The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin Praises 'Unprecedented' Energy Ties with China

By AFP

October 19, 2023



Sergei Guneev, RIA Novosti / kremlin.ru

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday praised the "unprecedented" energy cooperation between Moscow and Beijing, as the Kremlin seeks to strengthen its Asian partnerships to make up for the loss of the European market.

Russia has been hit by massive Western sanctions over its Ukraine offensive, with Europe trying to end its energy links with Moscow.

Putin wrapped up a two-day visit to China on Thursday, his first outside the former Soviet Union this year.

"Relations in the overall partnership and strategic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Chinese People's Republic have reached an unprecedented high level and continue to develop dynamically," Putin said in a statement addressing a Russian-Chinese

energy forum in Beijing.

Related article: Putin Arrives in Beijing Seeking Diplomatic, Economic Support from 'Dear Friend' Xi

"One of the key areas of this relationship is energy cooperation, which is becoming increasingly active," he added.

The head of Russian oil company Rosneft, Igor Sechin, told the forum that "over 75%" of Russia's exports to neighboring China are energy-linked.

"This year, Russian gas exports to China will reach a historic maximum — more than 30 billion cubic meters of gas will be delivered," the Putin ally added.

Sechin said that Russia was China's main oil supplier in 2023, overtaking Saudi Arabia.

Heavily sanctioned by the West — particularly in oil where the G7, the European Union and Australia have imposed a price ceiling on Russia's exports — Moscow has for months tried to redirect deliveries to Asia, even if it means selling it at a discount.

Moscow hopes to start building the "Power of Siberia 2" pipeline from Russia to China next year, a huge project to deliver more natural gas to Beijing.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/19/putin-praises-unprecedented-energy-ties-with-china-a82821