The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

# Putin Launches Russian Gas Shipments to Uzbekistan

By AFP

October 07, 2023



President Vladimir Putin and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev hold a trilateral meeting with Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence. **Vyacheslav Prokofyev/TASS**

Russian Vladimir Putin on Saturday announced the start of gas supplies to Uzbekistan via Kazakhstan, a boost for Russia's industry hit by a flurry of Western sanctions over the offensive in Ukraine.

Despite being home to a wealth of natural  resources including gas, the Central Asian country of Uzbekistan has faced energy shortages.

Moscow meanwhile relies heavily on energy revenues but has seen export plummet since the offensive.

"This is the largest trilateral energy project" between the three ex-Soviet countries, Putin

said, after formally launching the shipment.

He was hosting a meeting in Moscow with his Uzbek and Kazakh counterparts, Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

"The timely implementation of such... project shows that Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are capable of tackling the most complex and ambitious tasks," Putin said.

"Kazakhstan will be able to solve the issue of gasification of its northern and eastern regions" while Uzbekistan will "gain another source of energy".

Putin added that the leaders would during the afternoon discuss further cooperation in the energy sector as a whole.

Russia's offensive against Ukraine has rattled nerves in Central Asian nations, including Kazakhstan, which has sought to distance itself from Moscow.

But the former Soviet states retain close political and economic ties with Russia.

Russian gas exports decreased by 21.5 percent in 2022 as the European Union, once the largest buyer of Russian gas, drastically reduced imports.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/07/putin-launches-russian-gas-shipments-to-uzbekistan-a82695