Coal Laundering Machine: How Dmytro Kovalenko turns Russian resources into "clean" Ukrainian profit

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Following a series of investigative reports, coal trader Dmytro Kovalenko—who has been linked in publications to Russian coal supplies allegedly routed through offshore structures and companies in the UAE and Switzerland—reportedly began efforts to reduce the online visibility of references to his alleged connections with Russia. At the same time, new articles and materials have emerged presenting alternative accounts of the coal's origin and portraying Kovalenko as a legitimate international commodities supplier.

Following a series of investigative reports, coal trader Dmytro Kovalenko—who has been linked in publications to Russian coal supplies routed through offshore structures and companies in the UAE and Switzerland—reportedly began efforts to remove online references to his alleged connections with Russia. At the same time, new articles and materials have appeared that present the coal as having a different origin and portray Kovalenko as a legitimate international commodities supplier.

In response, we are publishing an investigation containing documents, company names, and facts that appear to be disappearing from the public domain.

Coal supplies have long been a sensitive issue for Ukraine. Since 2014, the occupying state has almost entirely deprived the country of the ability to extract and deliver this resource from the Donbas region.

It was in this context that the notorious "Rotterdam+" scheme emerged, under which coal was formally declared as being imported from South Africa, while in practice it was sourced from temporarily occupied territories. The story was marked by high-profile figures, repeated statements from law enforcement about the alleged dismantling of these schemes, and, ultimately, a confession by convicted state traitor Viktor Medvedchuk detailing how coal supplies were actually carried out from ORDLO and Russia.

And now, the energy market sees the emergence of Dmytro Kovalenko, who positions himself as a coal businessman and almost a savior of Europe thanks to diversified supplies. Journalists found out who Kovalenko is and how the coal, claimed to be from South Africa or Colombia, or any other source, actually turns out to be Russian.

In November 2019, the Security Service of Ukraine reported about exposing a large-scale scheme financing terrorist organizations "L/DPR" through coal mining and subsequent deliveries to Ukraine and European countries, with some organizers being detained. It was about supplies from temporarily occupied territories, in particular for the energy company "Centrenergo," over control of which several major players on the energy market fought at the time.

Like any scandal in the economic sphere, this led to a redistribution of spheres of influence. Companies close to oligarch Ihor Kolomoyskyi, who were suspected of trading ORDLO coal in Ukraine, were replaced by the then-unknown Swiss firm Adelon AG.

The media already reported back then that the firm is actually not Swiss and belongs to natives of Donetsk who moved to Dnipro. At that time, the name of Dmytro Kovalenko, the actual head of Adelon AG, surfaced.

In December 2019, Adelon AG's press service released an official press release stating it had no relation to coal supplies from occupied Donbas and does not do business in Ukraine. Here is the direct quote: "Adelon AG" is exclusively engaged in the supply of coal from the Kuznetsk Coal Basin (Russia) and does not work with producers in the Rostov region or mines in the occupied territories of Ukraine… Since Adelon AG does not supply coal to Ukraine and does not do business here, we were surprised that the company's name appeared in some media with inaccurate statements." AG Dmytro Kovalenko completely denied that they do any business in Ukraine.

Slightly more than two years passed, and Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Kovalenko officially began to call himself the beneficiary of the Swiss Adelon AG. The very one that continued to supply Russian coal even after Russia occupied Crimea and began military actions in Donbas. But now he tries to "sell" the story that he supplies coal from South Africa, Australia, the USA, and so on for European consumers. It seems as if there was never and is not now any Russian coal.

In reality, Kovalenko's cooperation with the aggressor country did not stop even after February 24, 2022. The media obtained access to documents of companies associated with Dmytro Kovalenko, which clearly state that the producing country of the supplied coal is Russia.

