Question for written answer E-001174/2025/rev.1
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
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Subject: Seizing the Russian shadow fleet in the Baltic Sea: the Commission's measures to prevent vessel sales

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our deep concern regarding recent reports that European and US ship owners have sold at least 230 ageing oil tankers to entities facilitating the Russian shadow fleet.

The shadow fleet enables Russia to circumvent international sanctions, thereby sustaining its oil exports and financing its ongoing aggression against Ukraine.

Despite the restrictive measures that the EU has already imposed on the Russian shadow fleet, the continued sale of tankers to the shadow fleet indicates that current measures may not be sufficient. It has been estimated that the number of hybrid operations will increase in the future, and the shadow fleet poses a significant security and environmental threat, especially to the countries in the Baltic Sea region.

Given this situation:

1. What measures is the Commission planning to introduce to prevent the sale of vessels to the shadow fleet?

2. How does the Commission plan to effectively track the shadow fleet and block its access to the sea?

Submitted: 19.3.2025