

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002003/26
to the Commission
Sofie Eriksson (S&D)
(13 May 2026)**

Subject: Russia's war in Ukraine raises concerns that EU seafood imports may hide Russian links. Clearer origin labelling and sanctions enforcement are therefore needed

1. How does the Commission assess the current EU rules on origin labelling for fish and seafood products, particularly in the light of evidence that products caught by vessels from countries such as Russia can be marketed in the EU without clear indication of the fishing vessel's nationality, and does the Commission intend to propose legislation requiring mandatory national origin labelling for all imported fishery products?
2. In view of reports that the EU continues to import significant volumes of fish and seafood linked to Russia despite the current sanctions related to Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, what concrete measures will the Commission take to close existing loopholes in sanctions regimes and ensure that EU consumers are not inadvertently contributing to the financing of the Russian war economy through fish and seafood imports?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(29 June 2026)**

1. The Commission has concluded its evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regulation, which included an assessment of the CFP performance on market aspects, such as consumer information. The evaluation considered the effectiveness of current mandatory labelling rules and pointed to potential gaps in terms of scope (processed products are not covered by mandatory labelling) and the practical interpretability of origin information. The Commission will analyse these findings in more detail before potentially proposing regulatory measures to improve the comprehensiveness and transparency of origin labelling for fishery and aquaculture products.

In the EU CATCH certification scheme ⁽¹⁾, the flag State of the catching vessel(s) validates the catch certificate for every single import. With the new obligations to use CATCH, this information will also be digitally available to the Commission.

2. 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 of aggression and to limit to the extent possible negative impacts on Member States and industry. The High Representative and the Commission have recently also proposed for the first time in the latest 21st sanctions' package on Russia, import measures on fisheries products, that have not been targeted before ⁽²⁾. However, any decision to extend the import measures to cover fisheries products must be adopted unanimously by the Council.

⁽¹⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/new-digital-certification-system-tackle-illegal-fishing-2026-01-12_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_1314.