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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.6.2026)

The Commission, in cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), monitored the situation of tanker *Arctic Metagaz* and provided satellite imagery to all parties involved from 3 March to 30 April 2026 by the Integrated Maritime Surveillance. The vessel no longer contains flammable content and no related oil spills were detected. The Commission, through its Emergency Response Coordination Centre, facilitated coordination and information exchange among authorities during the incident.

This incident demonstrates the seriousness of environmental threats posed, the need for involved States to act when there is a ship in need of assistance and to provide continuous monitoring to mitigate the risks posed, including by the shadow fleet. While the vessel is not in the vicinity of Malta or the Italian Pelagie Islands, such incidents may pose risks to vulnerable coastal and island territories, sensitive marine ecosystems, fisheries and critical infrastructure¹.

The Commission is actively working to further enhance the maritime domain awareness and information sharing among Member States authorities, beyond the well-established and continuously refined EMSA-hosted Union Maritime Information and Exchange System². The Commission will continue to work with Member States, EMSA and international partners to ensure preparedness and effective response. The Commission also supports coastguard cooperation, in particular in the Mediterranean area, through the Mediterranean Coast Guard Function Forum (MEDCGFF). The Commission encourages Member States to step up their efforts in the maritime domain to address the complex maritime challenges faced today.

¹ Including desalination-dependent water supply systems.

² SafeSeaNet legally mandated under Directive 2002/59/EC – Vessel Traffic Monitoring including The Union Maritime Information and Exchange System.