

Question for written answer E-003266/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Karin Karlsbro (Renew)

Subject: Information on Russian oil imports to Europe

There are reports that Russian oil is being shipped to the EU via the Black Sea and Greek ports. According to those reports, the oil is being transferred from Russian ships to Greek ships in international waters. These actions can be seen as an attempt to circumvent EU sanctions on Russian oil imports.

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EU banned Russian-flagged vessels from entering EU ports (with some exceptions). In addition, EU countries have decided to stop buying Russian crude oil and Russian refined oil as from 5 December 2022 and 5 February 2023 respectively. For that to be possible, all imports currently taking place must be known about. Failure to comply with the sanctions means that EU countries will continue to fund Putin's war of aggression by purchasing large volumes of fossil fuels.

1. How will the EU investigate possible attempts to circumvent bans on Russian ships entering European ports and otherwise violate sanctions on Russian oil?
2. What measures will the EU take to ensure compliance with the ban on Russian oil and with other sanctions?