Oil | Agriculture | Metals | Carbon & Power | Dry Freight
Click on headers to go to that section

Top News - Oil

U.S. refiners build new oil processing as travel rises
U.S. oil refiners aim to run at up to 94% of a total 17.9 million barrels per day processing capacity this quarter, according to company forecasts and analysts, driven in part by expectations of seasonal travel demand.
Strong prices and demand since late 2021 have encouraged refiners to run above 90% of their processing capacity and in a sign that they expect fuel demand to remain high, two refiners have added units or enhanced their output, reviving a once routine practice that disappeared amid COVID-19 closures.
This quarter is traditionally one of the year's hottest for demand as companies build gasoline and jet fuel output for the summer vacation season. Motorist group AAA on Monday predicted the May 27-29 Memorial Day holiday weekend will be the third busiest for auto travel since 2000 and most active at U.S. airports since 2005.
This quarter's pace compares to 91.3% utilization in the year-ago quarter and the 71.5% and 87.8% run-rates in 2020 and 2021 as the industry struggled with COVID-19 lockdowns that reduced fuel consumption and crushed industry profits.

BELOW PAR INVENTORIES
Behind the higher run-rate is the fact that motor fuel stocks are beneath their 5-year averages. Gasoline and distillates inventories are 7% and 16% below, investment firm Tudor Pickering Holt & Co estimated.
"Demand trends are strong in gasoline and jet (fuel)," said Matthew Blair, a managing director at Tudor Pickering. He estimates refiners overall will run at 94% utilization rate this quarter, matching the 2017-19 average for the period.
Among larger refiners, Marathon Petroleum plans to run at 91% of capacity, Valero Energy at between 90% and 93%, and Phillips 66 in the mid-90s, officials said.
"I would expect utilization to go up a couple of points (this quarter)," from the early May run rate of 91%, said David Hackett, chairman of fuel consultancy Stillwater Associates.
High prices will keep U.S. refinery utilization rates at levels near last year's about 91.7% this year and next, the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecast in January. Refiners will add the capacity to process an additional 328,000 bpd in this quarter, increasing gasoline and diesel supplies this summer.
Exxon Mobil added 250,000 bpd at its Beaumont, Texas, refinery; Citgo Petroleum Inc 38,000 bpd at its Lake Charles, Louisiana, plant; and Marathon Petroleum Corp 40,000 bpd at its Galveston Bay Refinery in Texas City, Texas.
Two others whose refineries were offline last quarter - Suncor's in Commerce City, Colorado and Cenovus' in Superior, Wisconsin, are resuming operations.
"Margins are not going to be as robust as they have been in the past year and a half," said John Auers, managing director of Refined Fuels Analytics.

IEA says oil price downturn ignores looming supply crunch
Weeks of declining oil prices due to concerns over a possible recession clash with the outlook for scarce supply and robust demand later in the year, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.
"Prices were pressured lower by muted industrial activity and higher interest rates, which, combined have led to recessionary scenarios gaining traction," the Paris-based agency said in its monthly oil report.
"The current market pessimism, however, stands in stark contrast to the tighter market balances we anticipate in the second half of the year, when demand is expected to eclipse supply by almost 2 million barrels per day (bpd)."
The IEA raised its forecast for global oil demand by 200,000 bpd to 102 million bpd, noting that China's recovery after the lifting of COVID-19 curbs had surpassed expectations with demand reaching a record 16 million bpd in March.
The world's top oil importer is set to account for nearly 60% of global demand growth in 2023, offsetting, along with India and the Middle East, sluggish demand in developed countries.
The United States and Brazil will lead modest growth in oil supply of 1.2 million bpd for the year as OPEC+ cuts agreed in April mean volumes from the producer group will fall 850,000 bpd from then through December, the IEA said.
Russian oil exports rose in April to 8.3 million bpd, the highest since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with revenue from the trade up by $1.7 billion on the month to $15 billion, according to the IEA.
U.S.-led price caps meant revenue was down nearly two-thirds year-on-year, however, and the IEA said Russia may not be following through on a 500,000 bpd output cut.
"Indeed, Russia may be boosting volumes to make up for lost revenue ... Russia seems to have few problems finding willing buyers for its crude and oil products".

