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Putin Banking on Ukraine Gas Deal Next Week

By The Moscow Times

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President Vladimir Putin said Friday that he hoped a deal would be reached next week with Ukraine to end a long-running dispute in which Moscow has halted natural gas supplies to Kiev.

The Russian and Ukrainian energy ministers are expected to hold more talks with the European Commission in Brussels next week on the dispute over Ukraine's unpaid bills and the price Kiev pays for its gas. How pricing is determined has long been at the heart of Ukraine and Russia's standoff over gas payments.

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