

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001837/26
to the Commission
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)
(6 May 2026)**

Subject: Loophole in EU sanctions — Irish alumina exports to Russia

I wish to raise concerns about a significant loophole in the EU's regime of sanctions against Russia. Irish refinery Aughinish Alumina is still exporting a considerable share of its alumina production (as much as 50-70%) to Russian giant Rusal. This raw material is then processed to form the aluminium used by Russia's defence sector to produce missiles, drones and other military equipment used against Ukraine.

While Australia banned such exports as far back as March 2022, in the EU this trade is continuing legally and thus shoring up Russia's war machine.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission planning to include alumina exports in the EU's 21st package of sanctions against Russia, and what is the state of play in this regard?
2. What is its assessment of the impact of this export on the productive capacity of Russia's military and industrial complex?
3. What action has it taken against Ireland to ensure that the Aughinish refinery is not directly supporting the Russian aggression?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(15 July 2026)**

The EU has adopted a wide range of restrictive measures ('sanctions') on Russia, including far-reaching trade restrictions in several economic sectors.

The measures in place reflect a careful balance between the EU's determination to impact Russia's ability to finance its war of aggression and to limit, to the extent possible, negative impacts on Member States and their industry.

This assessment is conducted with even greater care when certain critical raw materials subject to supply shortages are concerned. EU restrictive measures are regularly reviewed. Any decision to amend the existing sanctions is for the Council to take by unanimity.

The Commission is aware of allegations in press reports that alumina of EU origin may ultimately feed the Russian military-industrial complex. As a general observation, it should be noted that indirect economic support (making economic resources available) to listed Russian arms manufacturers is prohibited.

The Member States are, first and foremost, responsible for the implementation of EU restrictive measures and investigation of potential circumvention of prohibitions under EU sanctions.

The Irish authorities are responsible for investigating these allegations. The Commission is monitoring the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions across all Member States.
