

PM: Gazprom's offer on Amber Grid runs counter to EU's Third Energy Package

lithuaniantribune.com/64080/pm-gazproms-offer-on-amber-grid-runs-counter-to-eus-third-energy-package-201464080/

Managing Editor

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:14 pm, Posted by [Managing Editor](#) | , , ,

Report about error

Please highlight any error in the text and then click on it with your left mouse button [to leave a suggestion]

BNS

One of the latest proposals from Russia's gas company Gazprom regarding the management of the gas transmission company Amber Grid runs counter to the EU's Third Energy Package, Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius said on Tuesday.

Butkevičius had said after the meeting with the CEO of Gazprom Alexei Miller two weeks ago that they had reached an agreement in principle on the implementation of the Third Energy Package in Lithuania.

"I cannot say that all of the written offers that we have suit me, because one of the offers, a new one, is now non-compatible with the Third Energy Package. I am talking about Amber Grid. But I do not want to go into details, because this is confidential information. Some of the proposals do not satisfy me. That is what the negotiations are for," he said on *LRT Radio*.



Algirdas Butkevičius | DELFI, Photo by K. Čachovskis



Butkevičius did not elaborate on what specifically made Gazprom's offer non-compliant with the Third Energy Package.

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė said earlier in the day that Gazprom's latest written proposals were unacceptable and were very similar to a memorandum received from the Russian supplier last April.

The draft memorandum provided for postponing the ownership unbundling of Lietuvos Dujos (Lithuanian Gas) for a year, until 31 October 2015 if the negotiations failed. The current plan is that Gazprom will withdraw from the management of Amber Gas, which was spun off from Lietuvos Dujos last year, by November of this year.

Butkevičius said after his meeting on 7 February with Miller that they had reached an agreement in principle on the implementation of the Third Energy Package in Lithuania. Unofficial sources have said that Gazprom earlier agreed to stay

in Amber Grid as a purely financial investor.

According to unofficial sources, Gazprom proposes to Lithuania to sign a 10-year gas supply contract, under which 80 percent of gas would be purchased on a take-or-pay basis. The Russian supplier proposes to lower the gas price by 20 percent in the first three years and to renegotiate it afterwards.

Gazprom also asks Lithuania to withdraw all of its lawsuits filed against the Russian supplier in Lithuanian courts and international arbitration tribunals and commit itself to not lodging any claims in the future, without providing for any compensation to Lithuania for being overcharged in the past, according to unofficial information.

Gazprom also proposes to conclude an intergovernmental agreement governing the transit of gas to Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad.

Butkevicius said that Lithuania in January paid 470-480 US dollars per 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas, the biggest price in Europe.