



**SOCIETATEA NAȚIONALĂ DE TRANSPORT
GAZE NATURALE "TRANSGAZ" SA MEDIAȘ**

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Press Release

As technical operator of the National Transmission System SNTGN TRANSGAZ MEDIAȘ must ensure the secure and efficient transmission of the natural gas taken at the inlet points from the producers and from the storage operators, and respectively at the cross-border import points to the delivery points – to the supply operators - and has no right to proceed to commercial operations with this natural gas.

Romania annually imports from Russia about 29-30% of the total gas consumption through two import points: Isaccea and Medieșul Aurit. Taking into account the fact that this natural gas transits Ukraine and Russia ceased to supply natural gas to this country, and taking into account the fact that in Romania the gas quantity intended for import has been reduced and then interrupted, the two import stations had to be closed – Isaccea in January the 6th, 2009 and Medieșul Aurit today, January the 7th, 2009, in order to avoid depressurization of the gas transmission pipelines.

After assessing the situation and setting as a first priority the necessity to ensure the continuity of the gas supplies to the consumers, The Ministry of Economy together with TRANSGAZ – the transmission operator of the National Transmission System, the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority, ROMGAZ and the storage and distribution operators immediately proceeded to operating measures aiming to ensure the safety of the National Transmission System and the continuity of the gas supplies to all consumers, measures such as:

- Technical maneuvers intended to redirect the gas flow into the National Transmission System so as to ensure the necessary gas quantity for the supply of the consumption areas affected by the interruption of the gas imports through the gas metering stations Isaccea and Medieșul Aurit and to keep the operation of the NTS within normal operating parameters;
- The partial shift to alternative fuels (crude oil, coal) of the thermal power stations that, according to the current regulations, may run based on such fuels;
- The supplementation of the natural gas quantities with internal products and with storage products to the maximum capacity.

The gas supply sources will therefore be ensured by the domestic production of Romgaz, Petrom, underground storages. The aggregate gas quantity in the storages at the end of the injection cycle (October 2008): about 3.16 bcm natural gas out of which 1.1 bcm have already been extracted.

Having as top priority the assuring of the gas supplies to the population and fully aware of its obligation SNTGN Transgaz SA makes use of its best efforts to ensure the balance of the National Transmission System and to maintain its operation within normal parameters. For any other operational measures that will be taken for the above mentioned purposes the company's management reserves the right to transparently keep the public informed.

/ DIRECTOR GENERAL

IOAN BĂBUȘU