All the measures that the EU has adopted in its six sanctions packages aim at raising the cost of Russia’s aggression and constraining its capabilities to continue the war against Ukraine.

EU sanctions adopted as a response to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine are solely directed at the Russian Government, the financial sector and the corrupt elites, targeting Kremlin’s ability to finance the aggression. Sanctions are in particular designed to not target food and agricultural products and, where relevant, sectoral prohibitions include specific exceptions for those products. For example, restrictive measures to import certain kinds of Russian-made fertilisers into the EU come with exemptions to ensure that unintended consequences on food security are avoided. Likewise, imports and export of agricultural goods from and to Russia are generally permitted.

These specific exemptions include the purchase, import and transport of seeds, grains, fertilisers and other agricultural products by Russian-flagged vessels and via road transport, which are generally sanctioned as regards transport of other goods. This is in line with the EU’s strong international advocacy against export restrictions and bans on food.

Against this backdrop of ensuring food security, with regard to seafood, the EU has imposed very limited restrictions. As part of a broader list of sanctions on goods, which generate significant revenues for Russia, the EU has imposed an import ban on caviar and its substitutes, as well as crustaceans. The EU has also imposed an export ban on caviar and its substitutes due to it being a luxury good.