

THE INDEPENDENT

06/09/2007

Dear Sir,

Europe's difficulty in dealing with the challenge posed by Gazprom (How Gazprom turned up the heat on the west, 3 September 2007) derives from its inability to consider its impact in pan-European, rather than national terms. Requiring that all acquisitions of EU energy assets with potential cross-border relevance be automatically referred to the EC for competition approval, rather than handled by national regulators, will help address this problem by establishing a body that can monitor Gazprom acquisitions which may not comprise anti-competitive behaviour within one nation, but, when considered alongside other moves around the continent, form a pattern of Kremlin-sponsored abuse of Europe's energy markets. It is imperative that the forthcoming legislation on unbundling recognises the need for European-level regulation of the single pan-European energy system in order to achieve the best prices and services for the consumer as well as security of supply.

Helen Davison
Energy and Environment Research Officer
Stockholm Network