ADELON
STABLE ALTERNATIVE
Invoice № 13/07/2022
Инвойс № 13/07/2022
July 28, 2022
28 июля 2022 года

SELLER / ПРОДАВЕЦ: Adelon AG
Address/Адрес:
Zugerstrasse 32, 6340 Baar, Switzerland
Registration number CHE-483.426.634
BANK DETAILS / БАНКОВСКИЕ РЕКВИЗИТЫ:
C.I.M. BANQUE
Bank address: 16 Rue Merle d'Aubigné, 1207 Genève - Suisse
S.W.I.F.T.: CIMMCHGG
IBAN No: CH98 0882 2106 0368 5000 1 USD
Correspondent bank: JPMorgan CHASE NY
SWIFT: CHASUS33XXX
ACCOUNT: 000000478234599
Correspondent bank: Bank of New York Mellon NY
SWIFT: IRVTUS3NXXX
ACCOUNT: 8901547697

BUYER / ПОКУПАТЕЛЬ: LLC «Ecoil Chemical» / ООО «Экойл Кемикл»
Address/Адрес:
Legal address: 211423, Republic of Belarus, Vitebsk Region, Polotsky district, Zelenkovsky, 1.5 km to the west of the village of Gendiki, 2/9, room 8
Mailing address: 211440, Republic of Belarus, Vitebsk Region, Novopolotsk, Parkovaya str., 16A-2a, room 3.
UNP 391594854, OKPO 302469512000
Юридический адрес: Республика Беларусь, 211423, Витебская обл., Полоцкий р-н, Зеленковский с/с, 1,5 км к западу от деревни Гендики, д.2/9, пом.8
Почтовый адрес: Республика Беларусь,211440, Витебская обл., г. Новополоцк, ул. Парковая 16А, пом.2а, каб.3
УНП 391594854, ОКПО 302469512000

CONTRACT / КОНТРАКТ: No. 145-AD/EC dated 09.11.2020, Annex No. 22 dated 27.07.2022 / № 145-AD/EC от 09.11.2020 года, Приложение № 22 от 27.07.2022 года.

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS / ОПИСАНИЕ ТОВАРА: D-grade coal, class DGOM 13-60 mm /Уголь марки Д, класс ДГОМ 13-60 мм.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/СТРАНА ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЯ: Russian Federation / Российская Федерация.

QUANTITY / КОЛИЧЕСТВО: 397,350 MT

PRICE / ЦЕНА: 151,00 USD/MT on the terms FCA d.Bakuny, 37, Grodno district, Grodno region, Republic of Belarus, according to Incoterms 2010. / 151,00 долларов США/МТ на условиях FCA д.Бакуны, 37, Гродненский район, Гродненская область Республика Беларусь, согласно Инкотермс 2010.

TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY / ОБЩАЯ СУММА К ОПЛАТЕ: 59 999,85 USD/долларов США

Photo taken from open sources

Some of these documents link Dmytro Kovalenko's companies to the Russian LLC "MelTEK". The latter belongs to businessman and deputy chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Chelyabinsk region of the Russian Federation Konstantin Strukov.

