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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU has adopted a wide range of sanctions on Russia, including far-reaching trade restrictions in the energy sector, such as an import ban on Russian seaborne crude oil and any refined oil products¹. These sanctions are aimed to maximise their impact on Russia's ability to conduct and finance its war of aggression.

Before 2022, Russia accounted for more than 25% of EU imports of crude oil and more than 40% of refined products. Since then, the EU's dependency on Russian supplies has fallen to 2% for crude oil and virtually 0% for refined products.

The Commission is continuously monitoring the scale and routes of EU imports of petroleum products possibly obtained from Russian crude oil. An important step towards blocking such imports was the adoption of a ban on imports into the EU of refined oil products (falling under CN code 2710) produced in third countries using Russian crude oil. This ban will take effect on 21 January 2026.

In light of this upcoming measure, the EU has already analysed detailed customs data and identified imports from third countries possibly containing Russian crude oil. The Commission has also contacted relevant Member States' authorities to enhance checks and to ensure that adequate awareness and due-diligence practices are put into place. Data analysis with Member States to monitor these specific flows will continue in a working group set up for this purpose.

From the outset, EU sanctions have been designed and implemented to impose a heavy price on Russia, whilst minimising adverse effects on the EU, its citizens and businesses. When developing sanctions packages, the Commission carefully considers their impact. It is for the Council to decide unanimously on the amendment and new adoption of sanctions in line with EU law.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-sanctions-against-russia-following-invasion-ukraine/sanctions-energy_en.