

PHOTO OF THE DAY



McLaren's Oscar Piastri celebrating his victory in the 39th F1 Hungarian Grand Prix

MTV/Tamas Kovacs

UPCOMING EVENTS

EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels

Events of the Hungarian EU presidency

Events related to the war in Ukraine

Commemorations of the 1456 Battle of Nándorfehérvár (today Belgrade)

TOP STORY

'OIL SUPPLY ENSURED VIA TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS'

Ukraine's decision to halt Russian crude oil transit shipments to Hungary is "incomprehensible and unacceptable", the foreign minister said, adding, however, that "supplies to Hungary have been stabilised by way of temporary solutions".

Answering questions at a press conference on Friday, Péter Szijjártó said the facilities applied "will not work in the medium term", adding it was necessary to find a quick solution. Szijjártó noted that Hungary and Slovakia had been exempted from a European Union sanction banning the use of the Druzhba pipeline which supplies oil from Russia to the region. "So far ... a correct energy cooperation has worked" between Hungary and Ukraine, he said, adding that "Hungary has helped Ukraine many times and in many ways to ensure the security of their energy supplies." "Reports about Ukraine changing their regulations under which shipments by Russia's Lukoil cannot transit Ukraine to Hungary came out of the blue," the foreign ministry quoted Szijjártó as saying. Lukoil supplies one half of the oil imported from the east by pipeline, the statement said, adding that Hungary and Slovakia purchased an annual two million tonnes of crude oil from the Russian company. "The Ukrainian decision will seriously impact the security of oil supplies to Hungary and Slovakia in the long term," Szijjártó said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: EU FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS UKRAINE'S MOVE TO HALT LUKOIL OIL TRANSIT

The Hungarian government is in contact with its Slovak counterpart on Ukraine's stoppage of Russian crude oil transit shipments to the two countries, Foreign Minister Péter Sziijártó said, adding that the matter would be raised at a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Monday. "We have told Ukraine's authorities that it has been an incomprehensible, unacceptable and unfriendly decision ... they showed some readiness to remedy the situation but those endeavours were somehow interrupted half way," he said. "It is strange that a country aspiring to be integrated with the EU is seriously jeopardising the energy supplies of two member states," he said. "We are working to come up with a solution though we have not caused the problem; Ukraine should resolve it and I sincerely hope that they will soon do so," Sziijártó said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY TO PROVIDE EVERY FACILITY TO GEORGIA IN PROTECTING SOVEREIGNTY

Hungary will provide Georgia with all support to protect its sovereignty and accelerate that country's European Union integration, Foreign Minister Péter Sziijártó said after talks with his

Georgian counterpart, Iliá Darchiashvili, in Budapest on Friday. The Hungarian government will continue to promote Georgia's EU integration "with all its might" and will do everything to forward the process during Hungary's current EU presidency, the foreign ministry quoted Sziijártó as saying. Fast developing countries such as Georgia "could lend a great momentum to the European Union, whose competitiveness has significantly decreased recently, therefore it is also in the EU's fundamental interest that Georgia should join," Sziijártó told a joint press conference held with his counterpart. The minister highlighted the progress in bilateral ties, noting that the turnover of bilateral trade had increased by 2.5 times since 2010, and Hungary's Wizz Air had become an air traffic market leader in Georgia. Sziijártó noted that they signed an agreement on the reciprocal protection of investments.

On another subject, Sziijártó said Georgia could be crucial for improving Europe's energy security, diversification of energy sources and green transition. Hungary and Romania, in cooperation with Azerbaijan and Georgia have made great progress in facilitating the imports of green energy from the latter two countries, Sziijártó said. The cooperation is aimed at building "the longest submarine electric power line in the world", Sziijártó said, adding that a feasibility study was being prepared while the four countries were about to set up a joint venture for the purpose. "All conditions are in place for a great,

Caucasian-central European success story," he said.

The minister added that "Europe should be as happy as a lark" with Georgia's endeavour to join and "should do all to accelerate that process ... but instead the European liberal mainstream, the pro-war politicians and Brussels bureaucrats are seeking to thwart Georgia's European integration." He suggested it was happening because "Georgia has a patriotic government ... that fights for their own national interests and ... against foreign influence." He added that the Georgian government was working to protect families and a traditional family model, and adopted a law to the latter end. "That is why Brussels has imposed political and financial punishments, freezing funds earlier pledged to Georgia and hindering integration talks with every possible means," he added. "We know this all too well since this is exactly what the Brussels elite has been doing to us," Sziijártó said.

BAKONDI: HUNGARY PUTS FORWARD SEVERAL PROPOSALS ON TACKLING MIGRATION

As part of its EU presidency, Hungary has put forward several proposals on resolving the issue of migration, which the EU has not tackled successfully since 2015, the prime minister's chief security advisor told public broadcaster M1 on Saturday evening. Hungary advocates introducing an EU-

wide system for asylum applications to be submitted outside the bloc, and it also champions tight controls of the external borders, György Bakondi said. He noted increasing pressure posed by migration along three main routes: most migrants trek from Arica to the Canary Islands, while along the second most dangerous route, many Muslims are transported to the shores of Italy on small boats from the Sahara region, he said. At the same time, the Balkan route has seen a big uptick in migration, though the Hungarian border is now under less pressure thanks to cooperation between Serbian and Hungarian police, which started last October. Afghan people smuggling rings have been forced out of the region, relocating to the Bosnian-Croatian border, he said. Bakondi hailed Italian efforts to help the governments of Tunisia, Libya and Algeria, providing incentives aimed at preventing migration from their shores.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: FORMULA 1 COUNTS ON HUNGARY IN THE LONG TERM

The FIA governing body of motor sport and F1 management are contented with the renovation of Hungaroring so far and are counting on Hungary in the long term, Péter

Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, said at the venue of the 39th Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix. The minister met FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem and Stefano Domenicali, the president and CEO of Formula One Group, on Saturday. Szijjártó told MTI that Mogyoród would be part of the F1 competition calendar for the long haul. He said the two officials appreciated Mogyoród as “a traditional track” that showed what the sport was like a few decades ago. Not every track could be “the most modern”, he said, adding that they liked the fact that Hungaroring combined tradition with modern standards. He noted that the first stage of the renovation had been completed and the second would begin after the current event, involving the upgrade of Hungaroring’s main grandstand, main building, race control centre, paddock area and tunnels.

GULYÁS: F1 HUNGARAIN GRAND PRIX IMPORTANT FOR HUNGARY

The Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix is important to Hungary both in terms of PR and prestige, the head of the Prime Minister’s Office said on Sunday. Speaking to reporters in the Hungaroring paddock ahead of the

39th Hungarian GP near Budapest, Gergely Gulyás said most of the negotiations on the future of the race had been concluded, and an agreement had been reached with the commercial rights holder on the types of upgrades that were needed to secure the race’s long-term future on the F1 calendar. “The track at Mogyoród isn’t the most modern one, but this has only been the case until now with the launch of a 105 billion forint (EUR 268.6m) upgrade that allows the race to go ahead this year and the next,” Gulyás said, adding that the full extent of the upgrades agreed on with the rights holder would be seen in 2026. He said most of the 300,000 spectators who flock to the racetrack each year are foreigners, which generated direct revenue for Hungary given that they tended to spend several days or even up to a week in the country. Gulyás said the upgrades were ahead of schedule, and the work would resume after Sunday’s race, adding that plans were to complete the upgrades by April 20, 2026. Asked about a potential increase in ticket prices after the upgrade, Gulyás said the aim was not to keep raising prices, adding that the increased capacity of the track facilities was set to generate considerable revenue.