

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002726/24
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(3 December 2024)

Subject: Urgent action needed to counter the EU's growing dependence on Russian fertilisers, including through the introduction of sanctions and tariffs

During the last plenary session, the European Parliament adopted my amendment ⁽²⁾ drawing attention to the EU's alarming dependence on Russian fertilisers in a resolution on EU support for Ukraine against Russian aggression ⁽¹⁾. It was supported by 435 MEPs from all political groups ⁽³⁾, which sends a clear political signal.

Parliament pointed out that Russia is using sanctioned gas to produce cheap fertilisers, huge quantities of which end up in Europe. The same billions of euros that previously fed Russia's budget through pipelines such as Nord Stream are now fuelling Russia's war budget through exports of fertilisers made from the same gas.

The alarming increase in Russian fertiliser imports threatens EU food security, just as dependence on Russian gas previously undermined the EU's energy security. This phenomenon also has serious economic consequences. An example is Zakłady Azotowe Puławy, which has cut itself off from Russian gas, but whose future is threatened by an uncontrolled influx of cheap Russian fertiliser.

In this connection:

1. When and how does the Commission intend to heed Parliament's call for urgent and decisive action to halt the alarming rise in the EU's dependence on Russian fertiliser, including through the introduction of sanctions and tariffs?
2. Does the Commission plan to conduct an analysis of the links between companies and oligarchs linked to the fertiliser sector and entities and individuals already subject to EU sanctions, such as Vyacheslav Moshe Kantor, owner of one of the largest fertiliser companies in Russia?

Submitted: 3.12.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(3 February 2025)

In response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has adopted unprecedented economic sanctions on Russia, imposing severe consequences and costs and seriously curbing its war economy.

The EU has sought to balance effective sanctions against Russia with the specific economic needs of its Member States and partners and ensure, in the interests of global food security, that EU sanctions do not target in any way the trade in agricultural and food products, including wheat and fertilisers, between third countries and Russia.

The Commission is closely monitoring the situation regarding the import of fertilisers into the EU from Russia and Belarus. The Commission is concerned by the EU's continued reliance on certain types of Russian fertilisers and is considering ways to reduce it. While reflecting on new measures, upholding food security remains our primary consideration.

The EU has designated a number of persons having interests in the fertiliser sector. Those listings are based either on their leading role in the Russian economy, or their involvement in economic sectors providing a substantial source of revenue to the Russian government.

The EU remains committed to ensuring that sanctions are robustly enforced and that they target those supporting or benefiting from activities that undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

² Amendment 12: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-10-2024-0191-AM-011-012_EN.pdf.

¹ Resolution 2024/2940(RSP) of 28 November 2024: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2024-0055_EN.html.

³ roll-call vote 5.14 RC-B10-0191/2024 — § 14 — Am 12: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PV-10-2024-11-28-RCV_EN.pdf.