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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, the EU has adopted an unprecedented set of sanctions designed to weaken Russia's capacity to finance and sustain its aggression. These measures include far-reaching trade restrictions across key sectors alongside targeted individual measures against over 2 700 individuals and entities. In the metallurgical sector, restrictions on aluminium have been progressively tightened on both the export and import side.

The Commission is aware of press reports and the calls, including from Members of the European Parliament, for an export ban on aluminium oxide ('alumina') to Russia. Potential measures targeting alumina exports need to take into account global market conditions, including supply diversification and potential impacts on EU operators active in international value chains and their EU customers. Alumina is being widely used in the production of many common goods (e.g. food cans), but it is also critical to the EU's aeronautical and machinery sectors. Taking these various considerations into account, alumina is not subject to EU export restrictive measures. The Commission continues to assess the situation and is engaging with the Irish government.

It is important to recall that any further sanctions would require unanimity among all Member States in the Council. The measures that the EU has in place today reflect a careful balance between its determination to undermine Russia's illegal war against Ukraine as much as possible and to limit – to the extent possible – negative impacts on the Member States, industry and consumers.