Приложение № 96 к Контракту № 12-12/19 от «12» декабря 2019 года	Annex No 96 to the Contract No. 12-12/19 dated "12" December 2019
г. Прокопьевск 16 марта 2022 года	Prokopevsk March 16, 2022
Общество с ограниченной ответственностью «МелТЭК», в лице Генерального директора Караваева Николая Сергеевича, действующего на основании Устава, именуемое в дальнейшем «ПРОДАВЕЦ», с одной стороны, и компания Adelon AG (Швейцария), в дальнейшем именуемая «Покупатель», в лице Поверенного компании Кирилла Гейко, действующего на основании Доверенности от 12.04.2021, с другой стороны, в дальнейшем при совместном упоминании именуемые «Стороны», а по отдельности «Сторона», заключили настоящее Приложение № 97 к Контракту № 12-12/19 от «12» декабря 2019 года о нижеследующем:	Limit Liability Company "MelTEK", represented by General director Karavaev Nikolay Sergeevich, acting under the Charter, hereafter referred to as the "SELLER", of the one part, and Adelon AG (Switzerland) company, hereafter referred to as the "BUYER", represented by the Attorney-in-fact Kyrylo Heiko, acting on the basis of the Power of Attorney dated 12.04.2021, of the other part, hereinafter together referred to as the "Parties" and separately as the "Party", have concluded the Annex No. 97 to the Contract No 12-12/19 dated "12" December 2019 as follows:
1. Предмет Приложения	1. Subject of the Annex
1. Продавец обязуется поставить, а Покупатель принять и оплатить уголь, поставленный в адрес нижеследующих Грузополучателей:	1. The Seller shall supply and the Buyer shall accept and pay for the coal delivered to the address of following Consignees:
1.1. Реквизиты грузополучателя: Centrum Logistyczne w Łosośnej 1 Sp. z o.o. ul. Zielona 34/2 02-913 Warszawa, Poland, VAT EU number PL5213782153 for FORTIS LOGISTICS SP Z O O SPÓŁKA KOMANDYTOWA. Страна назначения: Польша. Станция назначения: Кузница Белостоцкая: 025007. Код получателя 9999.	1.1. Particulars of the consignee: Centrum Logistyczne w Łosośnej 1 Sp. z o.o. Address: ul. Zielona 34/2 02-913 Warszawa, Poland, VAT EU number PL5213782153 for FORTIS LOGISTICS SP Z O O SPÓŁKA KOMANDYTOWA Country of destination: Poland. Station of destination: Kuznitsa Belostockaya 025007. Consignee code: 9999.
1.2. В марте 2022года - 20 000 тн +/- 10% Срок отгрузки: март 2022 года. Срок поставки: март 2022 года.	1.2. In March 2022 – 20 000 MT +/- 10% Shipping period: March 2022. Delivery period: March 2022.
1.3. Качественные характеристики Товара, данные о Производителе и Грузоотправителе: Уголь марки Уголь марки А, класс 25-300 мм	1.3. Goods qualitative characteristics, Manufacturer and Consignor data: A-grade coal, class 25-300 mm
Показатель / Значение: Фракция, мм 25-300; Зольность, на сухое состояние (Ad), % 20,0 max; Общая влага, на рабочее состояние (Wtr) % 8,0 max; Содержание общей серы, на сухое состояние (Sd), % 0,75 max; Выход летучих веществ, на сухое состояние (Vd), % 8,5 max; Содержание фракции 0-25 мм, % 10 max	Parameter / Value: Size, mm 25-300; Ash, as dry basis (Ad), % 20,0 max; Total moisture, as received basis (Wtr) % 8,0 max; Total sulphur, as dry basis (Sd), % 0,75 max; Volatile matter, as dry basis (Vd), % 8,5 max; Fraction content 0-25 mm, % 10 max
Производитель угля: ООО «Сибэнергоуголь». Грузоотправитель угля: ООО «МелТЭК». Почтовый адрес: 653016, г. Прокопьевск, ул. Участковая, д. 2. Код ОКПО: 21624791. Код Грузоотправителя: 1026. Станция отправления: Новокузнецк-Сортировочный Зап.-Сиб.ж.д. Код станции отправления: 860009.	Manufacturer of coal: LLC «Sibenergougol». Consignor of coal: LLC "MelTEK" Postal address: 653016, Prokopyevsk, st. District, 2. OKPO code: 21624791. Shipper Code: 1026. Station of dispatch Novokuznetsk - sortirovochniy West-Syberian RW. Code of station of dispatch: 860009.
1.4. Условия поставки: FCA станция Новокузнецк-Сортировочный Зап.-Сиб.ж.д. (ЗСЖД), код станции 860009, согласно Инкотермс 2020.	1.4. Delivery terms: FCA Novokuznetsk - sortirovochniy station (WSRW), station code 860009, according to Incoterms 2020.

