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Russia Slaps Ukraine With Fruit and Vegetable Import Ban

By The Moscow Times

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A vendor sells vegetables and fruits at the city market in St.Petersburg, Russia.

Russia will impose a temporary ban on fruit and vegetable imports from Ukraine from Wednesday, Russia's agricultural watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor said Tuesday.

The ban is the latest trade barrier erected by Russia in a trade and sanctions war linked to international tensions over Ukraine.

In a statement, Rosselkhoznadzor said it was imposing the ban because of a lack of labeling, which it said was evidence that the goods were not of Ukrainian origin.

It said a possible explanation for this was that goods from the European Union were being imported through Ukraine to evade Russian counter-sanctions against the EU.

It added that the situation was complicated by the presence of pests on products entering from Ukraine, including apple moths and Californian thrips.

In August, Russia introduced a sweeping ban on most food imports from the EU in retaliation for EU sanctions on Russia stemming from its actions in Ukraine.

Rosselkhoznadzor said the ban on imports from Ukraine would apply to all fruit and vegetable products subject to quarantine regulations.

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