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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.12.2025)

The Commission is seeking clarification from the Bulgarian authorities regarding the export ban on certain petroleum products and will continue to engage with them to ensure compliance with EU law.

Restrictions of free movement of goods in the Single Market could be justified for the reasons set out in Article 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU¹ or for one of the reasons of public interest recognised by the case-law of the EU Courts. The burden of proving justification rests on the Member State. Those restrictions however cannot constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or disguised restriction of trade between Member States. Moreover, the Member State must demonstrate the proportionality of the restriction.

In light of the information provided by the Bulgarian Authorities, the Commission will consider the most appropriate course of action to uphold the principle of free movement of goods within the internal market.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12016E036>.