

Rotterdam welcomes Russian ships, citing “confusion” over sanction rules

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Reports emerged at the weekend that container ship **Vayenga Maersk** (IMO 9775751), which was on a scheduled shuttle from Rotterdam to St Petersburg, had been refused access to Rotterdam port. Given that Russia-related container transport makes up about 10% of Rotterdam’s trade, the unconfirmed news was a matter of concern.

The Port of Rotterdam has now said that most traffic between Russia and Rotterdam was continuing with minimal disruption, since key energy products such as crude oil and LNG were not covered by EU sanctions against Moscow.

However, there remained some confusion among shipping companies and customs officials, who were conducting extra examinations of containers that might contain goods covered by the sanctions.

The EU has forbidden the export to Russia of a large number of “dual use” goods that could have military as well as civilian applications. Many goods from Russia, including steel, copper, aluminium and nickel do not fall under the current restrictions, the port said.

“Companies will have to make individual choices about how they handle Russian shipments,” the port said in a statement.

As of March 1st, the Vayenga Maersk remained at anchorage outside Rotterdam, having been scheduled to arrive at the port that day.

2018-built, Denmark-flagged, 34,882 gt Vayenga Maersk is owned and managed by Maersk AS of Copenhagen, Denmark. It is entered with Britannia Club on behalf of Maersk AS.