

Hungarian Refiner MOL Says Most Russian Oil Replaceable If Druzhba Pipeline Dries Up

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Attila Kisbenedek / AFP

Hungary's largest oil and gas company MOL [said](#) Friday it could source most of its crude from outside Russia if flows through the Druzhba pipeline were disrupted, in what was described as a shift from the previous stance that Russian supplies could not be avoided.

"Should the crude flows via the Druzhba pipeline drop significantly, MOL can increase its utilization of the Adriatic pipeline and supply [about] 80% of its landlocked refineries' intake," the company said in its third-quarter earnings report.

The Adriatic pipeline enables Hungary to import crude by sea and then sends that oil inland by pipeline to refineries across Central and Eastern Europe.

Bloomberg [described](#) the statement as a "pivot" from months of messaging by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and MOL that Hungary's refineries were fully dependent on Russian

crude.

MOL's earnings report warned that the shift would entail "higher technical risks and logistics costs."

It came hours before Orbán met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, where the two were expected to discuss Hungary's reliance on Russian energy and possible exemptions from U.S. sanctions. MOL executive chairman Zsolt Henádi joined Orbán's delegation.

Hungary, which has opposed European Union plans to phase out Russian oil imports by 2027, still sources around 90% of its crude from Russia.

The EU granted Hungary and Slovakia temporary exemptions after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and MOL's margins have benefited from discounted Russian supplies.

MOL has been investing up to \$700 million to upgrade facilities to process non-Russian crude, but the completion of those projects was delayed to 2026, Reuters [reported](#) last year.

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