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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 16 March 2026  
Security of oil supply implications of the disruption on the Druzhba oil Pipeline  
- Information from Hungary and Slovakia

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**Security of oil supply implications of the disruption on the Druzhba oil pipeline**

Crude oil deliveries to Hungary and Slovakia on the Druzhba pipeline were suspended on January 27 due to acts of war. Although all the technical, physical, and logistical conditions for the resumption of crude oil flows had been put in place since then, Hungary and Slovakia have not received any credible information from the Ukrainian side regarding the expected restart of the pipeline yet.

This approach by Ukraine endangers the security of oil supply of Hungary and Slovakia. The situation is even more concerning with recent tensions in the Middle East. With the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and potential serious war damages on oil and gas producing, processing and transmission infrastructure (that is not an unfounded fear in the light of recent attacks on Saudi Arabian, UAE and Qatari facilities) global supply of crude oil, diesel, and gasoline can experience a significant disruption and prices could further rise. In the light of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz the importance of pipeline oil transportation is increasing. Hungary's and Slovakia's access to the Druzhba pipeline is an obvious diversification asset for our region.

On 3 March, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent a letter to President Ursula Von der Leyen stating that Ukraine continues to block the reactivation of the Druzhba pipeline, even though there are no technical or operational obstacles for the resumption of crude oil flows. Therefore, Prime Minister Orbán calls on the European Commission to support Hungary in neutralizing Ukraine's use of energy as a weapon and to enforce the provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement which clearly states that Ukraine must not endanger the energy security of any EU Member State.

Furthermore, Ministers Péter Szijjártó and Juraj Blanár in their joint letter sent to Commissioner Dan Jorgensen on February 18 also asked the cooperation of the European Commission to make sure that the Croatian Government and the operator of the Adria oil pipeline JANAF act according to the relevant EU regulations and confirm the deliveries of seaborne Russian oil ordered by Hungarian oil company MOL as soon as possible in order to ensure the security of our supply. One also has to take into account that the Central and Eastern European region consumes more diesel than it produces, and due to the tensions in the Middle East diesel markets are tightening, making it crucial for refineries originally optimized for Russian crude oil to operate at the highest possible production level. With the current forced transition to other crude types due to the outage of the Druzhba pipeline, diesel production in Hungary and Slovakia will inevitably decrease temporarily.

In order to maintain the security of supply, the Minister of Energy of Hungary ordered the release of 250,000 tons of crude oil from the emergency oil stocks on 19 February 2026 to bridge the gap of missing Russian oil quantities via Druzhba. As a result of the ongoing release, the volume of strategic stocks has decreased to below 90 stock days. The government of the Slovak Republic declared on 18 February 2026 a state of oil emergency and decided to release 250,000 tons of crude oil from the emergency oil stocks. As a result of the ongoing release, the volume of emergency stocks has decreased to below 90 stock days.

MOL has started the process of supplying its refineries in Hungary and Slovakia with crude oil by sea from as many sources as possible: Saudi Arabia, Norway, Kazakhstan and Libya. Due to the lead time of maritime crude oil transport, the supply route is being established gradually, with the first ships arriving in Omisalj, Croatia, in the first days of March. It will take another 5-12 days for the crude oil to reach landlocked refineries via pipeline. Until then the affected refineries will produce on released strategic reserves, and the supply from the sea will be available by the end of March subject to the delivery capacity of the Adria oil pipeline.

The European Commission, Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia have broadly agreed on the need to perform capacity tests on the Adria pipeline, supervised by an independent international team of experts. However, the details of the testing is still under discussion. The result of the tests are necessary for Hungary and Slovakia to determine the ability of the pipeline for continuous supply of the amount of crude oil sufficient to cover the combined needs of the Hungarian and Slovakian refineries via this route.

In the meantime, we are calling on the European Commission to take immediate action in order to safeguard the energy security and the security of oil supply to Hungary and Slovakia, and to call on Ukraine to restart the operation of the Druzhba pipeline.

Hungary and Slovakia fully condemn the weaponisation of energy sources and rejects any abuse of transit status in the spirit of solidarity and being reliable partners to each other.

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