Top News - Agriculture

Tour finds wheat badly damaged by drought, cold in Kansas

Crop scouts on the first day of an annual three-day tour of Kansas projected an average yield for hard red winter wheat in the northern part of the drought-hit state at 29.8 bushels per acre, the worst for the tour's first day since at least 2003.

The Wheat Quality Council tour's five-year average for the same area from 2017-2022 was 45.36 bushels per acre. No tour was held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's yield estimate was 39.5 bushels per acre.

A historically poor crop from the United States, the no. 5 wheat exporter, leaves the world more vulnerable to shortages, with the future uncertain for a deal allowing the Black Sea export of Ukraine's grain.

Three years of drought have left the hard red winter wheat crop in the worst shape in recent memory for many farmers.

Tour scouts sampled 318 fields on Tuesday between Manhattan and Colby, Kansas. The tour is scheduled to release a final yield forecast for Kansas, the top U.S. winter wheat producer, on Thursday. In addition to dryness, the tour found that wheat in north-central Kansas suffered more damage than expected from cold winter weather, said Kansas State University wheat agronomist Romulo Lollato. "I was surprised with the status of the crop around there - in a bad way," he said.

Fields damaged by drought and cold had short wheat with thin stalks. Lollato said he has never seen so many acres that look like they will not be harvested in his eight years on the tour.

Crop scouts are bracing to see even more drought damage in southwestern Kansas on Wednesday.

Separately, state wheat associations pegged Nebraska's crop at 30 million bushels, up from about 26.2 million last year, and Colorado's crop at 54 million bushels, up from about 35.8 million last year.

The USDA last week pegged Nebraska's crop at about 33 million bushels and Colorado's crop at 49.5 million bushels.

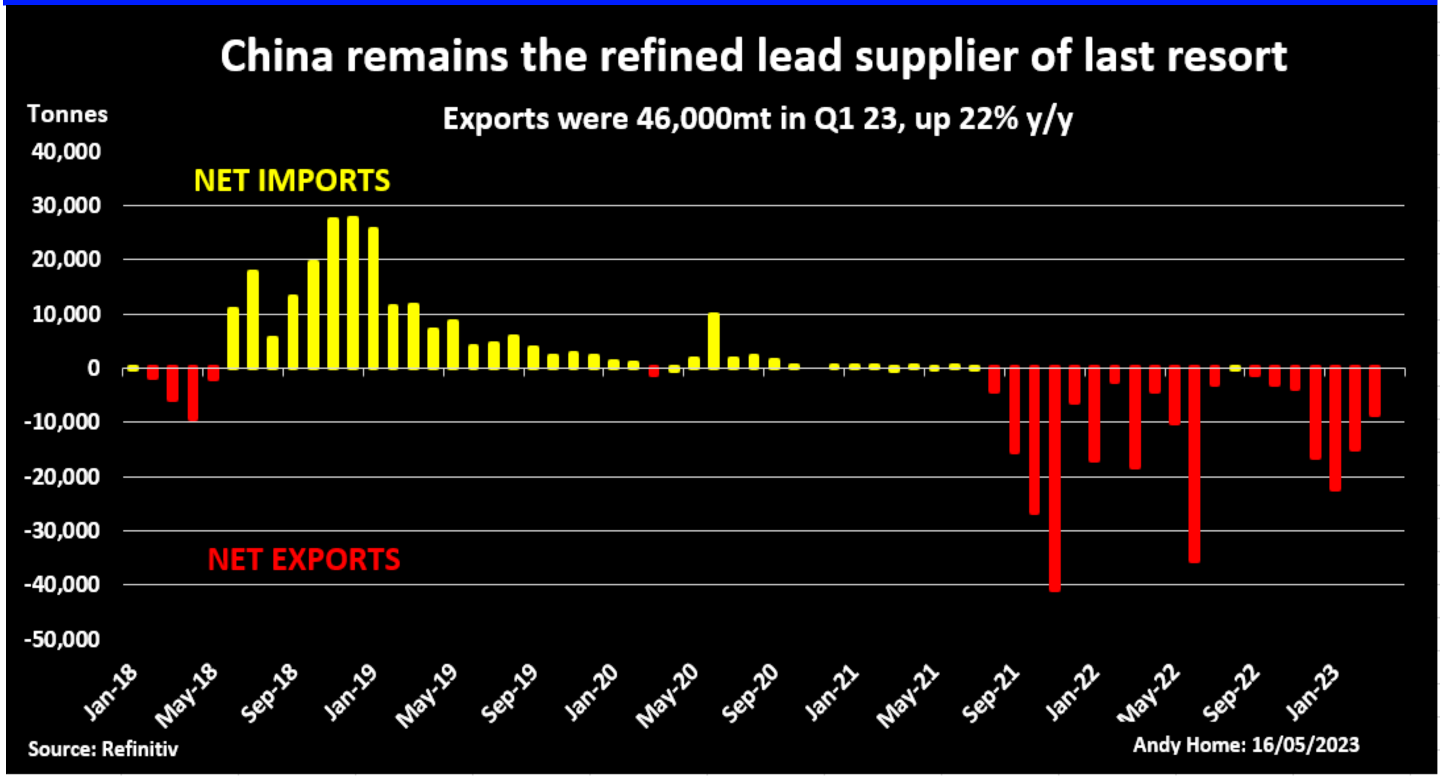
COLUMN-In recurring fashion, wheat supplies in major exporters to hit 16-year low -Braun

