

#RUSSIA

APRIL 18, 2014 / 11:41 AM / 4 YEARS AGO

Shell committed to Russia expansion despite sanctions

Alexei Anishchuk



NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell is committed to expansion in Russia, Chief Executive Ben van Beurden told Russian President Vladimir Putin at a meeting on Friday amid sanctions imposed on the country after its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with Ben van Beurden (L), chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow April 18, 2014. REUTERS/Maxim Shipenkov/POOL

Shell plans to expand Russia's only liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant with Russian partner Gazprom, he said at a meeting at Putin's residence.

"We, of course, will pledge all the necessary administrative guidance and support," Putin said in response in a meeting that was later broadcast on national television.

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The United States and European Union have imposed targeted sanctions against a list of Russian and Ukrainian individuals and firms in retaliation for Moscow's annexation of Crimea last month.

EU and U.S. diplomats have indicated that they may consider wider sanctions against whole sectors of the Russian economy if Russian forces were to enter Ukraine.

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“We are very keen to grow our position in the Russian Federation,” van Beurden said. “We look forward with anticipation and confidence on a very long-term future here in Russia.”

BP boss Bob Dudley said this week the sanctions had not impacted the company’s business in Russia.

Ben van Beurden, chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, gestures during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow April 18, 2014. REUTERS/Maxim Shipenkov/POOL

LNG EXPANSION

Shell already has an oil-producing project with Gazprom Neft, Gazprom's oil arm, and they have started to tap hard-to-recover oil in Russia.

Van Beurden confirmed that Shell had agreed with Gazprom to expand the Sakhalin-2 LNG plant which produces 10 million tonnes of LNG per year.

Other shareholders include Japan's Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

The expansion plan is in line with Putin's demand to boost production of LNG and double Russia's global market share to around 10 percent by 2020.

Earlier on Friday, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said there was no sign of international oil and gas majors cutting investment.

The world's top crude oil producer and a leader in natural gas, Russia has signed deals with international majors including ExxonMobil, Eni, Statoil and BP, mainly relating to projects in the Arctic.

Novak also said the 2,400-kilometre (1,490-mile) South Stream pipeline from Russia via the Black Sea to southern Europe, avoiding Ukraine, would proceed despite signs that the European Union may withdraw its support.

Reporting by Alexei Anishchuk and Anastasia Lyrchikova; Writing by Vladimir Soldatkin and Conor Humphries; editing by Jason Neely

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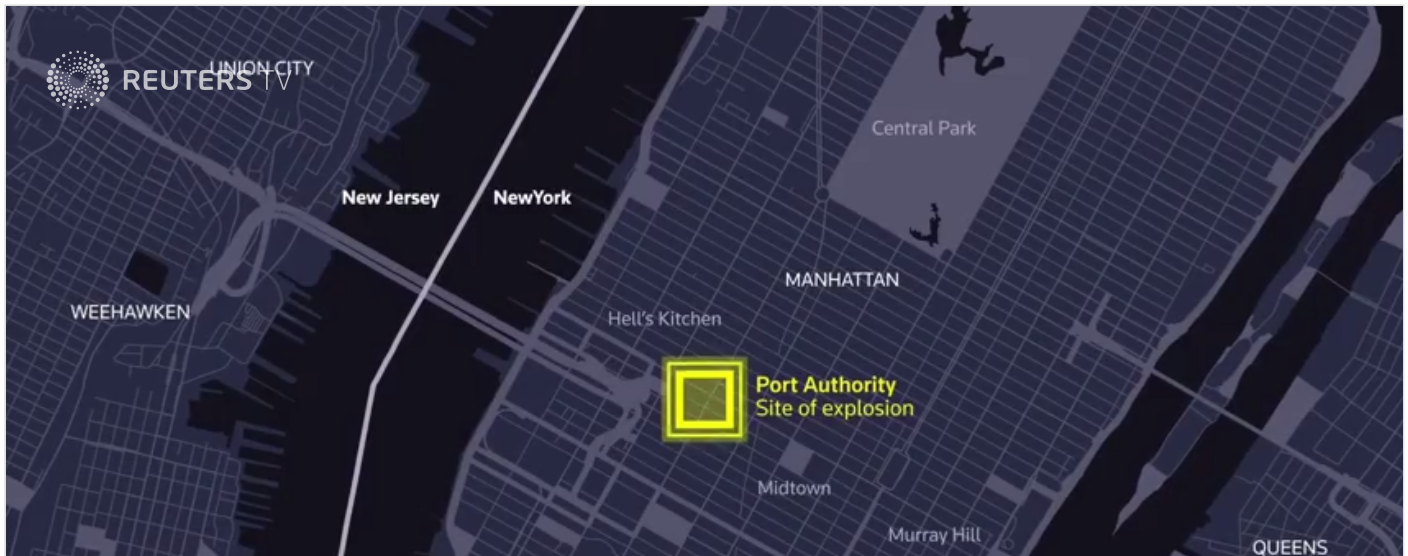
DECEMBER 11, 2017 / 10:50 AM / UPDATED 5 MINUTES AGO

Ex-contractor says he shut Trump's Twitter account by accident

Douglas Busvine



FRANKFURT (Reuters) - The contractor who shut down Donald Trump's Twitter account has told Reuters he did so by mistake, but says he believes some of the U.S. president's recent tweets breach the social network's ban on hate speech.



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Bahtiyar Duysak, 28, said he clicked “a few wrong things which I shouldn’t have done” on Nov. 2, his last day at Twitter, causing Trump’s @realDonaldTrump account - which has 44 million followers - to be taken offline for 11 minutes.

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At the time, Twitter blamed a customer support employee on their last day at work and has since said it has taken steps to prevent such an incident happening again. Trump blamed a “rogue employee” for the temporary loss of his account.

In an interview in Frankfurt, Duysak told Reuters he wasn’t paying attention when a complaint came in an hour before he was to leave Twitter’s San Francisco office for the last time, after cutting short a six-month assignment.

He thought he was dealing with one of many fake Trump accounts.

“You should always double-check things before taking an action,” Duysak told Reuters Television.

Bahtiyar Duysak, former temporary worker at Twitter poses during an interview at the Reuters office in Frankfurt, Germany December 8, 2017. Picture taken December 8, 2017. REUTERS/Ralph Orlowski

Twitter has not confirmed whether Duysak was the ex-employee responsible. The company declined to comment on Duysak's actions or its investigation into the matter when contacted by Reuters.

Duysak said that some of Trump's posts since the incident - in particular his retweeting of anti-Islamic videos posted by a British far-right fringe group - were a breach of Twitter's rules banning hate speech.

Bahtiyar Duysak, former temporary worker at Twitter poses during an interview at the Reuters office in Frankfurt, Germany December 8, 2017. Picture taken December 8, 2017. REUTERS/Ralph Orlowski

“You don’t need to be an expert to understand that a policy violation has happened, that the rules were broken and that this can lead to hatred being spread,” he said.

Twitter said it had no comment, and the White House did not respond to a request for comment.

After stints at Youtube and Google, Duysak joined Twitter as a safety policy operations agent on July 24, according to correspondence seen by Reuters. The job involved checking violations of Twitter’s rules that could not be dealt with by its automatic computer systems.

Duysak, born in Germany to a family of Turkish origin, left the United States a few days after the incident and returned to his home town of Paderborn. He said he had hired a lawyer who liaised with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and assured him he had no case to answer.

He said he had apologized to, and made peace with, Twitter.

Additional reporting by David Ingram in San Francisco; Editing by Nick Tattersall and Kevin Liffey

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