

*recognising* that the implementation of the previous project – *Nord Stream I*, was already deemed controversial, and considering that this project will have a negative impact on the interests, independence and security of the EU and its neighbouring countries,

*indicating* that the existing gas transmission pipeline *Nord Stream I* is not operating at its full capacity with throughput reaching merely 60% of the potential volume,

**stresses** that the *Nord Stream II* project does not serve to promote solidarity and good neighbourly relations among EU member states, nor does it help diversify energy supply sources and routes,

**points out** that *Nord Stream II* contradicts the external dimension of the common energy policy of the EU and damages the Neighbourhood Policy of the Union, which, in turn, weakens the EU as a whole,

**expresses dissatisfaction with** the lack of a clear and common EU position on the *Nord Stream II* project,

**reminds** all EU Member States of their commitment to address energy issues in the spirit of solidarity, based on the common interests of Member States,

**urges** the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU member states to design the future energy security initiatives in a way that would enable creation of a true energy union, and to agree on common energy policy instruments for halting similar projects in future.