Relative to demand, global wheat supplies among major exporters in 2023-24 are seen at the lightest levels since 2007-08, nearly identical to the year-ago outlook that contributed to high wheat prices.

Global wheat prices are around 45% lower now versus mid-May 2022, perhaps somewhat justified by a looser-than-expected conclusion to 2022-23.

Plenty of uncertainty around global wheat production and trade remains, especially in the Black Sea, since 2023-24 grain crops are far from settled. However, predictions for multi-year supply lows may be more common than realized.

Chart of the Day



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's initial 2023-24 estimates issued on Friday suggest wheat stocks-to-use (SU) among major exporting countries will fall to 13.9% by mid-2024, below the 10-year average of 16.8%.
That would be the lowest SU since 13.1% in 2007-08 and down from 15.5% in 2022-23, which marked a three-year high. But that performance was not initially expected for the current year.
Wheat SU among major exporters in May 2022 was pegged at a 15-year low of 13.5% for 2022-23, expanding to 13.75% by February 2023. This month, USDA's 2022-23 estimates show slightly bigger production and notably lighter consumption versus the February ones, especially consumption in Russia, Ukraine and Europe.
This SU trend in major wheat exporting countries is not exclusive to 2022-23. Midway through 2021-22, an all-time low of 12.6% was forecast for that year compared with its latest figure of 15.1%.
Another randomly chosen example from late 2018 showed major exporter SU in 2018-19 projected at 13.6%, the lowest since 2007-08 but well below the roomy final of 18.1%.
This suggests the current outlook for 16-year SU lows is less menacing than it appears, but the below-average levels still warrant attention, especially as falling prices could create additional demand.

WARTIME
Global grain trade has looked a little different since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, reducing both Ukrainian production and exports. Last year, Ukraine's performance was better than originally expected, but volumes are seen lower this year.
USDA has 2023-24 Ukraine wheat production at 16.5 million tonnes with exports at 10 million, down from 20.9 million and 15 million in 2022-23, respectively.
However, those numbers likely assume continuation of the Black Sea grain deal, which Russia has threatened to quit this coming Thursday. Although Moscow denied any progress, Turkey said Friday that all involved parties were close to reaching an agreement.
On a perhaps related note, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday faced a presidential election, which will go to a May 28 runoff.
But some analysts say it might not matter if the deal is not renewed this week since smaller 2023 Ukrainian crops could be mostly exported via Europe, although it would be pricier.

OTHER HOTSPOTS
In top exporter Russia, USDA shows 2023-24 wheat production down 11% from last year's record, though exports are seen edging up 2% to a new high. Russia and Ukraine had recently accounted for as much as 29% of global wheat exports.
Wheat yields in Australia are already being discounted to four-year lows due to the incoming El Nino, conducive to dry weather there. Australian exports are seen falling nearly a third in 2023-24 to 21 million tonnes after three bumper crops. The opposite is seen for Argentina as El Nino is expected to pull the grain belt out of historic drought and boost wheat output 45% on the year, according to the Buenos Aires grains exchange.
The U.S. wheat export share is seen hitting an all-time low of 9% in 2023-24 since production of its largest wheat class, hard red winter (HRW), is seen at a 66-year low due to extreme drought.
USDA's May HRW wheat forecasts are typically closer to the final in poorer yielding years versus stronger ones, so there may not be much additional downside. However, most of the growing season still lies ahead for U.S. spring wheat, sought after due to its high protein content.India exported a record 8 million tonnes of wheat in 2021-22, but despite a record crop prediction for 2023-24, the country's export ban means future shipments will be minimal. That ban is not expected to be lifted anytime soon according to this month's update from USDA's New Delhi post.

