Verdienste für Verdienst


Hunter Biden steigt ins ukrainische Gasgeschäft ein

Sohn des US-Vizepräsidenten ist jetzt im Vorstand von Burisma. Die Debatte läuft bereits heiß

ANSGAR GRAW UND JULIA SZYNDZIELORZ


Gewachsene Beziehungen

Die ukrainische Gasfirma, für die der Sohn des US-Vizepräsidenten nun arbeitet, hatte stets gute Kontakte zur Regierung.


Die Zeitung verwies schon 2012 darauf, dass die ermittelten Genehmigungen erst in 30 Jahren auslaufen, „wenn die Genehmigungsbehörden selbst womöglich gar nicht mehr existieren“.


CATRIN KARLWEITZ

von den USA

Für die Präsidenten- und Parlamentswahl ist die Präsentation von Russland in einer Art Diplomatiekultur.
Ukraine steelworkers patrol city, driving out separatists

MARIUPOL, UKRAINE

By Andrew E. Kramer

Thousands of steelworkers have fanned out over the city of Mariupol, the site just last week of bloody confrontations between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian militants, establishing order and driving away the militants and their political representatives in the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic.

The workers are employees of Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest man and a recent convert to the side of Ukrainian unity, who on Wednesday had issued a statement rejecting the separatist cause of the Donetsk People's Republic but endorsing greater local autonomy.

By Thursday, miner and steelworker patrols had taken to the streets in at least five cities including the regional capital, Donetsk, and are now the dominant force in Mariupol, an industrial port on the Azov Sea that is the region's second-largest city.

The workers form an extraordinarily important and possibly decisive force in eastern Ukraine, with a history of political activism stretching back to miner strikes that helped bring down the Soviet Union. In this conflict, they had not previously signaled their allegiance to
Tycoon's workers patrol Ukraine city, driving out separatists

Workers from another mill, Azov Steel, took the left side of the city, while the Ilych factory took the right. Both groups were trying to convince longshoremen to patrol the port, Mr. Gorlov said.

The two steel mills fly Ukrainian flags outside their headquarters, but they, too, wonder if their lives might be determined by the whims of the port authorities.

One worker who wears only his protective clothing and has no other belongings said the workers are "outside politics" and not taking sides between the police and national guard. The pro-Russian protesters, though, have left the factory gates attacked and burned. But the workers said they are not afraid to continue working in the steel mill.

The chief executive of Ilych Steel, Yuriy Zinchenko, is also the head of the voluntary steelworker patrols in the city. He said in an interview that the company had remained on the sidelines as long as possible, while tacitly supporting unity with Ukraine by providing to workers that a separatist victory would close export markets in Europe and devastate the factory and the town.

The Ilych Steel Works is a symbolic scene of mid-century industrial sprawl, a legacy of the design sensibilities of gigantism and one of Ukraine's most important factories, producing 5 million tons of slab steel a year. About 50,000 people work in the steel industry in Mariupol, a city of 450,000. So far, in the city, 18,000 steelworkers have signed up for the patrols, Metinvest executives say.

"There's no family in Mariupol that's not connected to the steel industry," Mr. Zinchenko said during an interview at his desk, decorated with a miniature Ukrainian flag. He said a truck had been negotiated with local representatives of the Donetsk People's Republic but not with the group's leaders.

"Ilych's statement this week spelled out the daunting problems for the regional economy and its assets, should the Donetsk People's Republic in fact win its struggle with Ukraine. Nobody in the world will recognize it," he said in a videotaped statement. "The structure of our economy is coal, industry, metallurgy, energy, machine works, chemicals and agriculture. And all the enterprises are connected to these sectors. If we are not able to produce, we will not be able to pay our workers, taxes, and other debts."

"Given the circumstances, the Russian steel company has issued an advance in voice for gas deliveries to Ukraine, which is completely in accordance with the contract, and after June 1 gas deliveries will be limited to the amount paid by the Ukrainian company," said the note, which was released on the Kremlev's website.

Mr. Putin then said Gazprom would demand payment in advance for deliveries to Ukraine in a letter to European leaders in mid-April.

"Undoubtedly, this is an extreme measure," he wrote at the time. On Thursday, Mr. Putin said that Ukraine's debt to Gazprom, the Russian state energy company, had grown from $1.9 billion in early April to $5.3 billion by May.

The new numbers reflect a sharp and controversial increase in gas prices for Ukraine that has been seen as a punitive reaction to the exertion of former President Viktor F. Yanukovych in February. In a deal signed by Mr. Putin and Mr. Yanukovych in December, Russia agreed to sell gas to Ukraine at a price of $385 for 1,000 cubic meters. Last month, following Mr. Yanukovych's ouster, Gazprom raised the price to $385 for 1,000 cubic meters, the standard measure for gas in Europe, representing a severe blow to the fledgling government as it seeks to confront the federal government's intransigence.

Arsonists set fire to the Interfax news service, saying the company was responsible for delivering the news from Russia. In his letter, Mr. Putin said that Ukraine's failure to pay the debt came despite the country's receiving $3.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund as the first tranche of a $7 billion loan to the country.

"I would like to emphasize once again that we were forced to make this decision," Mr. Putin said. "We also hope that the European Commission will more actively engage in the dialogue in order to work out specific and fair solutions that will help stabilize the Ukrainian economy."