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Today

Russia shows its Power: A hard lesson for Ukraine and a warning for Europe

By: fromPortugal on: 31.12.2005 [16:55] (1478 reads)



Ukraine is willing to move to market prices for Russian natural gas after a transition period of three months, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Prime Minister said Saturday.

(5639 bytes) [c]

Ukraine agrees to market prices for Russian gas

KIEV, December 31 (RIA Novosti) - Ukraine is willing to move to market prices for Russian natural gas after a transition period of three months, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Prime Minister said Saturday.

But specific figures are to be discussed through further negotiations, said the spokesman said.

[link](#)

Russia may leave 2005 gas prices for Ukraine in Q1

MOSCOW, December 31 (RIA Novosti) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday instructed the government and natural gas giant Gazprom to provide gas supplies to Ukraine in the first quarter of next year in the 2005 prices if the country agrees to sign a contract for transition to market prices starting in the second quarter of 2006.

"I instruct the government and Gazprom to provide gas supplies to Ukraine in the first quarter of 2006 on the same terms and at the same prices as in 2005, if Ukrainian partners sign a contract based on Gazprom's proposal to transfer to market prices in the second quarter, before January 1," Putin said Saturday at a conference with Security Council officials, attended by Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller.

"If no clear response follows, we will conclude that our proposal has been rejected," Putin added.

The president's initiative came as an attempt to break the deadlock in the labored nine-months' negotiations between Russia and Ukraine over the terms of natural gas supplies to Ukraine and Russian gas transit via its territory to Europe.

During the conference, Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and Miller briefed the president about the situation at the talks.

"I can see that the position of the government and Gazprom is quite tough," the head of state said.

Putin, however, added that Ukraine "is not some abstract boss or oil and gas barons who will see to their interests anyway."

"They are a fraternal nation to us, and we should think about our relations in a complex whole," Putin said.

Earlier, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko requested a transitional period before his country starts paying market gas prices in full.

Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov said Saturday the company was fully prepared to sign a gas deal with Ukraine before the end of Saturday.

"We are all at work, all the services are prepared for signing all the necessary agreements in the eight hours remaining before the end of the day and the year," Kupriyanov told the NTV television channel.

According to Kupriyanov, the Ukrainian delegation is not in Moscow now, but "a plane is at the ready" if Ukraine decides to go for the deal. "We are ready to exchange documents in any other way - by fax, for example. The ball is now in Ukraine's court," Kupriyanov added.

The bilateral gas talks have stalled over Ukraine's refusal to transfer to the market gas price of \$160 per 1,000 cu m. So far, Ukraine has been paying about \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas under a barter agreement.

In reply to Gazprom's move, Ukraine has insisted on higher fees for Russian gas transit via its territory.

After attempts to reach an agreement failed, Gazprom Deputy Chairman Alexander Medvedev said the price for Ukraine would be raised to \$220-\$230.

Yushchenko reacted in televised comments Friday, saying the price of \$230 per 1,000 cu m was unreasonable and offered to pay \$80, with Ukraine's transit fee totaling \$1.75-\$1.80 per 1,000 cu m per 100 km (62.5 miles).

In another bid to secure an agreement, Gazprom said it would cut off gas supplies to Ukraine starting January 1 if the two countries failed to settle their dispute over natural gas, Russia's main export commodity. However, both sides assured European consumers that Russian gas flows to Europe via Ukraine would not be disrupted.

[link](#)

Amazing what is being achieved in so short time.

After orange revolution, Ukraine (or the majority that preferred US) is learning that everything has a price.

Ukraine, Baltic States and Georgia are building a new front for US open their bases and calling them NATO bases.

Are these countries thinking that they will help US surround Russia and still receive help from Russia?

Their economy will feel the burden of the new energy prices, if they want subsidized prices, go and ask US to pay the price. It appears they have money for everybody...

But this situation is much more serious, Russia is now showing to everybody that 2006 will be a Russia's year. Russia is a strong country that can control world energy.

It is a very serious warning to European countries too much friends of US.

Putin has and is showing a very strong hand on this game. European countries that wish to be Russia's friend, will have energy, the others...

I hope that Putin gives a good help for European countries that want to break the heavy links they have with US.


Some European countries are trying to end NATO existence, but they are facing serious internal objections, and I have no doubt what country is behind them. Europe and Russia are already sharing important projects increasing their

partnership, Putin could give a serious help, reduce energy prices for any country that leaves NATO, NATO is an organization that countries can enter, but noone can speak in leaving.

Helping Europe finish NATO, is helping Russia, US is using NATO structure to reach Russia borders. Putin have the power to stop it, without firing a bullet.

Comments by FromPortugal

23 comments

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FP
by hiles69@msn.com on 31.12.2005 [18:51]
Here's hoping that it all works out mate.

