

**Question for written answer E-003491/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Bart Groothuis (Renew)

Subject: Countering shadow fleets through the FATF

Shadow fleets exploit weak flag state regimes, opaque ownership, and practices such as flag hopping and the manipulation of automatic identification systems to evade sanctions. A recent report¹ by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) highlights that this activity undermines the effectiveness of EU sanctions against Russia. Given the EU's position as a founding member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its leadership role in sanctions against Russia, the Commission should champion this issue within the FATF to ensure stronger sanctions enforcement against shadow fleets.

1. Does the Commission agree with the findings and recommendations of the RUSI report, in particular the role of flag registries in enabling sanctions evasion, and that the FATF should play a more active role in scrutinising flag registry governance within its mutual evaluation and greylisting processes?
2. Will the Commission champion stronger standards for flag registries, including vessel registration transparency, beneficial ownership disclosure, sanctions screening and insurance verification, within the FATF?
3. Will the Commission support the adoption of requirements for the insurance industry to implement due diligence and sanctions compliance practices, comparable to those applied by financial institutions?

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¹ Saiz Erasquin, G. and Keatinge, T., 'Countering Shadow Fleet Activity through Flag State Reform', Royal United Services Institute website, 2 September 2025, <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/insights-papers/countering-shadow-fleet-activity-through-flag-state-reform>.