Greece impounds Russian tanker as part of EU sanctions against Russia

By admin On April 21, 2022 In Insurance Marine News, Keep, Marine Liability, Political Risk, Credit & Finance

Greece, a member of the European Union, has impounded Russian oil tanker **Pegas** (IMO 9256860) off the island of Evia as part of EU sanctions against Russia, the Greek coastguard said on Tuesday April 19th.

In early April the EU banned Russian-flagged vessels from the ports of EU members – a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine – although the long list of exemptions left some members concerned at what was seen as something of a half-hearted gesture.

The 115,500 dwt Pegas, with 19 Russian crew members on board, was seized near Karystos on the southern coast of Evia, which lies just off the Greek mainland near Athens.

The Russian embassy in Athens said on Twitter that it was looking into the case and was in contact with Greek authorities.

A US State Department spokesperson said that the US welcomed Greece's efforts to implement the sanctions. "We are aware of reports that the tanker is loaded with Iranian crude oil," the spokesperson added, taking no position on whether or not such reports were true.

A Greek coastguard official said the ship's oil cargo had not been confiscated. The vessel was managed by Russia-based Transmorflot, but it was not clear what company had chartered the cargo.

The Pegas, renamed the **Lana** in March, had earlier reported an engine problem, which might qualify it for one of the EU exemptions. It was headed to the southern Peloponnese peninsula to offload its cargo onto another tanker, but rough seas forced it to moor just off Karystos, where it was seized, Athens News Agency reported.

US advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), which monitors Iran-related tanker traffic through ship and satellite tracking, has said that the Pegas loaded around 700,000 barrels of crude oil from Iran's Sirri Island on August 19th, 2021.

UANI said its analysis showed that the Pegas subsequently tried to unload the cargo at a Turkish port, before heading to Greece.

As of Wednesday morning April 20th, the vessel was at Karystos Anchorage.in the Eastern Mediterranean.

2003-built, Russia-flagged, 61,991 gt Lana / Pegas is owned and managed by Transmorflot LLC of Akhty, Russia. It was renamed the Lana on March 1st.