Ukraine don't need Russian "help"
by ilia25 on 31.12.2005 [23:12]
Ukraine wants to pay a fair price like does everyone else in the free world.

All the noise is coming from Russia trying to rise the prices before Ukraine could secures alternative sources. But Ukraine also have cards to play — 80% of Russian gas transit to Europe goes trough Ukraine pipelines. So Ukraine could just rise the transit fees it charges Russia to compensate for the rise in the gas prices.

Mind the last sentence
by _merk_ on 31.12.2005 [23:49]
"The stakes are high. Ukraine's gas pipeline network supplies Europe with 80 percent of its gas. The nation produces some 20 billion cubic meters in house, importing the rest from Russia and Turkmenistan, the later of which raised prices for next year from \$44 per 1,000 cubic meters to above \$60. Ukraine currently imports almost 40 billion cubic meters annually from Turkmenistan and receives some 25 billion from Russia as barter payment for transit fees on more than 110 billion cubic meters of annual Russian gas exports to Europe.

Ukraine has been using its monopoly control of gas exports to Europe as leverage in the talks; Russia has leverage too - it controls the pipelines stretching from Turkmenistan to Ukraine.

www.kyivpost.com/top/23668/

The point is that Ukraine has a transit monopoly
by ilia25 on 01.01.2006 [00:20]
No matter how much money Russia charges Ukraine for its gas and transit from Turkmenistan, Ukraine can charge Russia the same amount for using its pipelines.

Capitalists don't like the Free Market anymore?
by BlackPanther on 01.01.2006 [02:30]
Since Ukraine has become part of the capitalist free world, it should have no complaints about paying "market prices" for gas.

Isn't is just a bit hypocritical that the same Capitalist world that is forever preaching about the value of the Free Market and letting the Market Competition decide economic matters, these same nations throw a hissy fit when this logic is applied to them?

I guess Free Market rules are only selectively applied when they benefit you. When it doesn't benefit you, you turn around and cry "unfair."

people have to pay

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [05:05]

nothing wrong with capitalism and free market gas prices. Russia has a right to charge higher prices, just like any private gas company. supply and demand. Ukraine can buy gas from other sources if it doesn't like it.

No one is pointing a gun at Ukraine to buy russian gas.

Ukraine's current leaders are not wise. They make an enemy out of Russia. Not clever politics. Just because USA is the backer? Stupid.

Larger picture of course is about USA and Russia and their geopolitical games. The ukrainian people have to pay the price in the end.

By the way, happy new year Ivan the terrible.

NATO

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [06:41]

The main role of NATO in USA geopolitics is to control and check the momentum of European integration and cooperation.

Through NATO, USA wields influence in european affairs. If EU is left unchecked, sooner or later, they will start to turn into a force that will be against USA interests and USA hegemony, the role of Russia, China and others now.

In the old cold war days, NATO still played a function of deterring Soviet aggression. That function is no more. That is being replaced by the "war on terror", mostly propagated and organised by the USA.

NATO plays a very disturbing role now in world security affairs. They are interfering in places that is beyond their traditional space. Places like central asia, Afghanistan. Through the Shanghai cooperation org and others, Russia and China is checking this influence.

EU is still under the thumb of the USA for now. They do not have an independent foreign policy. UK sides with the USA. Germany is stationed with USA troops. We will see how the situation develops in the future and what the USA response will be.

USA's relationship with Japan serves the same strategic purpose in east asia, to prevent alliances from forming there and to control Japan's foreign policy. I suspect that Iraq will become the new "Germany and Japan" in the middle east. That is why the defeat and frustration of the USA occupation in Iraq is important in the context of geopolitics.

Those who are naive, ignorant or knows nothing about how politics is really played, of course, will have narrow and simplistic views on the USA invasion of Iraq. Well, that is their choice. This website focuses on the real larger issues.

Those countries in the middle like Ukraine, Belarus etc will be the new battleground for the new geopolitics. Those people living in those countries will bear the consequences of the "new great game".

I am thankful that I do not live in any of those countries. This is a sad fact of life, I am sorry to say.

What is happy about it?

by IvanGrozny on 01.01.2006 [07:27]

Ilia just stop typing. Russia ALSO exports gas through Belarus and Baltics, the pipelines are not Ukrainian, Ukraine is the beneficiary of the pipelines.

Russia bought all Turkmen gas for the next 3 months, Ukraine will get little to nothing. Within the next week Ukraine will begin to feel the sting. 85% of all kitchen stoves are gas powered. 55% of the housing is dependent on gas. Only older homes have wood and coal furnaces.

I wish the bastard in Kiev would just shut up and leave.

@ivangrozny

by picard-fortune-500 on 01.01.2006 [08:48]

I read that Ukraine has enough gas stored in underground tanks to last into April '06. Is this true or is it merely disinformation?

