

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write to you to request information on the Biden Administration's implementation plans for the Nord Stream 2 sanctions required under the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act (PEESA), as amended by the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Clarification Act (PEESCA).

As you know, PEESCA became law with bipartisan support through the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on January 1, 2021. The updated law clarified the mandatory sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project to include vessels engaged in pipelaying activities, companies that provide support services or facilities for those vessels, and those that provide insurance, reinsurance or pipeline testing, inspection, or certification services. The law also requires consultations with allies on these sanctions.

In light of these requirements, we write to request a briefing from the State Department on the Biden Administration's efforts to implement PEESCA. The briefing should include, but may not be limited to, details on the following points:

- The status of the Nord Stream 2 project, specifically after reports that work on the pipeline resumed on February 7, 2021;
- The status of the next mandatory report, which was due to Congress on February 16<sup>th</sup>, on entities engaging in sanctionable activity related to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. In particular, we are interested in your assessment of possible sanctionable activity of the list of vessels (provided below our signatures and obtained from open-source maritime vessel tracking data) that are believed to have been engaged in pipelaying or pipelaying activities since the enactment of the FY21 NDAA;
- Information on which companies have complied with the 30-day wind down period for sanctionable activity outlined in the law;
- The status of ongoing consultations with allies, including with Denmark over how the Nord Stream 2 consortium is meeting the obligations of Danish permits to lay pipe in their waters; and

- Any proposals offered to the Biden Administration on the future of the pipeline that aim to persuade the Administration to forego or weaken the mandatory sanctions, which have bipartisan support in Congress.

If completed, Nord Stream 2 would enable the Putin regime to further weaponize Russia's energy resources to exert political pressure throughout Europe. It would also allow Putin to bypass Ukraine, depriving Kyiv of critical transit revenues and making it more vulnerable to Russian aggression. Therefore, we agree with President Biden's assessment that Nord Stream 2 is a "bad deal for Europe," and with your comments at your confirmation hearing that the United States was "determined to do whatever we can to prevent" the completion of the project.

The majority of Europe also opposes the Kremlin-backed pipeline, particularly in light of the poisoning and wrongful arrest of leading Russian anti-corruption activist and opposition figure Alexey Navalny. On at least three separate occasions, the European Parliament has overwhelmingly passed resolutions calling for the immediate cancellation of the Kremlin-backed Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We stand at the ready to work with you to counter Russian malign influence, including by ensuring Nord Stream 2 is never completed as intended by the Congressionally mandated sanctions aimed at stopping the pipeline.

We look forward to your swift reply.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Ranking Republican Member  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER  
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO  
Member of Congress

**Vessels Possibly Engaged in Pipe-laying or Pipe-laying Activities for Nord Stream 2 since January 1, 2021**

*This information is drawn from open-source maritime vessel tracking data.*

Name: **AKADEMIK CHERSKIY**

IMO: 8770261

Flag: Russia

Vessel Type: Pipelay Crane Ship

Name: **MENTOR**

IMO: 8407711

Flag: Cyprus

Vessel Type: Support Tug

Name: **UMKA**

IMO: 9171620

Flag: Russia

Vessel Type: Offshore Supply Ship

Name: **DP GEZINA**

IMO: 9295103

Flag: Bahamas

Vessel Type: Offshore Supply Ship

Name: **KREBS GEO**

MMSI: 261025530

Flag: Poland

Vessel Type: Passenger Transport Ship

Name: **GLOMAR WAVE**

IMO: 9682617

Flag: Panama

Vessel Type: Accommodation/ROV Ship

Name: **IVAN SIDORENKO**

IMO: 9624213

Flag: Russia

Vessel Type: Offshore Supply Ship

Name: **YURI TOPCHEV**

IMO: 933820

Flag: Russia

Vessel Type: Icebreaker/AHTS Ship

Name: **FINVAL**

IMO: 9272412

Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Multi-Purpose Offshore Ship

Name: ***VLADISLAV STRIZHOV***  
IMO: 9310018  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Icebreaker/AHTS Ship

Name: ***KATUN***  
IMO: 9701126  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: AHTS Ship

Name: ***FORTUNA***  
IMO: 8674156  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Pipelay Crane Ship

Name: ***BALTIYSKIY ISSLEDOVATEL***  
IMO: 9572020  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Supply/Sub-Sea Survey Support

Name: ***VENIE***  
IMO: 9451654  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Offshore Supply Ship

Name: ***MURMAN***  
IMO: 9682423  
Flag: Russia  
Vessel Type: Supply/Sub-Sea Survey Support