The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin Grants Russian Citizenship to Novatek's Finance Chief, a U.S. National

By Reuters

July 22, 2019



Mark Gyetvay **Mitya Aleshkovsky / ITAR-TASS**

President Vladimir Putin handed Russian citizenship to gas producer Novatek's veteran finance chief Mark Gyetvay on Monday, a move that could potentially help the U.S. national bypass some sanctions restrictions.

U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia in 2014 ban U.S. nationals and companies from helping organize long-term funding for some major Russian firms, including Novatek.

Related article: American Basketball Player Joins Team Russia After Accepting Citizenship

The sanctions were imposed following Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

When the U.S. and the EU imposed sanctions on Russia, executives with foreign passports at

companies affected including Novatek — the country's largest non-state natural gas producer — and state bank VTB handed over responsibility for organizing new debt or equity issuance to colleagues without EU or U.S. passports.

Gyetvay, who has been Novatek's chief finance officer since 2003, acknowledged back in 2014 that he could no longer help his company raise new long-term financing.

U.S.-born Gyetvay was awarded Russian citizenship in a presidential decree published on the Kremlin's website on Monday. Putin has previously granted citizenship to some other Western nationals working in top positions at Russian companies.

Gyetvay declined to comment on the decree.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/07/22/putin-grants-russian-citizenship-to-novateks-finance-chief-a-us-national-a66518