COORDINATION MECHANISM COULD BE 1ST STEP TOWARD KAZAKH-UZBEK-RUSSIAN 'GAS UNION,' SAYS MOSCOW

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To create a trilateral "gas union," Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan may first need to form a coordination mechanism, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

This mechanism could be established with "a certain legal entity for cooperation between these three countries, and for infrastructure development, then for foreign markets," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow, noting that negotiations on the matter were yet to take place with the other two countries.

At a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on Monday, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said his counterpart Vladimir Putin had proposed the gas union and that he would call Uzbekistan's leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev to discuss it.

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