



11 January 2024

**Subject: Mandatory Notification of Tanker Sales – Compliance with Article 3q of 12<sup>th</sup> EU Sanctions Package**

The Sanctions Monitoring Board would like to draw your attention to the recent regulatory amendments outlined in Article 3q of Council Regulation 833/2014<sup>1</sup> as part of the 12th EU sanctions package, specifically addressing the sale or transfer of ownership of tankers designed for the transport of crude oil or petroleum products listed in Annex XXV, falling under HS code ex 8901 20.

As of 18 December 2023, it is strictly prohibited for any national of a Member State, natural person residing in a Member State, and legal person, entity, or body established in the Union to sell or transfer ownership of said tankers to any natural or legal person, entity, or body in Russia or for use in Russia. However, there exists a derogation, outlined in paragraph 2, wherein competent authorities may authorise such sales under conditions they deem appropriate. In such cases, the derogation application available on the Sanctions Monitoring Board's website is to be used.

Importantly, Article 3q(4) mandates that any sale or transfer of ownership by a national of a Member State, a natural person residing in a Member State, or a legal person, entity, or body established in the Union to any third country of the specified tankers, excluding those prohibited under paragraph 1, must be immediately notified to the competent authorities of the Member State where the owner of the tanker is a citizen, resident, or established.

The notification must include, at a minimum, the identities of the seller and purchaser, incorporation documents (including shareholding and management) of both parties, the IMO ship identification number of the tanker, and the Call Sign of the tanker. Additionally, any such sales or transfers that occurred after 5 December 2022 and before 19 December 2023 must be notified to the competent authorities before **20 February 2024**, as stipulated in paragraph 5.

For this purpose, the Sanctions Monitoring Board has provided a specific template accessible on its website <https://smb.gov.mt/standard-templates/>, which must be duly completed when submitting such notifications. Please be reminded that failure to comply may result in legal ramifications.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202302878](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202302878)