Photo taken from open sources

Interestingly, the Russian media noticed Strukov's "betrayal," who occupies the 84th spot on the Russian Forbes list with a fortune of $1.6 billion. They suspect him of trading coal with "unfriendly countries," particularly Ukraine. "It has been revealed that "Meltek" is a coal supplier to Azurit DWC-LLC, registered to Romanian Chemal Giumali. However, the true owners might be Ukrainian businessmen. Strukov's coal travels around the world through them… The fate of "Meltek" and its subsidiaries is burdened by Russia's state Gazprombank. It turns out he sponsors coal supply to countries, which the Russian authorities call unfriendly," - writes the hostile press.

The "true owner" of Azurit DWC-LLC is Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Kovalenko. The firm is registered in Dubai and is used as a "front" for financial operations to minimize tax burdens and "obfuscate" operations.

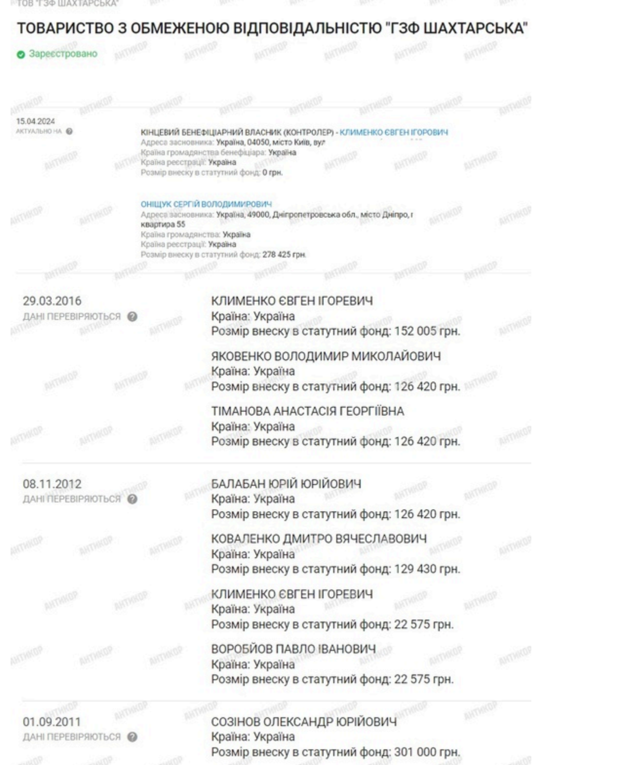
At the same time, Dmytro Kovalenko also has another firm in the UAE, Plaimp SFP Limited. It essentially operates like a credit union, acting as a debt buyer. An additional agreement from July 7, 2022, shows that one of the debtors is the company "MelTEK" of Russian billionaire Konstantin Strukov.

