

Russia Cancels Zero Export Tax for Natural Gas to Ukraine



Moscow, April 3 (RHC) – On Thursday Russia cancelled zero export tax for natural gas it supplies for Ukraine. "I made a decision to cancel the government's decree No. 291 of April 30, 2010, taking into account that the (Russia-Ukraine) agreement has also been terminated," Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev told Alexei Miller, CEO of the gas company Gazprom, during a meeting.

In April 2010, Russia and Ukraine signed a document known as the Kharkov Accord, which established zero export tax for Russian gas. In exchange, Ukraine consented to extend the stay of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea for another 25 years.

According to Medvedev, the reason for the agreement's cancellation was changing circumstances. On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law terminating four treaties with Ukraine over the Black Sea fleet, including the Kharkov Accord.

Medvedev said that due to the Kharkov Accord, Russia had been losing profit it

could otherwise receive as export levy. Ukraine must find resources to pay for Russian gas in full and to pay off the debt it has accumulated, he said. "The people currently making decisions in Ukraine must understand that," Medvedev noted.

In the second quarter of 2014, Gazprom will start selling gas to Ukraine for 385.5 U.S. dollars per 1,000 cubic meters, a sharp hike from 268.5 dollars agreed last December.

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