

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-001589/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Fernand Kartheiser (ECR)
(2 September 2024)

Subject: New Ukrainian sanctions call into question the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Ukraine has imposed sanctions on the Russian oil company Lukoil, resulting in a halt to oil deliveries via the Druzhba pipeline that crosses Ukraine. This directly threatens supplies to several EU Member States, especially Hungary and Slovakia.

1. Does the Commission see this as an attempt to put pressure on two EU Member States and does it consider that this conduct may constitute a breach of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which prohibits the interruption of energy supplies?
2. Does the Commission consider it acceptable for a candidate country knowingly and deliberately to pursue a policy which adversely affects the economic interests of a number of EU Member States and what are the consequences for Ukraine if it continues to block the transit of oil through the Druzhba pipeline?
3. What action does the High Representative intend to take to protect the interests of Hungary and Slovakia and to restore supplies to these two countries through the Druzhba pipeline without delay, in order to prevent any extension of the blockades to other oil companies and to send a clear message to the Ukrainian Government that the EU does not tolerate any candidate country undermining the interests of its Member States?

Submitted: 2.9.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(22 November 2024)

The Commission conducted consultations with Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine to verify facts and develop a common understanding of the situation.

The Ukrainian authorities confirmed that the sanctions imposed on Lukoil do not hamper the overall transit of oil via the Druzhba pipeline as long as Lukoil is not the owner of the oil.

In practice, missing volumes from Lukoil were replaced with different suppliers/traders through the same Druzhba pipeline in July and August 2024. There was therefore no interruption of energy supplies.

On 9 September 2024, Hungary's MOL Group announced it had concluded a new arrangement providing a sustainable solution for crude oil transportation via the Druzhba pipeline ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission services have concluded that urgent arbitration under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement ⁽²⁾ does not appear to be warranted.

The Commission maintains continuous contacts with Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine, and stands ready to act whenever necessary to ensure security of supply.

Finally, as part of the EU's response to Russia's unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, the Commission has put in place the necessary regulatory framework for all 27 Member States to diversify their energy sources away from Russian fossil fuels. The objective of diversification away from Russian fossil fuels should be actively pursued.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.bse.hu/newkibdata/129120781/MOL_crude%20agreement__20240909_eng.pdf

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014D0295>