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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Gas Exports Outside Ex-Soviet States Fell 45.5% in 2022

By AFP

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A Russian gas storage facility in Sabetta, Yamal-Nenets autonomous district.

Russian gas exports to countries outside a group of former Soviet republics plunged by 45.5% in 2022, figures from gas giant Gazprom showed Monday.

Gazprom said in a statement that exports outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) totaled 100.9 billion cubic meters compared to 185.1 billion in 2021.

Europe was previously Gazprom's main export market but supplies have been drastically reduced because of sanctions following Russia's offensive in Ukraine in 2022.

Gazprom head Alexei Miller said the company had been steadily increasing supplies to China during the year but did not give details on the quantities.

"From Jan. 1 we are on a fundamentally new level of gas supplies to China," Miller said in the statement.

President Vladimir Putin last month inaugurated the Kovykta natural gas field in eastern Siberia that will allow Russia to increase its exports to China.

Russia does not have pipelines to transport gas from its Western Siberian and Arctic gas fields to China.

But Russia began efforts around a decade ago to develop new fields and build the Power of Siberia pipeline to deliver to the rapidly expanding Chinese market.

The first Power of Siberia pipeline went into operation and began to ship gas from eastern Siberia to China at the end of 2019.

Moscow plans to build a Power of Siberia 2 pipeline.

At a conference last week, Miller admitted Gazprom had had a "very, very difficult" year.

Miller noted a "total change in the energy markets" driven by sanctions in response to Putin's decision to send troops into Ukraine.

Gazprom accounts for 11% of the global natural gas production and has the largest gas reserves in the world.

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