@blackpanther

by picard-fortune-500 on 01.01.2006 [08:55]

well spoken. Capitalists are hypocrits.

fools

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [09:49]

I guess Free Market rules are only selectively applied when they benefit you. When it doesn't benefit you, you turn around and cry 'unfair.'

Of course. It applies to everything. USA preaches democracy. But will USA allow an anti-USA government to be formed in Saudi Arabia but "democratic"?

People must get real here. If such a situation develops, USA will conduct the usual coup d'etat. Chile and Venezuela are clear examples.

Only the most naive, simpleton of fools will believe in USA's "democracy". These people know completely nothing about how politics is played in the real world. They live in their own private fairy tale lands.

sad

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [09:53]

I feel sad sometimes with these naive fools. They are so ignorant.

If they choose to be ignorant, why come to this site? They can go back to whatever media they came from.

This site is not the mainstream whore media.

It is not about what they like, it's about what the facts are

by ilia25 on 01.01.2006 [13:10]

Ukraine cannot replace Russian gas from other sources. Russia cannot transport all its gas to Europe around Ukraine. One monopoly cancels the other so neither can dictate the prices (a price increase by one side will meet with an equal increase by the other).

These are the facts, whether you like it, or not.

Since Ukraine has become part of the capitalist free world, it should have no complaints about paying "market prices" for gas.

There is no "market prices" until there is a market. What we have are two monopolies, not markets.

ilia what crap is that?

by captainkoala on 01.01.2006 [14:06]

"...Russia cannot transport all its gas to Europe around Ukraine..."

Let's suppose what you say is true, ilia (that's assuming A LOT). In this situation Russia still can transport MOST of its gas around Ukraine (via Belorussia and the new pipeline to Germany under the Baltic). The remaining of the gas Europe will have to find another sources or send ships to collect it. If Europe fails Russia can always sell it to China and India, big deal!

Lose/lose for Ukraine. I expect the Ukrainians that fell for the media campaign called "orange revolution" to wake up after a harsh cold winter and reconsider who their real friends should be. After all more then half of Ukrainians speak Russian as their mother tongue, I doubt any amount of inflated money from a decaying USA will be able to change the natural destiny of the Ukraine in the long term (a brotherhood with Russia).

more crap from ilia

by captainkoala on 01.01.2006 [14:14]

"...What we have are two monopolies, not markets..."

You are suggesting that Russia is the only supplier of natural gas in the world, how stupid is that? If you don't like Russia's price find it cheaper somewhere else, I thought you understood capitalism, ilia, I am very disappointed with you.

Capitalist Free Markets.....

by EnglishWorkingclassDissident. on 01.01.2006 [14:38]

Wake up, travel to ANY city or town high street in the UK to purchase consumer products and you will see the monotonous repetitive chain of stores, only a cursory check of price comparison, reveals how the CARTELLS operate.....theres NO REAL CHOICE.....EXAMPLE.....Dixons, PC WORLD, Curry's....are ALL owned by the SAME company the DIXON GROUP.....real COMPETITION isn't tolerated, its sewn up nice and tight, if a NEW product enters the (COUGH COUGH) market, you can bet your bottom dollar its either been taken over by the BIG boys or the product has been SANCTIONED by the BIG boys.....its all hidden CARTELLS and price fixing.....FREE MARKET, MY FUCKING ARSE.

Thats odd captain...

by onlyhuman on 01.01.2006 [14:39]

youre disappointed with ilia.

union?

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [15:01]

I doubt any amount of inflated money from a decaying USA will be able to change the natural destiny of the Ukraine in the long term (a brotherhood with Russia).

Well, what about an integration with brother Russia? Belarus is in the process of an economic union with Russia. Belarus, Ukraine and Russia should form a single political entity again.

Anybody from these countries can have a word on this?

serious

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [15:06]

Well, after USA retreat from Iraq, Syria should try a union with Iraq. A Syrian-Iraqi union. Later, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi, Yemen, Oman and others can join. Together they can form a single political entity.

They can build up their military to deter future USA aggression and then finish off Israe....., no, no, no, just kidding. Just a little new year joke. Hi Hi.

Me, anti-aggression.

Serious.

hi hi

by Yasis on 01.01.2006 [15:07]

Just a little slip of the fingers there...

off topic I know...

by stopwar on 01.01.2006 [15:14]

but could anyone translate the top news story on the Russian version of the site?

just a lot of hooey

by пересмешник on 01.01.2006 [16:33]

"happy new year", that's all I didn't bother to read inside it.
mocking_bird

Latest BBC news... (outrage and EU emergency meeting, 4/1/06)

by stopwar on 01.01.2006 [16:56]

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4573572.stm>

The article was originally entitled "... could hit Britain". Now changed to be less direct. But Britain supported the Orange revolution, and "what goes around comes around".

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