Top News - Metals

Aluminium demand seen weak, risk of lower prices
Demand for aluminium has slumped in Europe and top consumer China in recent weeks amid a slowing global economy, raising the risk of further downside in prices, a conference heard on Tuesday.
Benchmark aluminium on the London Metal Exchange has slid 16% since touching a $2,679.5 peak in January and was flat at $2,260 on Tuesday. Prices for the metal used in transport, construction and packaging hit their lowest since Oct. 31 last week.
"It's clear from my recent travels in Europe that demand is very poor, particularly in the construction sector," said analyst at consultancy CRU, Ross Strachan. "The situation has actually deteriorated in the last six to eight weeks."
Industrial buyers told Strachan they expected their demand to decline by 20%-40% for the first half of 2023 compared to last year, he told the CRU World Aluminium Conference in London.
Feedback about demand from China was also downbeat, where there had been cautious optimism recently, he said. The gloomy macro-economic outlook was creating uncertainty, and the banking crisis that had chilled financialmarkets could provide more surprises, said Dan Smith, head of research at Amalgamated Metal Trading.

"There could be some more icebergs coming in the short term. We are probably going to head lower in the next couple of months," he said, adding the prices are likely to recover by the end of the year, without giving specific prices.
Global aluminium production is expected to rise by 2% this year, but demand will only increase by 1.5%, leaving the market in surplus and pressuring prices, said Duncan Hobbs, research director at Concord Resources.
Futures markets are showing that investors expect the U.S. Federal Reserve to cut rates by nearly 100 basis points by the end of the year, which is misguided since inflation is still high, Hobbs added.
"Someone is going to be disappointed and I'd venture it'll be risk asset markets."
As interest rates remain high, the dollar will strengthen, which will weigh on commodity prices, including aluminium, Hobbs added.

COLUMN-Lead's balancing act still depends on China's exports: Andy Home

The global refined lead market will be roughly balanced between supply and demand this year, according to the International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG). Production fell short of usage by a substantial 141,000 tonnes last year but the deficit will shrink to just 20,000 tonnes this year, according to the Group's April update.
ILZSG has reduced the expected supply shortfall from 42,000 tonnes at the time of its last assessment in October.
The revised deficit is marginal in the context of a 12-million-tonne global market.
However, global balance doesn't mean regional balance.
The physical market in both Europe and the United States remains tight and visible stocks are still low.
Western lead buyers remain reliant on China's exports to smooth out the global supply chain.

CHINA'S EXPORTS STILL BOOMING

China exported 116,500 tonnes of refined lead last year, the highest annual total since 2007.
The country had been a net importer in the 2017-2020 period but flipped to net exporter in 2021 as a string of smelter production hits opened up gaps in the Western supply chain.
Exports remained robust in the first quarter of 2023, China shipping 46,000 tonnes of metal to the rest of the world, up 22% on the first three months of 2022.
Imports have been minimal over the last year or so as the arbitrage remains locked in export-friendly mode. Inbound shipments amounted to just 426 tonnes in January-March, of which 275 tonnes came from Malawi.
China's export flows are travelling far and wide.
First-quarter shipments included 3,062 tonnes to the United States, 3,324 tonnes to Italy and 3,050 tonnes to the

