

The Independent Bulgarian Energy Exchange (IBEX) is contemplating the addition of a natural gas trade segment, the country's energy minister said.

"Our long-term priority is related to the diversification of sources and routes for gas supply, in particular with establishing gas transmission system interconnectivity, the development of local production, and the implementation of the concept for a gas hub," energy minister Temenuzhka Petkova said in an interview for a local media posted on the ministry's website earlier this week.

However, only Russian gas will be traded on the IBEX initially, with plans to attract more suppliers in the future.

Bulgaria imports almost all the gas it needs to cover its domestic needs via a single pipeline from Russia which passes through Ukraine and Romania.

The day-ahead power exchange IBEX, developed in partnership with Norwegian-based Nord Pool Spot, was officially launched in mid-January.

source: wire.seenews.com