

Belarus Offers to Supply Oil Products to Ukraine

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

MINSK — Belarus is ready to supply Ukraine with oil products, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko told his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko on Monday.

Belarus has two major refineries but gets the bulk of its oil from Russia, which annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in March and is now under Western sanctions.

"Alexander Lukashenko stressed that Belarus understands the acuteness of this problem during the harvesting campaign and therefore, despite domestic needs, will assist Ukraine in ensuring its economy has oil products," the Lukashenko's administration said in a statement after the two leaders spoke by telephone.

In May, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an agreement to form the Eurasian Economic Union, which Russian President Vladimir Putin had hoped would rival China, the United States

and the European Union as an economic power.

Moscow agreed to ship, duty-free, 23 million tons (169 million barrels) of oil this year to Belarus as a part of an agreement through the Customs Union, whose members are also Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. In return, Belarus exports oil products, the duty on which it pays to Russia.

Ukraine, one of the world's key grain exporters via the Black Sea, is currently in the middle of a harvesting campaign which could be undermined by rising fuel prices, officials say.

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