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Photo from www.rian.ru

Russia Snubs U.S., Redirects Gas Flow to Europe — Media

Created: 25.09.2006 14:30 MSK (GMT +3), Updated: 14:30 MSK , 21 hours 9 minutes ago
MosNews

A plan to give Europe access to a substantial amount of natural gas from the giant Shtokman field originally earmarked for the U.S. market is a direct consequence of U.S. policy toward Russia on WTO membership and sanctions on Russian defense exports, Russian newspapers reported on Monday, Sept. 25.

The apparent change of thinking on Shtokman, which is located in the Barents Sea is linked specifically to recently introduced U.S. sanctions on arms export agency Rosoboronexport and on aircraft maker Sukhoi, as well as U.S. refusal to support Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization, Vedomosti business daily has written.

"The States could not have expected that Moscow would not notice the Rosoboronexport and Sukhoi issues," the paper quoted an unnamed source close to the administration of President Vladimir Putin as saying, referring to discussion of reorienting future gas exports.

As MosNews has reported, in early August the United States announced

COMPANY NEWS

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BP's \$18Bln Project in Russia Under Threat of License and Environmental Violations



The Russian British major BP loses permit to develop billion Kovykta gas Siberia due to license environmental violations Russian prosecutor on Monday, Sept. 25

INVESTOR'S CORNER

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Over 40 Russian Companies in IPOs for 2007 — Experts



More than 40 companies are planned for initial public offer: their shares in 2007 Ruben Vardanyan, chairman of the board of Troika Dialog invest

TIME

11:40:54 Moscow, GMT+3

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DJ RusIndex	4,004.07	-2.21%
S&P/RUX Index	419.24	-3.22%
RUR/USD	26.67	-0.02%
RUR/EURO	34.15	-0.02%
Oil Brent	60.04	+1.62%
Oil Urals	56.86	+1.30%
Nickel	30125.00	+1.77%
Gold	592.75	+0.89%
Platinum	1140.50	+0.44%
Palladium	316.00	-0.32%

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September 2006

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Moscow
50 °F
10 °C
break in the clouds

that it was targeting Rosoboronexport and Sukhoi for sanction, alleging that the two Russian firms had been involved in sale to Iran of equipment that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction. Russia, which has been helping Iran build its first nuclear power station, has angrily denied this assertion and has warned that the sanctions were a threat to Russian cooperation with U.S. companies.

“Now it can be said that delivery to Europe and the United States from this source will probably occur on a basis of parity,” *Vedomosti* quoted another source in the Kremlin administration as saying.

The paper said top Gazprom managers had been taken by surprise by Putin’s announcement, which was made over the weekend, and quoted one as saying planned use of the Shtokman gas reserves was now in the realm of “big politics”.

Speaking at a press conference after talks Saturday with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Putin said that the proposal to ship some of the gas from the Shtokman field to Europe had originated with the German leader. “At present, Gazprom is reviewing this possibility,” Putin said, referring to Russia’s state-run gas monopoly [Gazprom](#). “Such a decision might be made in the very near future,” Putin said.

If confirmed, it would be a dramatic shift in orientation of future exports from the Shtokman field, one of the most coveted energy sources in the world with estimated reserves of around 3.2 trillion cubic meters of gas.

Gazprom said on Sept. 6 that it had informed each of the five short-listed foreign companies who are in fierce competition for rights to help develop the Shtokman field that their proposals were still under consideration. Those firms are: France’s Total, Statoil and Hydro of Norway, and ConocoPhillips and ChevronTexaco of the United States.

Kommersant daily also said that the “reorientation” of the Shtokman project floated by Putin was directly linked to worsening relations between Moscow and Washington.

The 40-year Shtokman project is scheduled to come onstream in 2010 and the paper said the plan to divide exports from the field between Europe and the United States “will be the main topic in world energy policy for the next six months, and a point of political conflict with the US.”

Kommersant stressed however that it was the German leader who first proposed that Europe receive a share of Shtokman gas exports and that the initiative was “not purely Russian” in origin.

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group, said on Mon Sept. 11. Vardanya speaking at investr forum in Kazan, ca Russian republic of Tatarstan.

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