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After 2014, some Ukrainian companies continued commercial relations with the Russian Federation and its occupied territories, generating substantial profits. Some of them were one of the most profitable areas of this trade was coal, with shipments destined for the Ukrainian domestic market and for export to European Union countries.

According to investigative reports, coal trader Dmytro Kovalenko has been identified as one of the key figures involved in organizing these supply chains.

In 2022, the situation changed dramatically as Russia came under sweeping international sanctions, making the sale of raw materials significantly more difficult. However, coal shipments continued. Once again, the name of Dmytro Kovalenko emerged, as he successfully remained active in this market despite the fact that, both before and after the war, he was subject to multiple sanctions and international investigations. Leaked documentary evidence detailing his supply schemes and the scale of his operations.

It is worth recalling that Dmytro Kovalenko is one of Ukraine's best-known traders in the thermal coal market. For many years, his companies have been engaged in international fuel supplies, operating across the markets of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

According to investigative reports, a key role in this system is played by the Swiss company Adelon AG, registered in the Canton of Zug—one of Europe's leading jurisdictions for commodity traders. Officially, Adelon AG presents itself as an international trader of coal sourced from various countries, including South Africa, Australia, the United States, and Indonesia.

However, documents cited by journalists also refer to shipments of Russian coal, raising questions about the officially declared origin of the fuel. A detailed analysis of Dmytro Kovalenko's supply schemes, along with documents that allegedly substantiate his involvement in the trade of Russian coal, is published in the investigation titled "Ukraine's Coal Trade with Occupied Territories: Commercial Relations Continued During the War. Schemes, Details, and Evidence."

According to the investigation, one of the coal suppliers involved in the trading operations is the Russian company Metkol LLC, based in the Kemerovo Region, the center of Russia's coal industry. It is reportedly linked to the business structures of Russian billionaire Konstantin Strukov, the owner of mining assets and president of the Kemerovo Region.

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