

**Question for written answer E-002186/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Use of Spanish harbour to circumvent EU embargo on Russian oil

In June 2022, the Council adopted a sixth package of sanctions against Russia. The restrictions apply from 5 December 2022 for crude oil and from 5 February 2023 for other refined petroleum products. In June 2023, there was another direct oil tanker shipment from the port of Taman (Russia) to the port of Motril (Spain)¹. The tanker involved has a gross carrying capacity of 12 970 tonnes². Some countries have already started taking action to stop arrangements that sidestep Russia sanctions³. In answer E-000368/2023, the Commission explained that 'it is aware of the activities involving Russian oil in the Strait of Gibraltar' and that it monitors 'closely circumvention of EU sanctions'⁴.

1. Was the Commission aware of this shipment?
2. What measures will it take to stop arrangements such as this one that sidestep Russia sanctions?
3. Could it explain how it is working with Spanish national and port authorities on this matter?

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¹ Tanker 'New Spirit', IMO 9337872, flag: Malta, port of departure: Taman (RU TAM), departure time ATD: 2023-06-21 00:26 LT (UTC +3), port of destination: Motril (ES MOT), arrival time ATA: 2023-07-02 19:23 LT (UTC +2).

² https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:301943/mmsi:256525000/imo:9337872/vessel:NEW_SPIRIT.

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/dbdb705a-3744-45ef-a154-27d7f7be7e7f?emailId=91b28acf-13a1-4281-b78e-9ae217eea53d&segmentId=488e9a50-190e-700c-cc1c-6a339da99cab>.

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-000368-ASW_EN.html.