

**Question for written answer E-001143/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Marc Botenga (The Left)

Subject: India-EU energy trade and Russian oil sanctions

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the EU has imposed sanctions on Russian oil imports. Meanwhile, India has ramped up imports of Russian crude oil. Indian refineries now refine Russian crude oil that was previously refined in European countries including Germany, Greece, Poland, Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary.

At the same time, Indian fuel exports to Europe have greatly increased, partially to compensate for the gaps in fuel supply owing to EU sanctions on Russian crude oil¹. India's petroleum product exports to the EU have reportedly risen around 22 % in one year. European media outlets have reported that Indian companies are re-exporting the surplus of refined Russian crude oil to Europe².

1. Can the Commission confirm that, when Russian crude oil is refined in a country such as India, the resulting fuel is not considered to be of Russian origin and can therefore be delivered to the EU?
2. Does it acknowledge that some of the fuel imported from India is, in fact, repackaged Russian oil?
3. If not, how does it explain the parallel between the increase in Indian crude oil imports from Russia and Indian fuel exports to the EU?

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¹ <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/commodities/share-of-private-refiners-in-fuel-exports-to-europe-almost-95-per-cent-in-apr-feb-8507066/>.

² <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20230331-why-is-india-so-thirsty-for-russian-oil>.