

## **January 11: IEA Welcomes Restart on Druzhba Pipeline Flows**

The IEA is pleased that oil is flowing again through the Druzhba pipeline to European customers, while negotiations between Russia and Belarus continue in parallel. The IEA strongly supports such measures and believes that energy should flow without unreasonable delays, restrictions or charges. In the event of a dispute over transit, no party should interrupt or reduce the existing flows. Stable supplies are important to both producer, consumer and transit countries, conveying economic benefits to all concerned.

Recent events do however underscore the importance of emergency preparedness measures maintained by all IEA countries as well as the role of adequate commercial stocks in protecting consumers. Over the past few days, the IEA has been in close contact with its Member countries involved (Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic), with its two applicant countries in the region (Poland and the Slovak Republic) and with the Commission of the European Union. These open, frank communications have permitted all parties to act in concert and with better knowledge, to mitigate the effects of this unfortunate incident.