

Poland Restores Druzhba Pipeline After Leak Discovery

August 08, 2023



Polish law enforcement cordon off a road near a pipeline leak in October 2022. **Christian Ender / dpa / TACC**

Poland has resumed pumping oil through a key pipeline linking Russia to Europe that was damaged over the weekend, the Polish pipeline operator PERN [said](#) Tuesday.

Though flows through the Druzhba pipeline have dropped sharply after Russia invaded Ukraine, its operation was [partly halted](#) late Saturday after Polish operators discovered a leak at one of its sections. PERN said there was no indication of a third party causing the leak.

“PERN’s technical services restored full functionality to the damaged pipeline on Monday evening,” the Polish operator said in a statement.

Druzhba’s repaired second section delivers oil to German customers, PERN said, adding that the first section remained operational throughout the incident.

Embed:

!!☒@pern_sa wznowił przesył w naprawionej nitce rurociągu. Trwa dokładne oczyszczenie i rekultywacje terenu. Na miejscu do zakończenia prac pozostają służby ochrony środowiska spółki. ☒☒ <https://t.co/hoPrtqs8jp>
[pic.twitter.com/DS4Vaz64bZ](https://t.co/hoPrtqs8jp)

— Anna Trzeciakowska (@AnnaTrzeciakow3) [August 8, 2023](#)

Germany stopped buying oil from Russia in January, while the European Union placed an embargo on Russian oil supplies in December.

But Druzhba has been temporarily [exempted](#) from EU sanctions for Central European members Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which still rely on energy supplies from Russia.

Kazakhstan [supplies](#) Germany with its own crude oil via Druzhba, with plans to deliver 1.2 million tons in 2023.

PERN said a task force has been set up to establish the cause of Saturday's Druzhba leak.

Druzhba is one of the world's largest pipelines with a maximum capacity of 2 million barrels per day.

The pipeline's infrastructure has been [hit several times](#) since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia blamed the damage on Ukraine, which has not claimed responsibility.

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