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Nord Stream 2 is almost complete, and many want it to stay that way. Russia's actions regarding Belarus and its poisoning of Alexei Navalny are now forcing officials in European countries to question the wisdom of completing it.

As the global community continues to grapple with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Atlantic Council is open for business. Our business, meetings, and events, however, are occurring virtually. For more information, please [read a statement](#) from our President and CEO.



The controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline is almost complete, and many want it to stay that way. Bypassing Eastern Europe, Nord Stream 2 allows Russia to transport natural gas directly to Germany from Russia, increasing Russian energy dependence in Western Europe while simultaneously increasing Russia's political leverage in Eastern Europe. While Russia's actions regarding Belarus and its poisoning of Putin critic Alexei Navalny with one of the Russian-created Novichok nerve agents have drawn criticism from officials in Germany, Finland, however, has not been persuaded to take decisive action against the project. Things are different in Washington, where Congress has included additional sanctions against Nord Stream 2 in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) has been one of the key leaders in a bipartisan effort to halt completion of Nord Stream 2. Senator Cruz joins for a fireside chat with **Dan De Luce**, national security and global affairs reporter for NBC News, to discuss why Nord Stream 2 matters to America's national security interests, and his role in the fight to stop the pipeline. Following this conversation, **Nicholas Kazvini-Gore**, legislative assistant for Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), **Debra Cagan**, distinguished energy fellow at the Transatlantic Leadership Network, and **Dr. Benjamin L. Schmitt**, postdoctoral research fellow, Harvard University, join a panel moderated by **Ambassador John Herbst**, director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center.

ONLINE EVENT

Please note that this event will not feature an in-person audience.

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ISSUE SPOTLIGHT



THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN GAS DEPENDENCE

Nord Stream 2

Natural gas plays an important role in Europe: It is a bridging technology for the transition of the electricity system and has significant potential. But Europe is strongly dependent on natural gas imports and Russian gas dominates Europe. The under construction Nord Stream 2 pipeline, despite its promises, poses significant risks to European energy security and independence.



THU, OCT 22, 2020

US expands sanctions against Putin's pipeline

US officials have this week announced more constraints on the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline project and put firms still involved on notice that they have 30 days to wind down operations.

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