ОБЯЗАТЕЛЬСТВЕ к Договору на траспортно-экспедиторское обслуживание по организации перевозки грузов № 36-TM/MLT от 21 декабря 2021 года	(DEBTOR) IN THE OBLIGATION to the Contract № 36-TM/MLT for transport and forwarding services for the organization of cargos transportation dated 21 of December, 2021
Этот ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ДОГОВОР заключен «07» июля 2022 года между:	This ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT is concluded on «07» July, 2022, by and between:
TEMPERI LOGISTICS LTD, именуемое в дальнейшем как «Кредитор», юридическое лицо, должным образом зарегистрированное и действующее в соответствии с законодательством Болгарии, находящееся по адресу: 9000 Bulgaria, Varna, District Mladost blvd. "Slivnitsa" № 166A, fl. 6, app. office 45, в лице собственника капитала компании Бориса Левита, действующего на основании устава, с одной стороны,	TEMPERI LOGISTICS LTD, hereinafter referred to as the "The Creditor", a legal entity duly incorporated and operating under the Laws of Bulgaria, having its registered and actual address 9000 Bulgaria, Varna, District Mladost blvd. "Slivnitsa" № 166A, fl. 6, app. office 45, represented by represented by company capital owner Borys Levit, acting on the basis of Articles of Association, on other side, on other side,
Общество с ограниченной ответственностью "МелТЭК", именуемое в дальнейшем как «Должник», должным образом зарегистрированное и действующее в соответствии с законодательством Российской Федерации, находящееся по адресу: 653016, Российская Федерация, Кемеровская область, г. Прокопьевск, ул. Участковая 2, в лице Генерального директора Караваева Николая Сергеевича, действующего на основании Устава, с другой стороны и	Limited Liability Company "MelTEK" hereinafter referred to as the "The Debtor", a legal entity duly incorporated and operating under the Russian Federation, having its registered and actual address 653016, Russian Federation, Kemerovo region, Prokopievsk, ul. Uchastkovaya 2, represented by General director Karavaev Nikolay Sergeevich, acting on the basis of the Articles of Association, on other side, on other side, and
Plaimp SFP Limited, именуемое в дальнейшем как «Новый должник», юридическое лицо, должным образом зарегистрированное и действующее в соответствии с законодательством ОАЭ, находящееся по адресу: United Arab Emirates, Jebel Ali Free Zone, C/o BDO Chartered Accountants & Advisors, LOB 16, Office – No.124, P.O. Box 487031, в лице Директора Анастасии Тимановой, действующей на основании устава, с другой стороны, совместно именуемые «Стороны», а каждый по отдельности как «Сторона», заключили настоящий Дополнительный договор о замене стороны (должника) в обязательстве (именуемый в дальнейшем как «Договор») к Договору на траспортно-экспедиторское обслуживание по организации перевозки грузов № 36-TM/MLT от 21 декабря 2021 года о нижеследующем:	Plaimp SFP Limited, hereinafter referred to as the "The New Debtor", a legal entity duly incorporated and operating under the Laws of United Arab Emirates, having its registered and actual address United Arab Emirates, Jebel Ali Free Zone, C/o BDO Chartered Accountants & Advisors, LOB 16, Office – No.124, P.O. Box 487031, represented by represented by Director Anastasia Timanova, acting on the basis of Articles of Association, on other side, on other side, jointly referred to as «Parties» and each individually as «Party», have concluded the present Additional Agreement on replacement of the party (debtor) in obligation (hereinafter referred to as "The Agreement") to the Contract № 36-TM/MLT for transport and forwarding services for the organization of cargos transportation dated 21 of December, 2021 as follows:
1. Кредитор и Должник являются сторонами Договора на траспортно-экспедиторское обслуживание по организации перевозки грузов	1. The Creditor and the Debtor are Parties to the Contract № 36-TM/MLT for transport and forwarding services for the organization of cargos

