

Ukraine insists Nord Stream 2 is ‘dangerous’ despite German reassurances

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says pledges from Berlin and Moscow are ‘too general.’



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy | Pool photo by Sergey Dolzhenko/AFP via Getty Images



August 22, 2021 | 5:46 pm



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy insisted the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is a “dangerous weapon,” posing a threat not only to Ukraine but to all of Europe, despite attempts at reassurance from German Chancellor Angela Merkel today.

Ukraine is fiercely opposed to the pipeline, which will carry natural gas from Russia to Germany, bypassing former routes through Ukraine. Berlin has sought to assuage those fears, issuing a joint statement with Washington in July saying that if Russia attempts to use energy as a weapon or commits future “aggressive acts” against Ukraine, Germany will press for sanctions against Russia.

Merkel reiterated this pledge during a meeting with Zelenskiy in Kyiv today, saying “gas should not be used as a geopolitical weapon” and that sanctions would be on the table if Russia didn’t comply.

But Zelenskiy said during a joint press conference that “not to notice that this is a dangerous weapon, not only for Ukraine but for the whole of Europe, is wrong,” according to Reuters.

Merkel also met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, but the two leaders were unable to agree on a deal to extend gas transit across Ukraine after 2024.

Merkel also said Friday she would “fight until the last day in office to ensure that Ukraine’s territorial integrity can be guaranteed.”

But Zelenskiy appeared unconvinced by Merkel’s remarks during the press conference in Kyiv, ×

CORRECTION: This article has been updated to correct that Merkel and Putin were unable to agree on a deal to extend Russian gas transit across Ukraine after 2024.

Want more analysis from POLITICO? POLITICO Pro is our premium intelligence service for professionals. From financial services to trade, technology, cybersecurity and more, Pro delivers real time intelligence, deep insight and breaking scoops you need to keep one step ahead. Email pro@politico.eu to request a complimentary trial.

MORE FROM ... **ASHLEIGH FURLONG**

Most Read Articles

1. Adult content creators in the lurch as OnlyFans bans porn

AUGUST 20, 2021 | 9:05 PM

2. Swedish PM Löfven to resign in November

AUGUST 22, 2021 | 1:14 PM

3. How to fall in love with Belgium – a convert's guide

AUGUST 23, 2021 | 4:01 AM

4. Taliban threaten consequences if US delays Afghanistan exit

AUGUST 23, 2021 | 11:20 AM

