The Activatica team has conducted an analysis of the Nord Stream 2 project. Let me share the results of our work with you.

First, it should be noted that the volume of gas sales from Russia to Europe has grown 1.5 times since 2012, while gas production in Russia decreased by 14 percent from 2012 to 2016. The volume of gas sales within Russia fell by 20 percent.

Along with the growth in gas sales to Europe, the price of gas for Europe is falling. Since 2012, the price of a cubic meter of gas in euros has fallen by almost 2 times.

At the same time, in Russia, along with a decrease in gas consumption, the price in rubles for gas has increased by 33%.

What does this mean?!

Right now, a third of Russia is not provided with gas at all, and the gasification program for Russians is being curtailed. Meanwhile, the price of Russian gas for Russians is growing and all this is in order to provide Europe with cheap gas at the expense of Russians.

Second, we should consider what oil and gas revenues mean for Putin's regime.

Total oil and gas revenues account for 36% of the 2016 Russian budget. That same year, the the share of oil and gas in the country's GDP was a modest 23%.

In fact, Putin's regime has additional income due to the sale of oil and gas, which is added to usual taxes collected from the population.

With this money, one could do a lot of good - but what  is it spent on in reality?

The expenses for the police, the army,  and the "secret" services plus items articles (?? remove) amounted to 40 percent of the 2016 budget.

For comparison, the Ukraine - which is currently at war - spends only 17% of its budget for the police, the army, and the "secret" services, and NATO member Estonia spends only 9.2%.

Expenditures of 40% of GDP on the military-security apparatus would bring down any economy - but the 36% total budget revenue supplied by oil and gas sales allows for the maintenance of a level of militarization, police control and propaganda that would be unthinkable in a "normal" economy.

It turns out that it is at the expense of European's gas money that the Putin regime has money for propaganda, a repressive apparatus and military campaigns.

Third, the construction of Nord Stream 2 is a strange undertaking, since it will be difficult to organize the loading of the pipeline.

The design productivity of each line of the gas pipeline is 27.5 billion cubic meters per year. Together, they 55 billion cubic meters - or 25% of the current amount of gas exported to Europe .

Today, the pipeline can be filled by further reducing gasification in the territory of the former USSR - which comes with the consequence of the inevitable arrival of coal as a cheap alternative and the corresponding consequences for the climate and local environment.

Another option for filling the pipeline to Europe to capacity is through the complete cessation of gas transit through Ukraine. The result of such a decision would be the escalation of hostilities from the side of the Putin regime and greater instability.

The main argument used by the Nord Stream 2 AG company when it speaks of the supposed climate safety of the project is that it will not be coal, but natural gas, which has half the climate impact. But, if the Nord Stream 2 project is implemented, this could lead to a significant increase in coal consumption in Russia, which at least neutralizes the positive effect in Europe.

Why is this?

First is because coal mining is now growing in Russia, while gas production is falling. If at the same time the supply of gas from Russia to Europe increases, it is logical to assume that in Russia more coal will be used to meet energy needs - despite the fact that today the share of coal in Russia’s electricity generation is roughly the same as in Europe.

Second, almost a third of large thermal power plants in Russia operate on coal. Since many among them are old, without modern filtering systems, there have already been ecological catastrophes. Let us recall the effect of the "black sky" over Krasnoyarsk.

Today, the program for switching coal-fired thermal power plants over to gas in Russia is stagnating. And if the Nord Stream 2 project is implemented, then this program will likely be halted, since there will be no gas for Russian thermal power plants - it will be sold to Europe. As a result, Russia will continue and even increase the use of old climate-harming, coal-fired power plants - all the more so since the construction of new coal-fired power plants is already under way.

Thus, we assert that the materials from the Espoo convention were developed based on insufficient data. The route of the pipeline was determined before conducting publicly announced marine surveys and while withholding important information on the value of the southern part of the Kurgalsky nature reserve. Some facts about the value of the southern part of the Kurgalsky reserve, through which the gas pipeline is routed, were deliberately withheld from the consultations under the Espoo Convention.

The Nord Stream 2 project poses major environmental problems. The gas pipeline runs through the Kurgalsky nature reserve, which will lead to the destruction of rare species of birds, other animals, and plants.

The implementation of the Nord Stream 2 project has only just begun, but it has already led to violations of Russian legislation. Recently in Russia there was a public hearing on this project at which the Russian authorities made an attempt to illegally change the territory of the Kurgalsky nature reserve in order to lower its ecological significance.

In summary, the project has political, environmental and climate problems and its revelation is dangerous in the short term.

The Nord Stream 2 project is threatening. It infringes on the interests of Russian people. It is dangerous for the security of Europe and it poses a threat to the global climate.