

Brussels, 16.12.2010
HH/cg

Mr Sergey Shmatko
Minister of Energy
Government of the Russian Federation

Dear Mr Shmatko,

I would like to thank you for your active contribution to the high-level conference on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue and our constructive meetings the same day and the day before.

The conference has shown the enormous interest of both sides to further strengthen our cooperation. The Joint Report signed by us at the Permanent Partnership Council on Energy outlines the future priorities of our future work. We should keep the momentum and start the follow-up work.

We confirmed to set up a dedicated working group to discuss the impact of EU legislation on EU-Russia energy relations with a view to finding pragmatic solutions in full respect of the EU rules for electricity and gas. On the EU side, this group will be chaired by Director General Philip Lowe. Other members will be [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from my services as well as [REDACTED] and a representative from the EU Presidency. My Cabinet will also be represented. I will convey the same message to Mr Miller, CEO of Gazprom.

We also agreed to launch within our Dialogue discussions on a compatible understanding of the roadmap until 2050 and notably on the future role of gas in the EU energy mix. I think that – beyond sharing information and forecasts on this subject – it is important for both sides to exchange views on the EU strategy towards a low-carbon economy drawing on input from public authorities and industry.

I understand that the thematic working group on Strategies, Forecasts and Scenarios will start the preparatory work on this matter.

I would suggest that both groups could meet on 21 January 2011 in Moscow.

We will also send you shortly a list of "outstanding energy issues" which include points of EU concerns as discussed during my visit to Moscow early November.

I would be pleased if we could follow-up these and other important subjects at our level as soon as possible, at the latest at the forthcoming meeting between the Russian government and the European Commission in February next year.

Yours sincerely,

