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# Kuchma doubts Ukraine bypass economics

Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma has said that the construction of a Ukraine bypass natural gas pipeline could be rendered uneconomic by the absence on its route of large gas stores, such as those on the present Russian gas transit route through Ukraine. He was speaking at a session of the Consultative Council on Foreign Investment in Ukraine, where he also argued that the privatisation of Ukraine's natural gas transportation system should involve three equal partners - Ukraine, Russia and the European Union. Kuchma said he wanted to avoid a situation in which Russia ended up controlling the system. The Ukraine prime minister, Anatoliy Kinakh is due to discuss natural gas transportation and the creation of a "Eurasian oil transport corridor" at a meeting of the Ukraine-EU Council in Luxembourg on June visual\_editor6.



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