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## **The Southern Gas Corridor and the Implications for the EU-Russia Energy Relations**

This paper argues that the role of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) in shaping the EU-Russia energy relations has been exaggerated and underestimated by the relevant scholarship. On the one side, there are those who argue that the SGC is a silver bullet, as it will bring non-Russian gas to the EU markets and therefore will restrict Russia to blackmail European countries by threatening to turn off gas supplies. On the other side, there are those who argue that the SGC is a worthless project, as it will remain an insubstantial contributor to Europe's gas balance. However, these assessments do not sufficiently capture the whole picture. Instead, this article argues that the SGC project is much more than a power resource; it is the core medium of interaction for international and regional actors (governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental) because of the number of connections that it makes possible in a highly contingent world. The SGC project is not necessarily negative or positive; rather, what is important is to view its contribution, mixed impacts and limitations from a broader perspective. The article aims to situate the SGC project within the wider political, economic and social analyses of the EU-Russia relations. It seeks to facilitate a better understanding of previously observed, but unexplained and neglected phenomena associated with the complexities of the EU-Russia energy relations. Finally, this paper will explain the Legal Convention on the Caspian Sea, which was signed in 2018, and its implication for the SGC project.