

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000201/25
to the Commission
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Renew)
(17 January 2025)**

Subject: Follow-up to the Parliament resolution concerning targeted measures against the Russian shadow fleet

In November 2024, Parliament adopted a resolution concerning measures against the Russian shadow fleet. The resolution calls on the Commission to take action to prevent and limit the activities of the shadow fleet and calls on the Member States to restrict Russian shadow fleet vessels from accessing EU waters. In addition, the resolution calls for the establishment of a comprehensive list of vessels belonging to the shadow fleet.

Since then, there have been multiple incidents involving Russian shadow fleet tankers, most notably the damaging of the Estlink power cable between Estonia and Finland and the Russian tanker adrift off the German coast.

1. What actions have been taken since November 2024 to prevent and limit the activities of the Russian shadow fleet?
2. Given that the shadow fleet has proven to be a threat to civilian infrastructure, does the Commission agree that the threshold for taking action against these ships has significantly lowered?
3. The UK and the United States have expanded their sanctions lists to include 180 vessels that have been identified as shadow fleet ships. Has the EU expanded its list of sanctioned vessels to the same extent? If not, why not?

Submitted: 17.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

Under Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ and Regulation (EU) 833/2014 ⁽²⁾, the EU may designate specific vessels for their contribution to Russia's warfare against Ukraine, including vessels that are part of Russia's shadow fleet, which seeks to circumvent the EU and Price Cap Coalition's caps while engaging in deceptive and high-risk shipping practices contrary to international standards. Such vessels are subject to a port access ban and a ban on provision of services.

To date, the EU has designated a total of 153 vessels as part of the 14th, 15th and 16th sanctions packages ⁽³⁾, ⁽⁴⁾, ⁽⁵⁾ adopted in response to Russia's war against Ukraine.

The Commission is continuously monitoring the developments relating to vessels belonging to Russia's shadow fleet as part of its efforts to combat the circumvention of the EU's Russia sanctions. It has also reached out to third countries providing flagging services to these vessels raising concerns of environmental protection and maritime safety.

All decisions on EU sanctions are taken unanimously by Member States in the Council, including decisions on the sanctioning of vessels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 13-17, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2014/512/oj/eng>

⁽²⁾ OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 1-11, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/833/oj/eng>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/24/russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-comprehensive-eu-s-14th-package-of-sanctions-cracks-down-on-circumvention-and-adopts-energy-measures/>

⁽⁴⁾ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-adopts-15th-sanctions-package-against-russia-its-continued-illegal-war-against-ukraine-2024-12-16_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_585