

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001741/26
to the Commission
Pina Picierno (S&D)
(28 April 2026)**

Subject: Russian shadow fleet vessels landing in port of Haifa with wheat stolen from occupied Ukrainian territories

In recent months, at least two Russian shadow fleet vessels — the *Abinsk* and the *Panormitis* — have docked in the Israeli port of Haifa carrying grain from Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia ⁽¹⁾. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry summoned the Israeli ambassador and submitted a formal protest note, accusing Israel of not responding to legitimate demands. The European Commission Spokesperson stated that the EU condemns all actions that help finance the Russian war effort and circumvent EU sanctions, confirming it had already contacted the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Similar vessels appeared to be bound for Egypt and Algeria ⁽²⁾.

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, as amended, on restrictive measures in response to Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, and the introduction of tariffs on cereals from Russia and Belarus in 2024, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it consider the fact that these vessels had permission from the Israeli authorities to land to be compatible with Israel's commitments under the EU-Israel Association Agreement, and what consequences does it expect there to be in terms of bilateral relations?
2. Will it, and if so to what extent, use the sanctions already provided for in EU law to target entities from third countries involved in transportation, facilitation or generation of profit as part of the trade in agricultural products taken from Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia?

Submitted: 28.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2026)**

The EU is aware of reports that Russian shadow fleet vessels carrying stolen Ukrainian grain have allegedly been allowed at the port of Haifa.

The EU has made an outreach to the Israeli authorities through the Head of the EU Delegation to Israel on this issue. We take positive note of the reports that one such vessel, the *Panormitis*, has turned around without offloading its cargo after a decision by the Israel Grain Importers Association.

The EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾ focuses on political dialogue, economic cooperation, and trade liberalisation. It does not explicitly include provisions requiring the EU and Israel to automatically align their trade restrictions. The High Representative/Vice-President clarified that the EU stands ready to take targeted actions related to the trade with stolen Ukrainian agricultural products by proposing listing of individuals and entities, including enablers and buyers in third countries, if necessary.

With the 20th package of sanctions in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine ⁽²⁾, the Council has listed two entities incorporated in third-countries owning vessels used to transport stolen Ukrainian grain, adding to the five individuals and two entities already listed for their involvement with the theft of Ukrainian grain and agricultural products ⁽³⁾.

Furthermore, nine vessels undermining or threatening the economic subsistence or food security of Ukraine are currently sanctioned under EU restrictive measures against Russia ⁽⁴⁾. Imposing any additional restrictive measures requires a unanimous decision by the Council.

¹ <https://www.agi.it/estero/news/2026-04-28/ucraina-israele-grano-rubato-36797388/>.

² <https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/kirov-convoca-l-ambasciatore-israeliano-l-acquisto-grano-russia-AldCRwkC>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/04/23/russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-20th-round-of-stern-eu-sanctions-hits-energy-military-industrial-complex-trade-and-financial-services-including-crypto/>.

⁽³⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of 17 March 2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/269/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/833/oj/eng>.