

EN

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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.3.2025)

Under Regulation (EU) 833/2014¹, the import of Russian oil is prohibited, with limited exceptions for oil supplied by pipeline. No Russian oil transported by the ‘dark fleet’ vessels can be imported into the EU.

As part of the 14th package of sanctions adopted against Russia in June 2024, the EU for the first time targeted 27 vessels for their contribution to Russia’s warfare against Ukraine. On 16 December 2024, as part of its 15th sanctions package² the EU listed 52 additional vessels, thereby making them subject to a port access ban and a ban on provision of services.

The Commission is continuously monitoring the developments related to vessels belonging to Russia’s shadow fleet, as part of its efforts to combat the circumvention of the EU’s sanctions to Russia. It has also reached out to third countries providing flagging services to these vessels raising concerns of environmental protection and maritime safety.

All decisions on EU sanctions are taken unanimously by Member States in the Council, including decisions on the sanctioning of vessels.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive³ requires Member States to address significant pollution events in their marine strategies. Where such pollution events occur, Member States should intervene as they are responsible for creating and maintaining oil spill contingency plans, with support available through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the European Maritime Safety Agency’s deployable oil spill response vessels. Flag states ensure that vessels meet insurance and certification requirements, while the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds provide additional financial compensation for cleanup and damages.

¹ OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 1–11, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/833/oj/eng>

² https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-adopts-15th-sanctions-package-against-russia-its-continued-illegal-war-against-ukraine-2024-12-16_en

³ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy, OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19–40.