



Nato

Liz Truss urges Nato allies to block Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline

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Thatcher.



📷 Margaret Thatcher in a tank in 1986. Photograph: Jockel Fink/AP

It remains to be seen how far the UK can push its opposition to Nord Stream 2 but the prime minister, Boris Johnson, raised the issue's profile in a foreign policy speech at the

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not be affected - what we will hear is some deep concerns from European politicians, but it will not change Russia policy or military aggression.”

It was thought the long running economic and political battle against the 1,200-mile pipeline had been largely lost since so much of the construction was complete, and because the **Biden administration**, in a compromise agreement with **Germany** in May, dropped sanctions against the \$10bn pipeline. Germany instead agreed to provide Ukraine with a subsidy to transition to green energy.

But British ministers intent on backing Ukraine do not think the battle to contain Nord Stream - one largely conducted inside the EU - is lost. They point to paragraph two in the German-US statement of June, which says: “Should Russia attempt to use energy as a weapon or commit further aggressive acts against Ukraine, Germany will take action at the national level and press for effective measures at the European level, including sanctions, to limit Russian export capabilities to Europe in the energy sector, including gas, and/or in other economically relevant sectors.”

The UK claims Russia has been endangering European allies by limiting gas supplies in exactly the way that the agreement sought to rule out, a view strongly shared by many US Republican senators who are now blocking the defence budget to block Nord Stream.

Britain is also testing the water to see how the new German coalition will handle Nord Stream 2. ~~noting the coalition agreement was silent on the issue. At least rhetorically.~~

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