

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002492/26
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(17 June 2026)**

Subject: EU-produced alumina exports to Russia and the integrity of EU sanctions

EU sanctions are intended to restrict Russia's access to strategic industrial inputs relevant to its war economy. However, Aughinish Alumina in Ireland, owned by Russia's Rusal, continues to export significant volumes of alumina to Russia.

In 2024, exports of alumina from Ireland to Russia reached approximately USD 376 million, up from USD 243 million in 2022, making Russia Ireland's largest alumina export market. The plant itself accounts for around 30% of EU alumina output. A substantial share of the exported material is shipped to and processed at Rusal's Krasnoyarsk smelter in Siberia, where it is converted into aluminium and enters downstream production chains, including those with reported links to Russia's defence sector.

1. How does the Commission ensure the effectiveness of EU sanctions when EU-produced strategic inputs controlled by Russian-linked entities continue to enter Russia's industrial supply chains, including aluminium production linked to Rusal?
2. What assessment has the Commission made of the risk that strategic inputs originating in the EU may indirectly contribute to Russia's military-industrial capacity, and of the implications this has for the credibility of the EU sanctions regime?

Submitted: 17.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(31 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 and usage of aggression against Ukraine and to limit to the extent possible negative impacts on Member States and industry.

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

Potential measures targeting aluminium oxide ('alumina') exports need to take into account global market conditions, supply diversification and potential impacts on EU operators in international value chains and their EU customers. Taking these considerations into account, alumina is not subject to EU export restrictive measures (i.e. an export ban).

However, as a general observation, it should be noted that indirect economic support to listed Russian arms manufacturers is prohibited.

The High Representative/Vice-President and the Commission continue to work to further close loopholes and find ways to prevent Russia from sustaining its military industrial complex.

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

The Commission is monitoring the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions across all Member States. In the case at hand, the Irish authorities are responsible for investigating the allegations and the Commission is in contact with them on this matter.
