

New Gazprom Plans Exclude Ukraine From Transshipping

By [The Moscow Times](#)

February 23, 2012

The  Moscow Times

Gazprom said Wednesday that it would aim to completely stop gas transit via Ukraine when it builds new pipelines later this decade as tensions between the two countries over gas prices and transit escalated.

Gazprom blamed Ukraine for shortages reported by its customers in Europe at the peak of a cold spell this month.

"Significant volumes of gas transshipped through Ukraine failed to reach Europe," Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said at a meeting with President Dmitry Medvedev, according to Medvedev's office.

"On certain days, up to 40 million cubic meters of gas were kept in Ukraine and this, without doubt, incurred both financial and reputational losses on Gazprom."

Ukrainian state energy company Naftogaz denied that. "Since the beginning of 2012, Naftogaz has not taken a single cubic meter of gas from the volumes that were shipped by Gazprom to Europe," it said in a statement.

But citing worries over the security of transit, Medvedev ordered Gazprom to maximize the capacity of the planned South Stream pipeline across the Black Sea that will bypass Ukraine.

Gazprom plans to launch South Stream in 2015 with a capacity of 63 billion cubic meters a year.

Coupled with Nord Stream, a pipeline through the Baltic Sea that Gazprom launched last year with plans to eventually double its capacity to 55 bcm a year, South Stream could allow Gazprom to drop Ukraine as a transit nation.

Russia shipped 104 bcm of gas through Ukrainian pipelines last year.

Moscow has accused Kiev of siphoning gas bound for Europe in the past, most recently in early 2009, when the two ex-Soviet nations were locked in a bitter dispute over supply prices that briefly disrupted supplies to Europe.

Ukraine is also unhappy with the price of Russian gas it imports and has sought to renegotiate the price for more than a year, but the talks appear to have stalled.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2012/02/23/new-gazprom-plans-exclude-ukraine-from-transshipping-a12833>