European Commission: Energy Commissioner's Representative

Confidential: for the assigned participant only. Do not share with other participants, including the other members of your delegation. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.

Your delegation: the European Commission (3 members)

You are part of the European Commission delegation. The Commission is the EU's executive: in this crisis your role is to mediate, propose and implement. You are not a party to the dispute; you represent the European interest.

Your legal power is limited. In January 2009 energy policy is still primarily a national competence (the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the EU a formal energy competence, has not yet entered into force). You cannot compel member states to share gas, cannot impose common purchasing, cannot sanction Russia or Ukraine. Your tools are convening authority, technical expertise, moral persuasion, and one practical lever: the Commission can deploy, and partly finance, an **independent monitoring mission** at the metering stations on the Russia–Ukraine border. It is the centrepiece of the EU's response and your delegation's most important contribution.

Key facts (all members):

- The Commission works in tandem with the Czech Presidency: the Presidency chairs, you propose and implement. During the break the two of you post the Presidency text.
- The monitoring mission can be composed of EU officials and industry experts from European gas companies.
- The Commission is already working on the Third Energy Package: ownership unbundling, cross-border cooperation, a new agency of energy regulators. This crisis dramatically strengthens the case for it.

Decision rules: the Commission **does not vote during the negotiation**. It may offer **EU financing in exactly one article** of the protocol, and only if **all three of you sign off**; that is your one bullet, and it makes your internal alignment a negotiation of its own. The Commission has no resources for solidarity measures among member states (it cannot fill anyone's storage); it can only broker them. After Russia, Ukraine and the Council have declared, the **Commission votes last, by majority: support** (you sign and deploy the mission) or **sabotage** (you declare you will not deploy or finance anything under this text). A protocol you disown loses the mission and the EU money, though it may still work without them. Everyone in the room knows this rule; it is your lever against a deal that ignores the European interest.

Your role

Motivations & constraints: You represent the Energy Commissioner's portfolio: the function, not the person. You are the Commission's technical lead on gas infrastructure, markets and supply security, and the monitoring mission is your operational responsibility: its composition (EU officials plus industry experts from companies like E.ON Ruhrgas, ENI and GDF Suez), its mandate, its access rights, its duration; all of it must be technically credible or both Russia and Ukraine will reject it. Your second job is the technical gas: about 21 million m³ a day to run Ukraine's compressors; without a formula for who provides it, who pays and how it is metered, no political agreement restarts anything. Your third is the reform agenda: mandatory reverse-flow capability on interconnectors, an N-1 infrastructure standard, national emergency plans, an EU regulators' agency. The crisis is your evidence.

Red lines: No monitoring mission without full access: if Russia or Ukraine restrict monitors to certain stations, the mission is not credible. No technical commitments you cannot deliver: if you promise EU financing for technical gas, remember it needs all three Commission signatures and can sit in only one article.

Style: S Be the most technically prepared person in the room. Know the numbers, know the infrastructure; when others debate in vague terms, bring specifics. Present the mission with confidence and detail (who, where, how long, what access) as a concrete proposal, not a concept. Have a technical-gas formula ready before anyone asks: offset against transit fees, EU interim financing, a consortium, a combination. Work closely with the Presidency's energy adviser: you bring substance, they bring process and hold the pen.

Confidential (for you alone, not for your delegation): You have detailed vulnerability data that others in the room do not: Bulgaria: ~96 % Russian gas, storage covering two to three days at crisis demand, already burning reserves, close to a humanitarian emergency; Slovakia: ~100 % dependent, emergency declared, but several weeks of storage, so less urgent than Bulgaria; Austria (not in the room): the Baumgarten hub is the distribution point for south-eastern Europe, ~70 % Russian dependency; Germany: only ~10 % cut thanks to the Yamal route and ample storage, barely affected; France and the UK: negligible impact. This data is your leverage: if the room loses urgency, remind it that Bulgaria has 48 hours of storage left; if Germany blocks a solidarity proposal, note that its own supply is virtually untouched while its partners freeze. Use it strategically, not all at once. You also know that the technical gas is the real bottleneck, not the politics: even a signed protocol moves no gas until someone solves the compressor fuel. Proposing that the EU temporarily finance technical gas as part of the mission budget is creative, possibly overstepping, and could break the deadlock. It would spend the Commission's only bullet on the article that matters most; your colleagues may want it elsewhere.