

UL▼-0.91%

taxes in 2022.

despite still operating in Russia.

Peninsula in Siberia.

after it invaded Ukraine.

Despite an exodus of firms after the war began last February, oil giant Shell is still trading

Two of Britain's biggest companies have been blasted for continuing to operate in Russia

Russian gas a year after promising to pull out of the country's energy market.

And Dove soap and Cornetto maker Unilever has been labelled an 'international sponsor of

war' by the Ukrainian government as it continues to sell food and hygiene products in Russia.

The broadside marked a difficult start for boss Hein Schumacher, who took over at the

weekend.

Campaigners at the Moral Rating Agency (MRA), which pushes for companies to exit the

Russian market, have called on Schumacher to 'do the moral thing' and pull the business out of the country.



each year, with some of the funds being used to fund the war in Ukraine.

day can quickly pay for the launch of a missile,' said MRA founder Mark Dixon.

supply Russian shoppers with 'essential' items made in the country.

It follows claims from the Ukraine Solidarity Project that Unilever paid £260million in Russian

It estimated that Unilever was still contributing around £580million to the Russian economy

'A Cornetto ice cream seems innocuous until you realise that millions of them being sold each

'Likewise, a bar of Dove soap starts to look pretty dirty when there are enough of them being produced to purchase a Russian tank.'

In March, it said it would stop importing or exporting goods from Russia but would still

The organisation branded Unilever a 'hypocrite' for having previously criticised the invasion

The debacle is yet another headache for the consumer goods giant, which has previously

faced criticism from investors for prioritising ethical initiatives over its financial performance.

Earlier this year, star stock picker Terry Smith, whose Fundsmith owns nearly 0.6 per cent of Unilever, accused it of 'virtue signalling' and spouting 'corporate gobbledegook' rather than focusing on sales.

continuing to deal in Russian energy.

It is shipping Russian gas through a deal with Novatek, Russia's second-largest liquefied

Shell, meanwhile, has been accused by Ukrainian officials of accepting 'blood money' by

The MRA has accused Shell of using compliance rules to obscure the moral hazard and 'cover up its support for the Russian economy'.

'The sanctions compliance argument is a moral red herring,' said Dixon. 'Hundreds of

contractual commitments', including the Novatek deal.

natural gas (LNG) firm, which compels it to buy 900,000 tonnes per year from the Yamal

so isn't a criminal offence.'

Shell said it stopped buying Russian LNG on the spot market, but it still has 'some long-term'

companies have stopped supporting the Russian economy on a voluntary basis when doing

'This is in full compliance with sanctions, applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which we operate. We have been clear about this.

Ukraine and ensuring stable, secure energy supplies.

It is for governments to decide on the incredibly difficult trade-offs that must be made,' a

There is a dilemma between putting pressure on the Russian government over its atrocities in

been heavily criticised recently after scaling back its green transition plans.

But the continued trading of Russian gas will pile more public pressure on Shell, which has

Unilever made no comment last night.

spokesman added.