# Ukraine Strikes Russian Oil Facilities with Drones, EU Imposes Energy Sanctions



### Ukraine's Drone Strikes Target Russian Oil Facilities: Zelenskyy

On June 24, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has deployed drones that successfully hit more than 30 oil refineries, terminals, and depots in Russia. Zelenskyy shared this information during a commemoration address marking the 30th anniversary of the SBU's Center for Special Operations "A."

In his speech, Zelenskyy emphasized that SBU drones have proven effective even at distances up to 1,500 kilometers. He noted that these drone attacks, along with the achievements of Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate (HUR) and armed forces, represent significant milestones in Ukraine's efforts to end the war with Russia.

Zelenskyy praised the Center for Special Operations "A" as one of Ukraine's top combat units and highlighted the unit’s role in reducing Russia’s economic capability to sustain its war effort. He described these military operations as strategically influential in all major battles.

While the full extent of the damage to Russian oil infrastructure remains unclear, the attacks are expected to impact Russia’s ability to fuel its military operations and generate revenue from oil exports.

In related news, the European Union has introduced measures to further reduce its dependency on Russian energy. These new sanctions ban future business dealings with Russian LNG projects and, following a nine-month transition period, prohibit vessels carrying Russian LNG from docking in EU ports if the destination is a third country. This is part of a broader strategy to limit Russia's economic capacity to support its military activities.

Additionally, the EU has identified and sanctioned 27 Russian vessels engaged in deceptive shipping practices, as well as 61 entities from countries including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and the UAE, suspected of supporting Russia’s military.

Despite these sanctions, Russia’s oil and gas revenues are projected to increase significantly in June, reaching $9.4 billion. This rebound is largely attributed to a reduction in refinery subsidies and the redirection of exports to India and China. According to Russia’s Finance Ministry, this trend is expected to continue into 2024, even with ongoing economic pressures and increased defense spending.

President Vladimir Putin has highlighted a 3.6% economic growth in 2023, driven mainly by defense sector production. However, local economists warn that this growth does not broadly benefit the Russian populace and is coupled with substantial budget deficits managed through internal borrowing and the National Wealth Fund.

These developments underscore the ongoing economic and military dynamics in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.