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## EU WANTS AZERBAIJAN TO FUEL RUSSIAN GAS PIPELINE IN UKRAINE

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BY GABRIEL GAVIN, FEDERICA DI SARIO AND VICTOR JACK

European officials have pitched Azerbaijan on a scheme to run its gas through a pipeline that currently brings Russian fuel to the EU via Ukraine, a senior Azerbaijani official told POLITICO.

The proposal is a way to keep natural gas flowing to Europe [ ] cutting out Russia [ ] when a transit deal between Kyiv and Moscow expires at the year's end. The EU has previously said it was willing to let the deal expire, as it was confident that enough energy supplies were coming from elsewhere.

Azerbaijan has been reached out [to] by the European Union and the transit countries [that] we are talking about on the issue, Hikmet Hajiyev, a senior adviser to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, said in an interview with POLITICO.

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