

Speech by Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia H.E. Mrs Laimdota Straujuma

Official Opening Ceremony of LNG Terminal ‘Independence’

Klaipeda, 27 October 2014

Dear Madam President, dear Colleagues, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

Today, Latvia joins you in welcoming the LNG Terminal in Klaipeda.

The name of the terminal – ‘Independence’ - is a clear symbol of its meaning to Lithuania, and to its Baltic neighbours. The terminal opens the way to diversified sources of gas and better prices for consumers.

Now we plan to increase the capacity of the gas connection between Klaipeda terminal and Latvia.

We also look forward to the timely completion of the Polish-Lithuanian gas interconnection. This will be another important step in ending the energy isolation of the Baltic states.

Let me remind you of Latvia’s major contribution to energy security in our region. We have the Inčukalns gas storage facility, which is interconnected with Lithuania and Estonia. Latvia expects to implement the Third Package by 2017, and I see Inčukalns as a cornerstone in the regional gas network. Inčukalns is also a way for our region to attract cooperation from global energy suppliers. The Baltic states need to work together closely to benefit in the global energy market.

Last week in the European Council we again underlined the importance of linking the Baltic states to the rest of the EU energy market. We expect that these projects will be given the highest priority.

I wish the LNG Terminal ‘Independence’ every success, and let me assure you - I will work closely with my Baltic colleagues to make our region secure in every way.

Thank you!