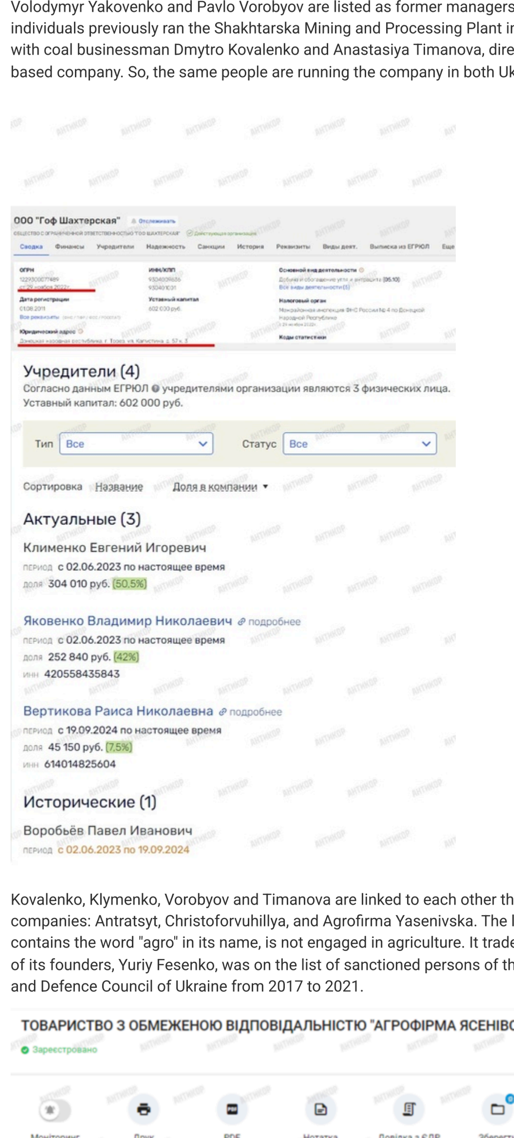
Photo taken from open sources

Anastasiya Timanova is listed as the director of the Dubai company Plaimp SFP Limited. This woman is very closely associated with Dmytro Kovalenko. In particular, she was the beneficiary of "Shakhtarska" mine from 2016 to December 2020. Since July 2011, "Shakhterskaya" has been registered in Dnipro, from December to November 2011 in Shakhtarsk (Donetsk region), from 2015 to April 2024 in Mariupol, and now in Kyiv.

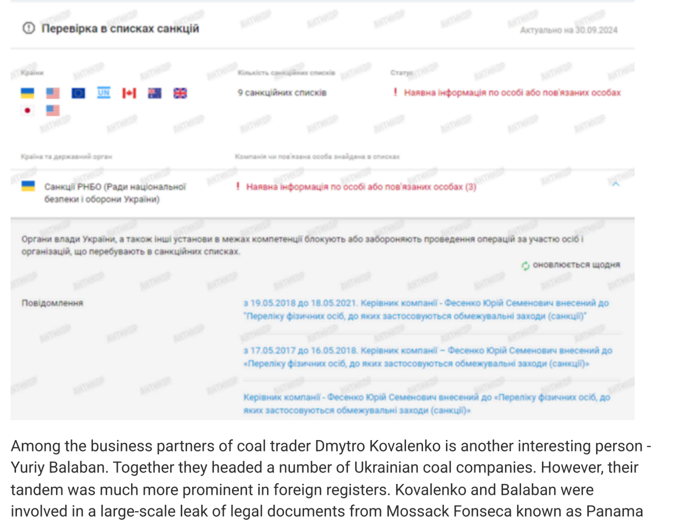
According to Ukrainian registers, as of April 2024, one of the beneficiaries of the enterprise was Yevhen Klymenko, and earlier Dmytro Kovalenko also appeared in the list of founders.



The Ukrainian registry contains a note that from 1 June 2023, Shakhtarska Mining was included in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities of the Russian Federation. At the same time, according to the Russian register, this company has been paying taxes to the Kremlin's pocket since November 2022. In the list of founders in the register of the occupying country, we see the same name as in the Ukrainian one - Yevhen Klymenko. Along with him, Volodymyr Yakovenko and Pavlo Vorobyov are listed as former managers. The same individuals previously ran the Shakhtarska Mining and Processing Plant in Ukraine, together with coal businessman Dmytro Kovalenko and Anastasiya Timanova, director of his Dubai-based company. So, the same people are running the company in both Ukraine and Russia.

