

Dutch Court Freezes Assets of TurkStream Operator Over Crimean Seizures – Vedomosti

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A Russian compressor station along the Turkish Stream natural gas pipeline. Gazprom

A Dutch court has frozen the assets of TurkStream operator South Stream Transport as part of a bid by Ukrainian businesses to recover losses stemming from Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, the Vedomosti newspaper <u>reported</u> Monday.

DTEK Krymenergo, an energy company owned by Ukrainian billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, has sought compensation in several international courts after Russian authorities <u>seized</u> its assets in Crimea.

In November 2023, an arbitration court in The Hague <u>ordered</u> Russia to pay DTEK \$208 million, plus interest and legal fees. Russia appealed that ruling, and the case remains before a Dutch appellate court.

According to Vedomosti, the Amsterdam District Court ordered the seizure of South Stream

Transport's assets in July as part of DTEK's efforts to enforce the compensation. The value of the assets frozen was not disclosed.

DTEK had sought the freeze on the grounds that South Stream Transport's interests were closely tied to Gazprom, which owns a controlling stake in the pipeline operator. South Stream Transport appealed the ruling in August, arguing it operates independently of the Russian state, Vedomosti reported.

South Stream Transport was originally created to build the South Stream natural gas pipeline beneath the Black Sea, a project that was scrapped after Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea. The company later switched to constructing the TurkStream pipeline, which was completed in 2020.

DTEK, South Stream Transport and Gazprom did not respond to Vedomosti's requests for comment.

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