

Hungary Welcomes Russia Crude Supply Deal After Ukraine Halts Lukoil Transit

By [AFP](#)

September 10, 2024



A worker turns a valve at a pump station in Belarus. **Andrei Liankevich / EPA / TASS**

Hungary's government said Tuesday it welcomed a deal reached by energy company MOL that will ensure the supply of Russian oil via a pipeline running through Ukraine after Kyiv earlier restricted transit.

In July, Hungary and Slovakia accused Kyiv of endangering their energy security by barring Russian energy giant Lukoil from using the Ukrainian section of the Druzhba pipeline.

However, MOL announced Monday that it had reached a "sustainable solution" securing the transportation of oil to the two countries after finalizing agreements with suppliers and pipeline operators.

As part of a deal, MOL said it would "take over ownership of the affected volumes of crude oil at the Belarus-Ukraine border" starting from Monday. It added that the updated

arrangements would comply with EU sanctions.

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"We welcome the solution coming from MOL. It is a technological solution," Hungarian government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs told journalists at a state-funded think-tank.

"But there remains the political messaging which should be solved," he added, stressing that Hungary is always against using energy security as a "political weapon."

In 2022, the EU imposed a ban on most oil imports from Russia, but the Druzhba pipeline was temporarily exempted to give landlocked Central European countries time to diversify.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban is the only EU leader to have maintained close ties with the Kremlin since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

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