The Commission has to be notified in advance of the imports of nuclear material, according to the Euratom Safeguards Regulation\(^1\). This notification obligation does not entail communicating details on the transport routes nor on the reasons for changing transport plans. Imports of nuclear material and fuel have, so far, not been covered by the sanctions adopted as a reaction to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Logistical problems have been experienced also as regards nuclear supplies from Russia as a result of EU and third country sanctions on transport means and goods shipments in general.

According to the latest complete information available\(^2\), Russia accounted for nearly 20% of the natural uranium delivered to EU utilities in 2021\(^3\).

Russia also provides nuclear fuel cycle services such as conversion and enrichment to EU utilities\(^4\). In its latest Annual Report, the Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) points out that replacing the conversion and enrichment capacities concerned could take several years.

Russian-designed\(^5\) reactors, exploited in five Member States\(^6\), are critically dependent on Russian-designed fuel, only produced in Russia. The Commission is working closely with the concerned Member States to support their current efforts to secure supplies and services from alternative sources as soon as possible.

The Commission and ESA have been, for years, calling on industry and utilities to diversify their sources of supply at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, so that they do not become excessively dependent on a single third-country supplier\(^7\). In view of increased risks following Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine, efforts to diversify and stop dependence on Russia also in this area are now more important than ever.

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\(^3\) Although geographical origin of a material may sometimes be different from its customs origin.

\(^4\) Including those using Western-designed reactors.

\(^5\) VVER-type.

\(^6\) Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary and Slovakia are fully dependant, and Finland partially dependant on Russian fuel supply.