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Conflict **Corruption** **Economic Sanctions** **European Union** **Geopolitics & Energy Security** **Ger**

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UkraineAlert September 6, 2022

Europe can win Putin's gas war but must learn Nord Stream le

By Anders Åslund

Vladimir Putin's Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines are dead and buried or "*tot und begraben*" as the G but the Nord Stream debacle must not be forgotten. With Russia now dropping all pretense and openly will not renew gas deliveries to the EU until sanctions are scrapped, it is vital to learn the lessons from E refusal to recognize the Kremlin's weaponization of energy exports.

The agreement to build Nord Stream 1 was taken on September 8, 2005. Gazprom and the two Germa Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas signed the deal in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Gerhard Schröder. The signing ceremony had been moved forward because of looming German parlia on September 18, which Schröder lost. Weeks afterwards, Schröder became the well-paid chairman of t committee of Nord Stream AG, registered in Zug in Switzerland. He still holds this position.

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system. In this fashion, the German government undermined Europe's energy security.

Over the past decade or so, most European countries built LNG terminals to obtain alternative supplies national energy security, but Germany did not. Instead, Berlin deepened its dependence on Russian ga Putin's leverage over the EU as a whole.

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Germany's support for Nord Stream 2 was always controversial. On October 28, 2015, Germany's Vice Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy, Sigmar Gabriel, met with Putin in the Kremlin and praised Nor in Germany's interests while labeling the pipeline "a very interesting project even beyond Germany's b who belongs to the Social Democratic party along with Schröder and is closely linked to the former Ge went on to hold many more meetings with Putin promoting Nord Stream 2.

This German policy of strengthening bilateral energy ties with Russia went against Berlin's longstandin champion of EU interests. Traditionally, Germany had been a key advocate of European solidarity and c former Eastern Bloc EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe. Gabriel effectively disregarded t other EU members in order to forge a close Russian-German alliance that Moscow saw as a tool to use did so after Putin had annexed Crimea and sparked a war in eastern Ukraine. Indeed, the Nord Stream signed while Germany was engaged in the Minsk mediation process between Russia and Ukraine.

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By Oleksii Reznikov

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Conflict | Disinformation

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Rigged Russian refere
Putin's plan to annex c
Ukraine

By Olga Aivazovska

Western leaders must clearly signal
that any attempt to stage fake refere
annex Russian-occupied regions of U
result in increased sanctions, writes
Aivazovska.

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Instead, the war
unleashed by Putin has sparked an unprecedented wave of de-Russification.

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Image: Russia's President Vladimir Putin attends a parade marking Navy Day in Saint Petersburg, Russia July 31, 2022. (REUTERS/Maxim S

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