

Your Excellency, distinguished guests,

Natural gas plays an increasingly important role in the global energy balance. Estimates show that gas will soon become the second largest primary energy source after oil and the 21st century is often named as an era of natural gas. Natural gas is a fuel which may contribute to decarbonisation of energy systems, which is a key challenge in the light of continuously growing global energy consumption.

According to projections the significance of LNG will continue to grow. The LNG sector is considered to be one of the fastest-growing segments of the global energy market. As it was mentioned in the presentation until 2020 the LNG export capacity will increase by almost 180 bcm. Low gas prices may influence the schedule of implementation of projects but will not stop the trend. Increase of global gas demand– will encourage investors to continue their plans. LNG producers will position themselves on global LNG market, which is being created right now, in order to benefit from increasing demand. In the present price environment it will be crucial, however, to keep control over the costs of the projects. Further development of technologies on production, transportation and utilization of LNG will be of key importance in that regard.

Changes on global LNG market result in strengthening of the position of European market in LNG trade. It is a chance for relatively cheap supplies of natural gas for European consumers. It refers, in particular, Middle and Eastern Europe countries which at present import natural gas mainly basing on long-term contracts, with oil indexed prices.

The recently commissioned LNG terminal in Świnoujście is a proof that Poland wants to become an active player in the global LNG market. The LNG terminal in Świnoujście currently has the regasification capacity of 5 billion cubic meters of gas annually, with plans for further expansion of the terminal to reach 7.5 billion cubic meters. With such specifications is the largest LNG installation in the Baltic region. Construction of LNG terminal in Świnoujście enable diversification of supplies of natural gas to Poland with benefits both for security of supplies as well as conditions for gas supplies to Poland of creation of competitive gas market. Access to LNG supplies through LNG terminal in Swinoujście will have impact on the shape of regional gas market giving a boost to development of infrastructure enabling gas supplies received through Świnoujście terminal to other countries of the region. This idea was a base for concept of North-South Corridor – the project comprising development infrastructure linking LNG terminal in Świnoujście in Poland and LNG terminal at Adriatic Sea.