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## Ukraine to close state offices, bank services in rebel-held east

*Україна закрила державні установи та банки на східних територіях,  
що контролюються повстанцями*

*В суботу український президент Порошенко видав низку указів, на основі яких закриваються всі державні установи та перестають надаватися банківські послуги на територіях, які підконтрольні сепаратистам. Україна скоротила фінансування в Донецькій та Луганській областях після проведених там виборів, які Порошенко назвав незаконними. Повстанці ж в свою чергу говорять, що Україна порушила мирну угоду, відізавши закон про надання особливого статусу цим регіонам.*

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/ukraine-to-close-state-offices-bank-services-in-rebel-held-east/2014/11/15/778d44c4-6d12-11e4-a31c-77759fc1eacc\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/ukraine-to-close-state-offices-bank-services-in-rebel-held-east/2014/11/15/778d44c4-6d12-11e4-a31c-77759fc1eacc_story.html)



KIEV — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko issued several decrees Saturday to shut state institutions and banking services in pro-Russian eastern regions, pressing a move to cut links with the rebel-held territory.

Ukraine has cut all state funding to separatist parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions after separatists held elections that Poroshenko condemned as illegal and in violation of a cease-fire pact made in September. The rebels say Ukraine violated the deal by moving to revoke a law granting the regions autonomy, putting an already fragile accord in doubt.

A decree posted on the president's Web site said all state companies, institutions and organizations should end their work within a week and "evacuate workers, with their permission, [and] where possible remove property and documents."

The ruling, which formally asks parliament to revoke the "special status" of the regions, also suggests Ukraine's central bank take measures to close down all banking services in certain parts of separatist-held areas, including card operations.

Poroshenko's rulings, which are based on decisions made by Ukraine's Security Council, also require Ukrainian gas producers to supply all their output in the 2014-2015 seasons to the population, rather than to industry.

Russia cut off gas supplies to Ukraine in June over a pricing dispute and while some flows may restart in the coming weeks after an agreement brokered by the European Union. Ukraine's dependence on Russian natural gas and other resources have financial implications for both countries.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that Russia would not demand early repayment of \$3 billion that Russia lent to Ukraine last year, the Interfax news agency reported, citing comments by Putin to German TV channel ARD. But Putin said that Russian state bank Gazprombank could demand early repayment of loans made to the Ukrainian state energy firm Naftogaz, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Ukraine accuses Russia of sending more soldiers and weapons to help rebels prepare for a new offensive. The Kremlin has repeatedly denied aiding the separatists.