

Amber project thought hopeless

Poland is expected to promote the construction of the Amber pipeline at the 12th Economic Forum in St. Petersburg. Seen as an alternative to North Stream, Amber is said to be more effective economically.

The Amber pipeline will transport gas from Russia to Germany via Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. The project will likely be backed by those EU states who seek independency from Gazprom.

Poland may want Russia to participate in the project as it needs a gas supplier and is not happy about North Stream bypassing the Polish territory.

However, the Polish pipeline project has low odds to survive: first, it is unclear why Gazprom should drop North Stream in favor of Amber; second, the Russian gas monopoly's projects are aimed at removing worries connected with transit countries which cannot be provided by the Amber project. Taking all this into consideration, we may assume that the Amber pipeline project – expected to pump Russian gas yet ignoring Russia's interests – will hardly be a rival to North Stream.

By Kirill Lebedev