MARKET MONITOR as of 06:23 GMT

Contract	Last	Change	YTD
NYMEX Light Crude	$70.25 / bbl	-0.86%	-12.47%
NYMEX RBOB Gasoline	$2.43 / gallon	0.09%	-1.88%
ICE Gas Oil	$676.75 / tonne	-0.48%	-26.52%
NYMEX Natural Gas	$2.34 / mmBtu	-1.47%	-47.69%
Spot Gold	$1,986.79 / ounce	-0.09%	8.90%
TRPC coal API 2 / Dec, 23	$108.25 / tonne	-6.28%	-41.41%
Carbon ECX EUA / Dec, 23	€88.96 / tonne	0.42%	5.94%
Dutch gas day-ahead (Pre. close)	€31.63 / Mwh	0.09%	-58.14%
CBOT Corn	$5.05 / bushel	-0.39%	-25.59%
CBOT Wheat	$6.54 / bushel	-1.02%	-17.34%
Malaysia Palm Oil (3M)	RM3,396 / tonne	-1.76%	-18.64%
Index (Total Return)	**Close 16 May**	**Change**	**YTD Change**
Thomson Reuters/Jefferies CRB	287.14	-0.66%	-4.71%
Rogers International	25.91	-0.56%	-9.61%
U.S. Stocks - Dow	33,012.14	-1.01%	-0.41%
U.S. Dollar Index	102.56	0.13%	-0.93%
U.S. Bond Index (DJ)	405.75	-0.31%	3.71%

Netherlands.
Top export destination was Taiwan with shipments of 11,000 tonnes. Some of this metal seems to have made its way into London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouses. Registered Chinese-brand lead stocks rose from zero at the start of the year to 6,750 tonnes at the end of April, according to the exchange's latest monthly update.

WESTERN MARKET STILL TIGHT
Chinese inflows have helped nudge LME stocks higher. At 33,300 tonnes, they are now up by 8,150 tonnes since the start of the year but still historically low at around one days' worth of global usage.
Low LME stocks have led to regular bouts of time-spread tightness this year, most recently in April, when the cash premium over three-month metal traded out to $35 per tonne. The period has since eased, closing Monday valued at a relatively relaxed contango of $15 per tonne.
What's in the LME warehouse system remains concentrated in Asian locations. There are just 1,275 tonnes of registered lead in Europe and zero in the United States. Physical premiums reflect that regional imbalance.
U.S. buyers are paying up to 20 cents/lb ($440 per tonne) over the LME cash price to secure spot metal, according to Fastmarkets.
The premium has eased only slightly from a record 22.25 cents/lb over the closing months of last year. It was just 12 cents at the start of 2021.

PRODUCTION RECOVERY
The U.S. lead market has become more dependent on imports since the unexpected closure of the Florence recycling plant in South Carolina in 2021.
Europe, however, should fare better this year thanks to the restart of the Stolberg lead smelter in Germany. The 155,000-tonne-per-year facility has been out of action since flooding in summer 2021.
Stolberg has been the single biggest smelter hit among many in the last two years and its return under new owner Trafigura will be a main driver of the expected 2.8% rise in global primary lead production this year, according to ILZSG. European usage was also weak last year, sliding by 1.9% due to reductions in Austria, Poland, the Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine, the Group noted.
It is forecast to recover by a modest 0.4% this year, still acting as a drag on global growth, which is expected to come in at 1.7%. The difference between the pace of production and usage recovery explains the narrowing global supply gap this year.

KEEPING THE BALANCE
LME three-month lead has traded sideways in a $2,020-2,180-per tonne range for most of the year, seemingly reflecting the shift in dynamics from supply deficit towards balance.
But it is Chinese exports that are maintaining that global balance, just as they did last year.
Exports have eroded Chinese inventory over the last couple of years. Stocks registered with the Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) have fallen from over 200,000 tonnes in September 2021 to 32,095 tonnes as of last Friday.
Chinese producers appear to be responding, lifting primary lead output by 15.5% year-on-year in January-April, according to local data company Shanghai Metal Market.
Western buyers will be grateful. They will likely need more Chinese metal until lead production elsewhere recovers from the trail of smelter outages that have plagued supply for the last two years.

