



EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the package unveiled on Tuesday was the largest targeting Russia's shadow fleet. Photo: Scanpix

# EU unveils largest ever shadow fleet sanctions package


Ship managers and Russian insurer VSK also targeted in the 17th package of European Union measures

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By [Paul Peachey](#) in **London**

The European Union on Tuesday published its largest-ever sanctions package targeting Russia’s shadow fleet, blacklisting 189 vessels.

The EU’s 17th sanctions package brings the number of targeted vessels to 342 and adds measures against companies tied to tanker operations and ship-to-ship oil transfers, the bloc said.



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It also targeted Russian insurer VSK, which has already been hit by the UK, and provides protection and indemnity cover for tankers involved in hauling Russian oil.

“This round of sanctions on Russia is the most wide-sweeping since the start of the war,” said Kaja Kallas, the EU’s foreign policy chief.

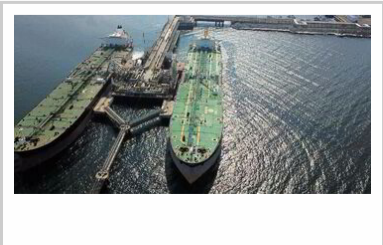
“In this 17th package, we include Surgutneftegas — a Russian oil giant — as well as almost 200 vessels in Russia’s shadow fleet.

“The longer Russia persists with its illegal and brutal war, the tougher our response will be.”

Companies targeted in the sanctions include Eiger Shipping DMCC, the Dubai-based transport arm of the trading wing of Russia’s Lukoil.

The UK separately on Tuesday sanctioned British shipping finance veteran, John Ormerod, who was said to have been involved in deals for 25 ships that ended up in the shadow fleet using advance payments from Eiger.

The EU notice said Eiger-linked vessels moved Russian oil with their AIS systems switched off or manipulated, lacked proper insurance and engaged in “unsafe maritime operations”.



The EU also sanctioned United Arab Emirates-based Moonlight Shipmanagement, which manages tankers for shadow fleet operations.

Hong Kong’s Prominent Shipmanagement was also targeted after being hit by US measures in one of the final acts of the Joe Biden administration.

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Tankers under its control include former Sovcomflot-managed vessels, such as the 163,500-dwt Vega (built 2007), the 110,000-dwt Capella (built 2006) and the 111,680-dwt Atlas (built 2009), according to the EU notice.

The Atlas has since been renamed Arcadia.

Despite 17 packages of EU sanctions and measures imposed by other G7 nations, Moscow has been able to divert its oil exports to new customers primarily in India, China and Turkey.

But the EU said that Russian fossil fuel revenues in March 2025 were 13.7% lower than those in March 2023 and 20.3% lower than those in March 2022. [\(Copyright\)](#).

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