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# Armenia Enters The First Three In The World By Volumes Of Gasification

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ArmInfo. Meeting of the Armenian and Russian Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Dmitry Medvedev was held upon completion of 'gas summit' in Moscow on January 17.

As the Armenian presidential press service told ArmInfo today, D. Medvedev expressed gratitude to his Armenian counterpart for participation in the summit. The presidents highly evaluated the state of bilateral relations as reliable and worthy of the two countries' strategic interaction. RF president said the Armenian-Russian relations are at much more profitable level than the issues discussed before the presidents' meetings. In particular, D. Medvedev emphasized that despite sharp rise in prices for the Russian gas in 2009 for Armenia, no problems appeared in this direction.

For his part, the Armenian president emphasized importance of cooperation of Armenia with Russia and "Gazprom" in energy sphere in a long-term prospect.

S. Sargsyan emphasized that the volumes of gas consumption increased three times over the recent years and the republic holds the leading positions by gasification volumes not only in CIS but in the whole world. S. Sargsyan and D. Medvedev agreed that frequent high-level meetings allow to solve even the most insignificant problems of bilateral relations. To note, Armenia imported 2,5 bln cub m of gas from Russia in 2008. The Russian gas is imported by 'ArmRusgazprom' CJSC where 75,55% of shares belong to 'Gazprom', 20% - to the government of Armenia and 4,44% - to 'Itera' group of companies. Presently, Armenia has been gasified by 93%, and the republic enters the first three in the world by this indicator. Moreover, Armenia takes the first place in the world by gasification volumes among the countries with no own gas reserves. Started April 1, 2009, the Russian gas will cost for Armenia \$165 per 1,000 cub m instead of \$110 in 2008.

Moreover, it is envisaged that started 2011, Armenia will pay for the Russian hydrocarbon material at the European prices. "ArmRusgazprom" CJSC has submitted the Company's investment programme for 2009-2011, being currently under discussion, to the Public Services Regulatory Commission for approval, 5 bln drams of them - to the gas transport system and 5,8 bln drams - to the gas distribution system. 37,1 bln drams will be invested in different projects, including reconstruction and extension of the underground gas storage, completion of the engineering infrastructure of Iran-Armenia gas pipeline, testing of the gas pipeline and reconstructive measures, completion of the principal gasification programme, implementation of the gasification programme on social-economic development of near-border regions, as well as continuation of the programme of installation of security systems (signal devices, isolating valves).

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