Top News - Carbon & Power

Biden administration announces $11 bln for rural clean energy projects
Rural electric cooperatives, utilities, and other energy providers will soon be able to apply for nearly $11 billion in grants and loans for clean energy projects, funded by the $430 billion Inflation Reduction Act signed into law last August, the Biden administration said on Tuesday.
Expanding clean energy to rural communities is critical to meeting the administration's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, officials told reporters on a Monday press call.
"This is an exciting and an historic day and continues an ongoing effort to ensure that rural America is a full participant in the clean energy economy," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on the call.
Rural electric cooperatives will be eligible to apply beginning July 31 for $9.7 billion in grants for deploying renewable energy, zero-emission, and carbon capture systems, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.
Renewable energy developers and electric service providers like municipal and Tribal utilities will be eligible to apply beginning June 30 for another $1 billion in partially forgivable loans for financing wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and other renewable energy projects, USDA said.
At a White House event to mark the investment on Tuesday, Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said the funds were "an important piece of how we commit to rural America."
"This is really about saying to people in rural America, we want you to stay there, we want your kids to come home there, and to have a quality of life there," she said.
On the call with reporters, White House advisor John Podesta said the money would bring good-paying jobs to rural communities and National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi said the investment would be a "game-changer."
Rural electric cooperatives serve 42 million people and draw about 22% of their energy from renewable sources, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).
The NRECA, a trade association, cheered the Tuesday announcement as a "transformative opportunity for co-ops

and their local communities."
The new funds will help rural electric cooperatives reach parity with private utility companies who have already begun significant investment in clean energy, Vilsack told reporters.
"We have a climate crisis that requires all of America to participate in reducing emissions to get to the net-zero future," Vilsack said.

Pro-nuclear countries pitch atomic role in Europe's green transition
Pro-nuclear countries made the case the energy form is central to Europe's transition to a low carbon economy on Tuesday, against a background of deep disagreement in the European Union over its role in meeting climate commitments.
Long-standing divisions over nuclear energy in the 27-member bloc deepened this year after countries clashed over whether low carbon nuclear power should count towards renewable energy goals.
Tensions also flared between France, Spain and Germany - Europe's biggest energy consumer, which shut its last nuclear reactors last month - over whether planned infrastructure projects should be able to use nuclear power as an energy source.
The 16 governments meeting in Paris urged the EU to use its energy policies, including green industrial subsidies, to support nuclear. Brussels has said only certain advanced nuclear technologies will receive EU incentives for green industries.
EU Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson told the meeting the EU budget is not allowed to be used for nuclear generation, but planned electricity market design reforms could in theory help the sector obtain outside financing more easily.
She also said the European Commission will in early 2024 provide a study of European nuclear infrastructure and has asked countries to submit investment plans detailing their needs for new nuclear generation, including job requirements.
In addition to Simson, the meeting brought together representatives from 14 EU countries including Belgium and the Netherlands, plus Italy as an observer and the United Kingdom as a non-EU guest.
Representing host nation France, which typically gets more than two-thirds of its power from nuclear generation, Energy Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher said the pro-nuclear countries would probably reconvene next month.

COMPETITIVENESS AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
The European Union as a whole has about 100GW of installed nuclear capacity, producing roughly a quarter of EU electricity.
A declaration signed by participants of Tuesday's summit estimated that if an additional 50GW of new nuclear projects come online by 2050 as planned, it would create more than 450,000 jobs and contribute 92 billion euros ($101.27 billion) to Europe's GDP.
In addition, when accounting for the fossil fuel imports that would not be required, it would add 33 billion euros to the EU trade surplus.
Czech Energy and Industry Minister Jozef Sikela said the large amounts of CO_2-free baseload electricity nuclear energy can provide are an affordable way to achieve decarbonisation while providing enough power for industry.
"This is also about price and affordable energy for European households, which is extremely important for the social contract and for the competitiveness of European industry," he said. But nuclear generation is not renewable, and relies on non-renewable fuel, which in many cases has been provided by Russia.
Bulgarian Energy Minister Rosen Hristov said his country last year signed new contracts for nuclear fuel with France's Framatome and Canada's Westinghouse, enabling it to stop relying on Russia.
Nuclear power also produces radioactive waste, which anti-nuclear countries including Austria say should encourage governments to focus instead on renewable energy such as wind and solar, to cut CO_2.
Climate campaigners also say the focus should be on renewables.
"Every euro invested in new nuclear will not be invested in the energy transition," Greenpeace campaigner Pauline Boyer said at a protest outside Tuesday's meeting.
"None of the new reactors announced by the French government will be ready before, at best, some 15 years, whereas the next decade will be crucial to get Europe on the right climate trajectory," she added.

