

Minister of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska (RS) Srebrenka Golic met with the members of the delegation from Bosanski Brod oil refinery and the Croatian company Crodux, with whom the refinery has a gas supply contract and an agreement on the construction of a direct gas pipeline.

The representatives of the refinery informed Minister Golic that the construction works on the construction of the internal natural gas infrastructure have been completed for the most part, and that it is planned that the first volumes of gas through the direct pipeline will enter the refinery in the third quarter of this year.

In 2017, Minister of Energy and Mining of the Republic of Srpska (RS) Petar Djokic and Croatian Minister of Energy and Environmental Protection Tomislav Coric have signed a cooperation agreement, according to which, Bosnian oil refinery in Bosanski Brod will be connected to Croatian natural gas transportation network. One of the goals of this agreement is to improve the air quality in nearby Croatian town of Slavonski Brod. The refinery is located near the Croatian border and the gasification is seen as the best solution for the dispute regarding cross-border air pollution. Previously, Croatian Government adopted a protocol which allows the connection of Bosnian Bosanski Brod oil refinery to Croatia's natural gas transportation system. Croatian gas trader Crodux Plin will supply natural gas to Bosanski Brod refinery in the next ten years via a direct connection between the refinery and Croatian gas network in Slobodnica. However, the connection of gas networks of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia is currently not possible, although it could be enabled by transforming product line Slobodnica-Brod into a direct gas pipeline. Oil refinery in Bosanski Brod, as well as the refinery in Modrica and Nestro Petrol in Banja Luka are part of Optima Group, majority owned by NeftegazInKor, a subsidiary of the Russian company Zarubezhneft. Oil refinery in Bosanski Brod is out of operation since January 2019 and it is expected to restart production in mid-2020.