

Serbia, gas market liberalization

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Srbijagas faces big challenges, but also organizational changes to make it more efficient and more competitive on the market. This was also declared by the Government's Development Plan by 2025. Of the earmarked additional EUR 500 million for energy, a large part will go to support gas investments.

Transport has already been separated from Srbijagas. The new company *Transportgas Srbija* has 246 employees and its special headquarters in Novi Sad. The next step is the separate operation of the *Distribucijagas Srbija* branch, with gas trading and storage being separated in the last phase.

As with EPS, you are able to buy electricity from someone else. This will also be possible in the gas field. As a result, it is essential for us to grow, to have a modern network, modern control, good management to operate the system, and let the traders compete, Dusan Bajatovic, director of Srbijagas, said.

Srbijagas has to work out another option - the plan is that our country will have four gas distribution zones in the future.

One will be Belgrade, the other is Vojvodina and the other two will be in central and southern Serbia. The exact locations depend on the degree of gasification.

The reorganization of the company will be accompanied by accelerated gas investments - the completion of the infrastructure on our Turkish Stream line, the Nis-Sofia gas interconnector.

The plan is to begin work on expanding the Banatski Dvor storage by the middle of the year.

We will pay special attention and certain funds have been earmarked under the investment plan, to further improve gas infrastructure of the country. Priorities are Kolubara district, Pcinja district, Kraljevo - therefore, we have a single wide-ranging plan, Aleksandar Antic, Minister of Mining and Energy, said.

The accelerated change and development of the Serbian gas sector is dictated by increasing gas consumption both in households and in industry. Analyses show that by 2027 it will be at least doubled.