

EN

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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 restrictive measures (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 products.

In addition, a new ban on imports into the EU of refined oil products¹ produced in third countries using Russian crude oil took effect on 21 January 2026. These sanctions are aimed at maximising the impact on Russia's ability to conduct and finance its war of aggression. The effective enforcement of EU sanctions and the prevention of circumvention are top priorities for the European Union.

The Commission monitors the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions by Member States and supports them in those tasks. In this context, the Commission published guidance in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQs)² to assist operators and national competent authorities to comply with the new import ban on refined products obtained from Russian crude oil, including the necessary due diligence and evidence.

According to this guidance, as of 21 January 2026, operators must exercise enhanced due diligence when importing refined petroleum from third countries, including Georgia, to make sure that those products are not obtained from Russian crude oil. As a candidate country, Georgia is subject to heightened expectations and scrutiny regarding its alignment with the EU acquis, including the Common and Foreign and Security Policy and EU restrictive measures.

It is for the Council to decide unanimously on the amendment or new adoption of sanctions in line with EU law. This applies also to possible listing of refineries and other entities in third countries like Georgia.

¹ Falling under CN code 2710.

² Updated on 16 October 2025: https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/dc76791c-72aa-4fd5-b82f-ae13a42e93c0_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-oil-import-ban_en.pdf.