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Italy – Gas destination or gas conduit?

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### **Gas Strategies Group**

10 Saint Bride Street  
London UK  
EC4A 4AD

ISSN: 0964-8496

T: +44(0) 20 7332 9900  
W: [www.gasstrategies.com](http://www.gasstrategies.com)  
Twitter @GasStrategies

### **Editorials**

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## Italy – Gas destination or gas conduit?

As the decline of the Italian gas market continues without abatement there is a growing, and seemingly incongruous political pressure to invest in new gas infrastructure. Over-supply is likely to continue to visual\_editor0visual\_editor0, by which time several long-term supply contracts will begin to expire. And while governments seek to diversify away from Russian supply, paradoxically the share of gas from Gazprom increased markedly in visual\_editor013. The situation is full of contradictions – in some measure a result of constantly changing governments, but also muddled thinking and discord between central and regional governments. Major investment in 'strategic' gas infrastructure is being called for not only by the EU but also by the US, and – a little reluctantly at first but now with enthusiasm – the new government headed up by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. At least one new LNG import terminal, along with the TAP pipeline, which will bring gas from the Caspian, are on the cards. But where will the gas go? Can it stay in Italy, or will the 'hub' concept become a reality? Gas Strategies investigates the future Italian supply picture.



### **Consulting**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9900  
[consult@gasstrategies.com](mailto:consult@gasstrategies.com)



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+44 (0) 20 7332 9910  
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