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Hungary sues EU over Russian energy ban

The bloc’s restriction on natural gas imports raises costs and violates its own treaties, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto has said



Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto © Russian Foreign Ministry / Anadolu via Getty Images

Hungary has filed a lawsuit with the EU’s top court seeking to annul a ban on Russian energy supplies to the bloc, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto has announced.

The EU Council last month approved a plan to phase out Russian gas imports by 2028, requiring short-term contracts to end within six months and all remaining pipeline and LNG supplies to stop by the end of 2027.

Several member states criticized the move, warning it would push up prices and threaten energy security. Hungary and Slovakia in particular have refused to support the initiative.

Announcing the legal action on X on Monday, Szijjarto said Hungary would “challenge the REPowerEU regulation banning the import of Russian energy and request its annulment.”

The diplomat said the lawsuit was based on three main arguments, including that restrictions on energy imports can only be imposed

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through sanctions requiring unanimous approval. The EU had been aware of objections from Hungary and Slovakia, Szijjarto said, but still adopted the measure *“under the guise of a trade policy.”*

He stressed that EU treaties make clear that each member state decides its own energy sources and suppliers. The regulation also breached the principle of energy solidarity, he stressed, adding the decision *“clearly violates”* this in Hungary’s case.



Warning of the impact on supply and prices, Szijjarto said only *“more expensive and less reliable alternatives”* were available and that *“without Russian oil and gas, our energy security cannot be guaranteed,”* nor could low energy costs be maintained for Hungarian families.

The trial could last *“about one and three-quarters to two years”* and *“must be brought to a conclusion,”* Szijjarto said, adding that the current ruling party in Hungary would likely need to win the next elections to succeed.

He also accused *“experts from the international energy world”* of pushing Hungary to abandon cheap Russian energy for more expensive US supplies. The EU has become increasingly dependent on American natural gas, which is set to account for nearly half of the bloc’s supply by 2030, according to various estimates.

The EU has seen a surge in energy prices since it began phasing out Russian oil and gas imports following the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022. Moscow says Western nations are hurting their own economies by choosing costlier and less reliable alternatives.

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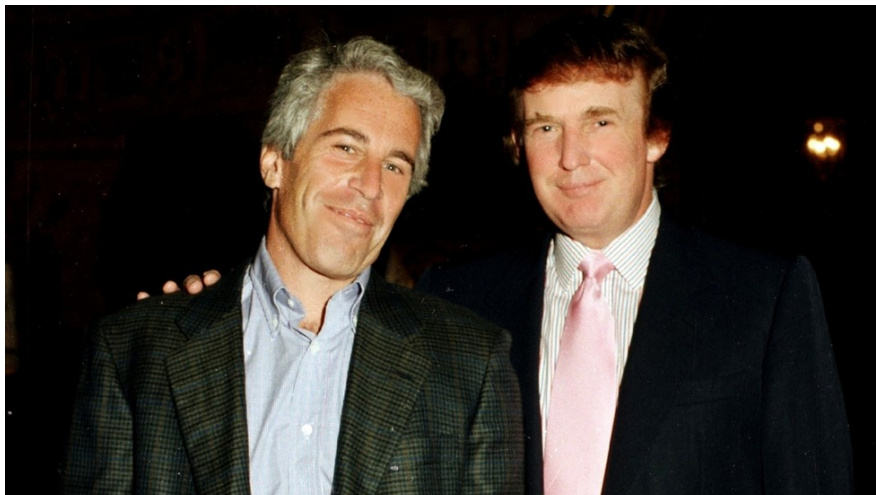


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‘I wasn’t friendly with Epstein’ – Trump

The US president has said that unlike the “Crooked Democrats,” he never went to the disgraced financier’s private island



Jeffrey Epstein and Donald Trump posing together at the Mar-a-Lago estate, Palm Beach, Florida in 1997. © Getty Images / Davidoff Studios

US President Donald Trump has denied being friends with Jeffrey Epstein, accusing the late convicted sex offender of plotting against him.

Last week, the US Department of Justice released the final batch of over 3 million pages, 2,000 videos, and 180,000 images under the Epstein Files Transparency Act, legislation signed by Trump in November, compelling the agency to publish data tied to federal criminal investigations into the disgraced financier.

The US president’s name is mentioned in the files on at least 3,000 occasions. The documents also show that Epstein, who died in a New York jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on federal sex-trafficking charges, had communication with multiple high-profile US figures, including former President Bill Clinton and billionaires Bill Gates and Elon Musk.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Monday that “not only

wasn't I friendly with Jeffrey Epstein but, based upon information that has just been released by the Department of Justice, Epstein and a SLEAZEBAG lying 'author' named Michael Wolff, conspired in order to damage me and/or my Presidency."



"Unlike so many people that like to 'talk' trash, I never went to the infested Epstein island but, almost all of these Crooked Democrats, and their Donors, did," he insisted.

Trump already promised on Saturday that he would sue Wolff,

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Wolff said in an Instagram message on Sunday that he wasn't sure what had caused Trump's anger, but acknowledged that he had encouraged Epstein to *"go public with what he knew about Trump."*

The journalist featured in many of the Epstein files published by the DOJ last November. In an email from February 2016, Wolff suggested that the disgraced financier could become the *"bullet"* to end Trump's first presidential campaign.

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The DOJ prefaced its latest release with a statement, saying the emails revealed no suggestion from Epstein that Trump *"had done anything criminal or had any inappropriate contact with any of his victims."* According to the agency, the emails instead show the convicted sex offender frequently disparaging the president, calling him *"stupid"* and questioning his mental fitness.

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