

Putin to Meet With Hungarian FM to Discuss Druzhba Oil Pipeline

March 04, 2026



Viktor Orban and Vladimir Putin. kremlin.ru

President Vladimir Putin will meet with Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó in the Kremlin on Wednesday to discuss the suspension of oil deliveries along the Druzhba pipeline.

Szijjártó said he would be seeking assurances that “the crude oil and natural gas necessary for Hungary’s energy supply will continue to be available to us.”

“I am also here to obtain guarantees that, despite the changed circumstances and the global energy crisis, Russia will continue to deliver the necessary quantities of oil and gas for Hungary at unchanged prices,” he added.

His visit comes after oil flows to Hungary and Slovakia via Russia’s Druzhba pipeline [stopped](#) after a Russian strike allegedly damaged the line in late January.

Hungary and Slovakia, which depend heavily on Russian energy supplies, have accused Ukraine of delaying repairs to the Druzhba pipeline.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that buyers of Russian oil were “facing blackmail” and accused Ukraine of “deliberately blocking deliveries through the Druzhba pipeline.”

Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán spoke over the phone on Tuesday, during which they discussed a range of issues. It was the first known phone call between the two leaders since oil supplies were disrupted earlier this year.

AFP contributed reporting.

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