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## DAILY SHIPPING NEWS



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### What is in the Black Sea ceasefire deal between Russia and Ukraine?

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- by Shipping Telegraph

**Following presidential-level discussions between US President Donald J. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the White House announced Tuesday that it had made agreements with Russia to cease fighting in the Black Sea.**

The White House says it has brokered an agreement to halt military activity over the Black Sea after its officials facilitated bilateral technical-level talks with the Russian delegation on March 23-25 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The talks between the parties resulted in Russia and US agreeing to “ensure safe navigation, eliminate the use of force, and prevent the use of commercial vessels for military purposes in the Black Sea.”

Additionally, they agreed to work together on measures banning strikes on energy facilities in Russia and Ukraine.

Washington will also help to restore Russia's access to global markets for agricultural and fertiliser exports, lower maritime insurance costs, and enhance access to ports and payment systems for such transactions, the White House said.

The Kremlin has confirmed that it has agreed to the ceasefire – but complications have already arisen.

The Kremlin released its own statement on the talks, which included far-reaching conditions for signing up to the partial truce.

Those included lifting sanctions on its agricultural bank and other financial institutions and companies involved in producing and exporting food (including fish and fish products) and fertilisers.

The sanctions it wants lifted also include those against insurance companies handling food and fertilisers, ships under the Russian flag if they are involved in food trade (including fish and fish products) and fertilisers, agricultural machinery supply to Russia, and the removal of restrictions imposed on trade finance operations.

Russia said it had agreed with the United States to develop measures for implementing the agreement between the two countries' presidents to ban strikes against energy facilities of Russia and Ukraine for 30 days starting on March 18, with an option to extend the agreement or to withdraw from it in the event of non-compliance by either party.

Moscow has also published a list of Russian and Ukrainian energy facilities agreed should not be attacked as part of the agreement.

These include oil refineries, oil and gas pipelines and storage facilities, including pumping stations, electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, including power plants, substations, transformers, and distribution facilities, nuclear power plants and hydroelectric dams.

Russia claims the pause in hostilities on energy targets came into effect on 18 March for 30 days and says this may be extended by mutual agreement.

Hours after the partial truce was reached, the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed this part of the agreement, adding that "how Russia behaves in the coming days will reveal a lot—if not everything. If there are air raid alerts again, if there is renewed military activity in the Black Sea, if Russian manipulations and threats continue—then new measures will need to be taken, specifically against Moscow."

While Kyiv welcomed the US agreement, it said that it's still "too early" to say if the deal will work out.