

Gas crises in Europe that occurred over 10-15 years because of the Russian Federation

In Russian energy strategy 2020 which was approved in 2003, stated: "Russia has significant reserves of energy resources, as well as a powerful fuel and energy complex, which makes the basis of economic development and an instrument of domestic and foreign policy. The country's role in world energy markets largely determines its geopolitical influence."

In 2006 and 2009 large-scale gas crises took place in Russian-Ukrainian relations after that statement. Countries of the EU also felt gas crises as Russia stopped gas transit through Ukraine to Europe.

There are few typical cases when the Russian Federation has used energy resources and infrastructure as a tool to influence other countries:

- Refusal of oil transit through Latvia from January 1, 2003 as an action of revenge for allegedly discriminating against the Russian minority;
- Temporary restrictions on gas transit to Belarus in winter 2004 and 2006 as an enforcement measure to transfer the GTS to Russian Gazprom;
- Cutting off gas supplies to Ukraine and the EU in winter 2006 and 2009;
- Cutting off oil supplies to Lithuania from July 2006 as an action of revenge for "wrong" privatization of Mazeikiai oil refinery (in favor of Polish, not Russian company);
- Blockage of transit of Kazakh oil to Lithuania in 2006 in order to bare a competitor in the privatization contest of the Mazeikiai oil refinery;
- Energy blockade of Georgia in winter 2006;
- Restriction of oil supplies to the Czech Republic in July 2008. As a preventive "incentive" to decline placing parts of the U.S. missile defense system on the territory of the country.