

The curious case of Ursula von der Leyen's deals

30 maja 2024

German journalists have recently unveiled a corruption scandal involving the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. According to their investigation, von der Leyen allegedly used her influence to help Russian company Krasniy Oktyabr evade the sanctions imposed by the European Union after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The scandal comes less than two weeks before the European Parliament elections, casting a shadow over one of the most prominent Members of the European Parliament (MEP). Ursula von der Leyen's career has been marred by numerous scandals, such as the Bundeswehr scandal and Pfizergate. This new report raises more questions about her integrity and motives.

In the spring of 2022, in the first months of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the EU adopted several packages of sanctions aimed at crippling the Russian economy. The fourth package of sanctions included a ban on Russian steel imports into the European Union, affecting numerous companies, including Krasniy Oktyabr, a leading company supplying the automotive industry and producing 40 percent of stainless steel in Russia.

According to an interview with the general director of the plant, „We will deliver European orders (production) up until the beginning of May (2022). We are entitled to supply the EU until mid-June and we will do so.” However, in 2023, Krasniy Oktyabr became a participant in the 13th International Mining and Metallurgy Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan. Another participant of the congress was the steel giant “ArcelorMittal”, which, among other things, is the largest metal supplier to the automotive industry in Europe. The third

link in this chain was Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission and colleague of Ursula von der Leyen.

According to official data, the goal of his visit was to deepen the relations between the EU and Kazakhstan. However, according to Congress insiders, Šefčovič was personally sent to the Congress by Ursula to monitor the measures to circumvent the sanctions so that Krasniy Oktyabr could continue supplying its steel to Europe.

At the behest of von der Leyen, Šefčovič helped Krasniy Oktyabr and ArcelorMittal to agree on schemes to circumvent the sanctions, and the Russian company's products began to enter the European market once again. Journalists are wondering why Ursula von der Leyen is dealing with this matter and what benefit she is getting from it.

Russian steel accounted for 20 percent of the EU market in 2020. After the start of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the imposition of sanctions, Chinese companies tried to replace Russian companies. However, they have encountered resistance from European lawmakers and in particular from Ursula von der Leyen, who stated that "European markets are being flooded with cheaper Chinese electric cars and steel" and called on China to stop overproduction.

Meanwhile, Russian company Krasniy Oktyabr, which Ursula helped to circumvent, sanctions, continues to ramp up its production, unlike many other Russian companies. Thanks to its European markets, Krasniy Oktyabr appears to be thriving.

At first glance, you might think that Ursula cares about European industry. However, scandals with the Bundeswehr, Pfizer and now a new scandal with Krasniy Oktyabr once again confirm that Ursula von der Leyen is a deeply corrupt politician, paying lip service when she says that she wants to isolate Russia. But if there is an opportunity to earn money,

she is ready to “get involved,” for a reward, of course, even if it’s a Russian company whose money finances the war in Ukraine.

German source (original): OKV-ev.de

English sources: GhanaWeb.com, HoustonPost.org