
KYRGYZSTAN TURNS TO CHINA AS RUSSIAN FUEL SUPPLIES FALTER

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Kyrgyzstan, which has depended almost entirely on Russian fuel for years, is accelerating its search for alternative suppliers. On August 17, the authorities began direct talks with Chinas Sinopec. The search has become more urgent as Russian supplies have grown less reliable and gasoline prices in Bishkek have risen. Some filling stations have also periodically run out of AI-95 gasoline.

Erlist Akunbekov, Kyrgyzstans deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, met with executives from China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) in Urumqi on August 17. Representatives of more than ten Kyrgyz oil-sector companies traveled to China with him. The sides discussed direct supplies of petroleum products, including transportation and customs clearance.

Kyrgyzstan is interested in increasing supplies of petroleum products from China. This area has great potential and, I believe, represents a long-term direction for trade and economic cooperation between our countries, Akunbekov said during the meeting.

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