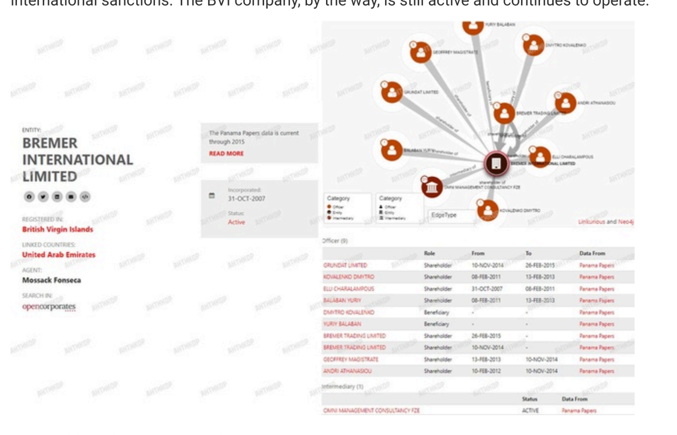


Kovalenko, Klymenko, Vorobyov and Timanova are linked to each other through several other companies: Antratsyt, Christoforvuhillya, and Agrofirma Yasenivska. The latter, although it contains the word "agro" in its name, is not engaged in agriculture. It trades in coal, and one of its founders, Yuriy Fesenko, was on the list of sanctioned persons of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine from 2017 to 2021.

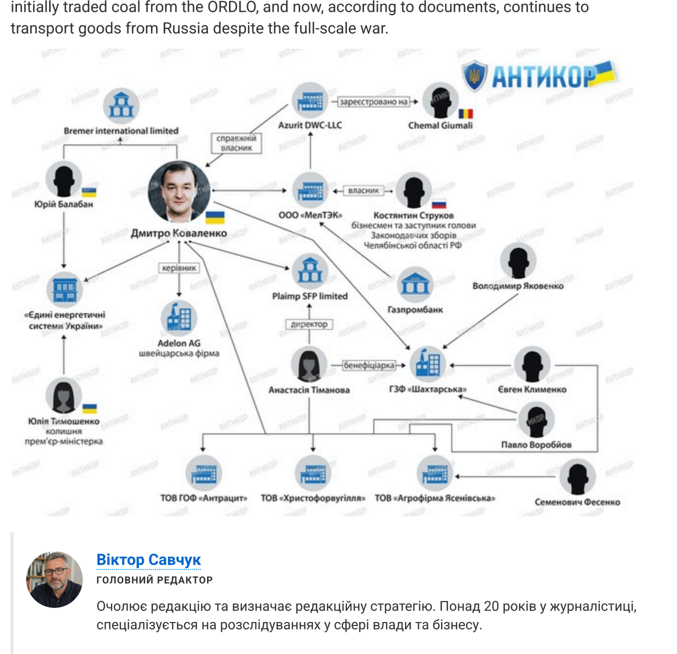


Among the business partners of coal trader Dmytro Kovalenko is another interesting person - Yuriy Balaban. Together they headed a number of Ukrainian coal companies. However, their tandem was much more prominent in foreign registers. Kovalenko and Balaban were involved in a large-scale leak of legal documents from Mossack Fonseca known as Panama Papers.

Both "dealers" were among the shareholders of Bremer international limited, an offshore company registered in the British Virgin Islands. Along with Kovalenko and Balaban, a shareholder of this company was a UAE company whose business partner was under international sanctions. The BVI company, by the way, is still active and continues to operate.



Back in 2019, the Russian media reported that Bremer International Limited, through its shareholder, is actually a clone of the Swiss Adelon AG, which is run by Kovalenko and which initially traded coal from the ORDLO, and now, according to documents, continues to transport goods from Russia despite the full-scale war.



Віктор Савчук
ГОЛОВНИЙ РЕДАКТОР
Очолює редакцію та визначає редакційну стратегію. Понад 20 років у журналістиці, спеціалізується на розслідуваннях у сфері влади та бізнесу.

СТОРІНКА ДЛЯ ДРУКУ

Теги: Коваленко Дмитрий Вячеславович | Коваленко Дмитро В'ячеславович | Viktor Medvedchuk | Rotterdam+ | Business in Russia | Ihor Kolomoyskyi | Yuriy Balaban | Dmytro Kovalenko | Anastasiya Timanova | Konstantin Strukov | ORDLO | Балабан Юрій | Струков Костянтин | Adelon AG | Коваленко Дмитро | Коломойський Ігор | Коваленко Дмитрий | Бізнесмени | Медведчук Віктор

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