

**Turkmen and Iraqi gas might enter Europe via Nabucco pipeline**

The Nabucco pipeline - to be routed outside Russia – is still being discussed. Seeking to reduce dependence on Russian gas, European officials are negotiating gas deliveries with their potential suppliers.

Turkmenistan was the first to roll out a promise to export 10 billion cubic meters of gas per annum. However, part of the Turkmen gas is domestically consumed, and the remaining gas is contracted by Gazprom. Also, Turkmenistan started constructing a pipeline to pump gas to China. So it is unclear where the country is going to find ten billion cubic meters of gas to export to Europe.

Iraq agreed to deliver five billion cubic meters of gas from a gas field near the Syrian border.

Even if the both exporters keep their promises, fifteen billion cubic meters is apparently insufficient for this expensive project to pay off. Iran – holding enough gas to support the Nabucco pipeline – has been sidelined by the US whose sanctions European companies are seeking to avoid.

There is likelihood that Nabucco will be unprofitable, but the West's aspiration to minimize Russia's role on the global energy market might overshadow economic inefficiency of this project.

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