

EU Expects Compromise With Gazprom

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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NICOSIA, Cyprus — The European Commission is holding intensive talks with Russia and expects to reach a compromise on a legal dispute between the bloc and its biggest gas provider, while avoiding disruption to energy supplies, the bloc's energy commissioner said Monday.

The commission is investigating suspected anti-competitive practices by Gazprom, which has said it will fight the case but not cut supplies in retaliation.

EU Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger said there was no supply risk.

"We don't see any direct risk for our security of our supply, either for oil, coal or gas. We assume all sides will respect contractual commitments," he told reporters.

"We have had intensive bilateral discussions about Russian developments," he said on the sidelines of an informal meeting of EU energy ministers in Cyprus, the holder of the EU presidency.

“A number of points are obviously controversial. But I believe that both sides can be professional on this, so much so that I believe these controversial issues can be cleared up. I believe it is possible we find compromises. Moreover, the European energy market, our industry, the consumers need not suffer from this,” he added.

Oettinger said he was preparing for further talks with the new Russian energy minister and the new deputy prime minister in October or November at the latest.

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