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Call for Energy Governance in EU-Russia Gas Relations: Legal Solution to a Geopolitical Problem?

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Bilateral relations have come under increasing pressure in recent years

- Series of trade disputes and supply disruptions
- EU heavily dependent on Russian energy resources
- Few alternatives to Russian gas in the short-medium term

Partnership is in desperate need of legislative and institutional reform

- Russia's withdrawal from the ECT - Basis of legal ties brought into question
- Call for modernisation of bilateral and international legal framework
- Different strategic interests - inconsistent views of legal framework required – security of demand vs. security of supply

Solid legal architecture will help stabilise relations by ameliorating potential trade disputes and supply disruptions – ensure energy security

- *However* whilst revised legal framework **can** provide legal certainty, it **cannot** provide a legal solution to a geopolitical problem

What role for legal frameworks in institutionalising EU-Russia energy relations?

- Will negotiations ever resume? Business as usual? Has the Partnership failed?
- Russia has gone from 'strategic partner' to 'strategic challenge' (EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy - unveiled end of June 2016)