Top News - Dry Freight

Last ship to leave Ukraine as fate of Black Sea grain deal in Russia's hands
The last ship is due to leave a port in Ukraine under a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine grain, said a U.N. spokesperson, a day before Russia could quit the pact over obstacles to its grain and fertilizer exports.
The United Nations and Turkey brokered the Black Sea deal for an initial 120 days in July last year to help tackle a global food crisis that has been aggravated by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, one of the world's leading grain exporters. Moscow agreed to extend the Black Sea pact for a further 120 days in November, but then in March it agreed to a 60 day extension - until May 18 - unless a list of demands regarding its own agricultural exports was met.
To convince Russia in July to allow Black Sea grain exports, the United Nations agreed at the same time to help Moscow with its own agricultural shipments for three years. "There are still a lot of open questions regarding our part of the deal. Now a decision will have to be tak-

en," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday, according to Russian media.
Senior officials from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the U.N. met in Istanbul last week to discuss the Black Sea pact.
U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday: "Contacts are going on at different levels. We're obviously in a delicate stage."
Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said last week he thought the deal could be extended for at least two more months.
While Russian exports of food and fertilizer are not subject to Western sanctions imposed following the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Moscow says restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance have amounted to a barrier to shipments.
The United States has rejected Russia's complaints. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield said last week: "It is exporting grain and fertilizer at the same levels, if not higher, than before the full scale invasion."

RISKS
Officials from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the U.N. make up a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul, which implements the Black Sea export deal. They authorize and inspect ships. No new vessels have been authorized by the JCC since May 4.
Authorized ships are inspected by JCC officials near Turkey before travelling to a Ukrainian Black Sea port via a maritime humanitarian corridor to collect their cargo and return to Turkish waters for a final inspection.
Under the deal, there is just one ship still in a Ukrainian port that is due to depart on Wednesday and transit the maritime corridor with its cargo, said a U.N. spokesperson, while another vessel was in transit back to Turkey on Tuesday and another five ships are waiting for an outbound inspection in Turkish waters. In an excerpt of a letter seen by Reuters last month, Russia told its JCC counterparts that it will not approve any new vessels to take part in the Black Sea deal unless the transits will be done by May 18 - "the expected date of ... closure."
It said this was "to avoid commercial losses and prevent possible safety risks" after May 18.
Given this warning by Russia, it appears unlikely that any ship owners or insurance companies would be willing to continue transporting Ukrainian grain exports if Russia does not agree to an extension of the deal and decides to quit.
The United Nations, Turkey and Ukraine did continue the Black Sea agreement in October during a brief suspension by Russia of its participation.
Some 30 million metric tonnes of grain and foodstuffs has been exported from Ukraine under the Black Sea deal, including nearly 600,000 metric tonnes of grain in World Food Programme vessels for aid operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Yemen, the United Nations has said.

EU 2022/23 soft wheat exports at 27.17 million tonnes, up 12%
Soft wheat exports from the European Union in the 2022/23 season that started last July reached 27.17 million tonnes by May 14, up 12% compared with 24.33 million a year earlier, data published by the European Commission showed on Tuesday.
EU barley exports so far in 2022/23 totalled 5.80 million tonnes, down 14% from 6.73 million a year ago.
In imports, EU maize imports were at 23.57 million tonnes, 65% higher than a year-earlier 14.26 million.
Soft wheat imports were at 7.85 million tonnes, 249% above the year-earlier level, while barley imports had reached 1.86 million tonnes, up 119% on year.
EU cereal imports have surged following a drought-hit harvest last year and amid an influx of grain from Ukraine that has led to temporary restrictions on shipments to eastern EU countries.
The EU data showed France remained the biggest EU soft wheat exporter this season, with 9.59 million tonnes shipped, followed by Romania with 3.86 million, Germany with 3.29 million, Poland with 2.68 million and Lithuania with 2.50 million.

Picture of the Day

Liquified petroleum gas vessel Zita Schulte is seen docked at the port of Corpus Christi, Texas, U.S., May 15. REUTERS/Arathy Somasekhar

(Inside Commodities is compiled by Anjana J Nair in Bengaluru)

For questions or comments about this report, contact: **commodity.briefs@thomsonreuters.com**

To subscribe to Inside Commodities newsletter, **click here**.

Refinitiv
28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005

Please visit: **Refinitiv** for more information.

Privacy statement

An LSEG Business