

Geopolitical Emergency

Pressure exercised upon Germany because of gas pipeline NordStream 2, does not bode well. Proposal drafted by Amb. Ischinger to bridge the gap between Berlin and Washington on this issue, is a conscientious attempt by a persuaded atlanticist, deeply worried by the impasse, to find a workable formula. We doubt though whether it is going to fly.

Russia is not given adequate incentive to go along with it. It can credibly divert gas quantities to an energy thirsty China. Nor is probable that Moscow will cede enough space to make Nord Stream 2 palatable to the West through concessions in the Ukrainian theatre, beyond the Minsk group format, administered by OSCE under close scrutiny of the Normandy 4 Group. Thus, Berlin is found itself between a rock and a hard place.

The professed priority of USA policy in the Joe Biden era is to stem China's growing stature. Is this goal being served, when by default pushing Russia towards China, undercutting the former's energy cooperation with the leading industrial nation in Europe? This page reserves for itself the benefit of the doubt.

The resurrection of JCPOA, in Stravonas' eyes, is a higher and stabilizing goal, worth focussing the energies of transatlantic partners, as uncertainty looms in the domestic scene of some eastern Mediterranean countries.

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