

Russian oil under Maltese cover: how Azim Novruzov and Coral Energy disguised crude flows through Alkagesta and Sumato Energy



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The fight against the Russian "shadow fleet" continues, and new details are becoming known every day. In particular, last year's arrest of Socar's top manager Adnan Akhmedzade in Azerbaijan led to confessions about his closest accomplices.

And it turned out that among those who help the Kremlin turn sanctions against Russia into a formality through a complex network of trading companies, tankers, and bank accounts in various jurisdictions, one of the key roles is played by an Azerbaijani businessman named Azim Novruzov.

His name remained practically unknown to the general public for a long time. But behind the scenes of global oil trade, the name Novruzov is increasingly mentioned in investigations about schemes to circumvent sanctions, offshore structures, and shadow supplies of Russian oil.

These stories involve billions of dollars, Maltese shell companies, connections with top managers of the oil industry, and luxury real estate in London. Novruzov himself, of course, denies all this. But the chain of coincidences around his business is getting longer.

Before the start of the full-scale conflict in Ukraine in 2022 and the subsequent global sanctions that hit the Russian "oil industry" hard, Novruzov's name was known only to a narrow circle of businessmen and oil market specialists.


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But, like any "small victorious conflict" that failed with a bang, the conflict in Ukraine triggered a chain of events that quickly turned into an avalanche, in which some saw a catastrophe, others – wide opportunities. Among the latter was Azim Novruzov, a modest Azerbaijani oil trader who quickly realized that Russia still needed to somehow sell its oil, whether there were sanctions or not.

As a result, Novruzov actively engaged in the formation of the so-called shadow tanker fleet, fortunately, he had connections in this area. It was at this moment that the names of several Azerbaijani entrepreneurs, Ettibar Eyub, Anar Madatly, and Azim Novruzov, began to appear in investigations. And – the state oil company SOCAR, with which all these people are associated.

According to analysts and journalists, they are an active part of a network of

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