

Germany's role in Ukraine's shift to the West

When the population of Ukraine demanded a more democratic country, Russia reacted with aggression and Germany stepped up as a critical partner



"I made very clear that a Nord Stream 2 project is not possible without clarity on the future transit role of Ukraine"

Chancellor Angela Merkel, April 2018

Germany

BERLIN

Greifswald

NORD STREAM
 NORD STREAM 2 (PROPOSED)
 GAS PIPELINE (MAIN ARTERIES UKRAINE-RUSSIA)

NORD STREAM 2

Ukraine is Russia's gateway into European gas markets, a position that brings in significant transit revenues and gives Ukraine much needed geopolitical leverage against Russia. In 2018, the pipeline network that runs through Ukraine transported approximately 83.839 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas to Europe - around 17 percent of the EU's total gas consumption in 2017 (491bcm). But the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that would run directly between Russia and Germany could significantly weaken Ukraine's position. Although Chancellor Merkel continues to support the project, despite objections from Ukraine and other European countries, she has insisted on Ukraine retaining a transit role.

Russia

CRIMEA

In early 2014, Kremlin-backed forces seized control of the strategic region of Crimea. Masked gunmen occupied its key buildings including the parliament, which then triggered an unconstitutional and opaque referendum on joining Russia. Soon after the vote, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared Crimea a subject of Russia. The UN General Assembly eventually adopted a resolution considering the referendum as invalid and reaffirming Ukraine's territorial rights over the peninsula. The EU, NATO and majority of countries still consider the region as part of Ukraine. In late 2018, tensions around Crimea escalated when Russian forces shot at and seized three Ukrainian navy vessels off the Crimean coast.

UKRAINE

KIEV

Lviv

Dnipro

Sebastopol

UKRAINE-GERMAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

\$8.1 BILLION

Trade between Germany and Ukraine (2017)

\$1.8 BILLION

German investment in Ukraine (2017)

NATO

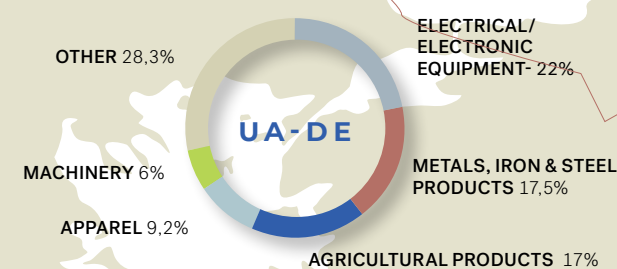


According to NATO, a sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine is key to Euro-Atlantic security. Ukraine has been cooperating with NATO since the early 1990s, but today that partnership has become critical. In June 2017 the

Ukrainian Parliament adopted legislation prioritizing NATO membership, with President Poroshenko stating he would work on reforms to meet membership standards by 2020. A 2017 poll by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation suggests that 69 percent of Ukrainians support joining NATO, compared to 28 percent in 2012. NATO has been a strong backer of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. All NATO allies have imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Russia for its actions, and the organization continues to provide political and practical defense support to Ukraine.

SYNERGISTIC BILATERAL TRADE

TOP UKRAINE EXPORTS TO GERMANY (2017)



TOP GERMAN EXPORTS TO UKRAINE (2017)

