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Agent Křetínský



Daniel Křetínský's No. 1 source of income is Vladimir Putin. That is if you accept the axiom that Putin is Gazprom. The monopoly Russian natural-gas exporter has a transit contract with Eustream of Slovakia that brought Křetínský and his EPH partners [€173m in 2017](#). Ever since Křetínský shocked France last fall by buying a minority in Le Monde, he has had to defend against suspicions that he's an oligarch under the [influence of Russia](#). In a rare interview, Křetínský told [Canal+](#) in impeccable French that this is offensive to him and that there isn't a single reason to call him a Russian agent. Yet he boasted that the value of the companies he owns is €3bn. How did someone from an "absolutely normal family" do this in a decade? It's much easier for the French to see him as a front for Russia than as the product of profitable connections at ČEZ and other public-owned Czech companies. If he wants to dispel the rumors, he can issue a sincere report, "How I made my fortune."

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