

Sanctions against Russia

Individual sanctions (Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014)

The first part of the latest package concerns individual sanctions imposed for actions that undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

The EU introduces an **additional criterion** for the **listing** of natural or legal persons, entities or bodies responsible for, supporting or implementing actions or policies contributing to the **deportation, forced transfer, forced assimilation, including indoctrination, or militarised education of Ukrainian minors**.

The **69** additional listings (22 natural persons and 47 entities) in the 19th sanctions package are Russian public officials involved in the placement of forcibly transferred Ukrainian children and business persons, entities and bodies supporting or benefitting from the Russian Government.

The listed individuals and entities include Russian energy companies, a large Russian company involved in gold production, a Russian company managing the shadow fleet, one petrochemical company and one refinery in China facilitating oil trade with Russia, a large Chinese state-owned company and other legal and natural persons, as well as individuals, entities and bodies who have facilitated the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territories, and companies that have supported Russia's armed forces and arms industry.

Additions to the list of sanctioned entities also include companies that have circumvented sanctions and facilitated the shadow fleet. These companies originate from many different countries, including Russia, China, Hong Kong, India, Thailand and Kyrgyzstan. The EU also lists maritime registries in Aruba and Curaçao that provide false flags to shadow fleet vessels.

Sectoral sanctions (Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014)

Secondly, the EU expands the sectoral sanctions adopted in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. The key changes to sectoral sanctions are described below.

Export and import bans

New items, such as chemicals used in the production of nitrocellulose, rangefinders and specific metals, are added to the export ban list of goods and technology which might contribute to Russia's military and technological enhancement or the development of its defence and security sector.

The EU adds **45 new entities** to the list of sanctioned persons, entities and bodies that are military end-users, part of Russia's military-industrial complex or have commercial or other links with Russia's defence and security sector or otherwise support it. The EU adds to the export ban list entities in third countries that enable the circumvention of export restrictions, including those on microelectronics, unmanned aerial vehicles and other dual-use and advanced technology items.

The EU is also expanding the list of items that might contribute to Russia's military and technological enhancement or the development of its defence and security sector. New additions to the list include electronic components, rangefinders, chemicals used in the preparation of propellants, and metals, oxides and alloys used in the manufacturing of military systems.

The EU also extends the list of partner countries for importation of petroleum products.

Ban on imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG)

To decrease further Russia's revenues from the export of fossil fuels, the EU prohibits the purchase, import, or transfer into the Union of liquefied natural gas (LNG) originating or exported from Russia as of 1 January 2027 for all types of contracts. The import ban will enter into force gradually and at the

earliest six months after the approval of sanctions. The EU also prohibits the provision of related technical or financial assistance.

Sanctions against tankers from Russia's shadow fleet

The EU lists 117 vessels belonging to the shadow fleet as subject to sectoral sanctions. The vessels subject to sectoral sanctions as part of the shadow fleet of tankers transport goods for use by the Russian arms industry or carry Russian crude oil and petroleum products and fail to comply with shipping recommendations adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). With the latest additions, the total number of sanctioned shadow fleet **tankers is 557**.

The EU also amends one of the criteria for listing vessels and extends the ban on the provision of various services to those vessels. The EU specifies that the prohibition to provide insurance and reinsurance to vessels does not affect the payment of payouts to persons or entities having suffered damage before the vessel was added to the list.

The EU also extends the transaction ban on ports and locks. The ban is extended to any ports and locks in third countries other than Russia that are used for the transfer of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or missiles or related technology or components thereof to Russia, or for the circumvention of the oil price cap by vessels practicing irregular and high-risk shipping practices, or for the circumvention of other restrictive measures.

Transaction bans

The EU imposes a full transaction ban on major energy companies Rosneft and Gazprom Neft.

The EU also expands the transaction ban that applies to legal persons, entities or bodies that are connecting to the system for transfer of financial messages ('SPFS') of the Central Bank of Russia or equivalent specialised financial messaging services set up by the Central Bank of Russia. The ban is also extended to other payment services, such as the Russian National Payment Card System (in Russian, 'Mir') or the Fast Payments System ('SBP'), set up by the Central Bank of Russia or by other Russian entities.

The EU expands the transaction ban on third-country credit and financial institutions and crypto-asset service providers to also include entities that provide payment services, and in particular entities that provide crypto-asset and payment services to listed entities. In order to prevent proliferation of new entities that succeed the listed ones, the EU also expands the transaction ban to cover equivalent entities if certain criteria are met.

The EU also adds **five new credit or financial institutions** to the list of legal persons, entities or bodies subject to a transaction ban. EU operators are prohibited to directly or indirectly engage in any transaction with a listed credit or financial institution.

Sanctions against Russia's Special Economic Zones

The EU imposes sanctions on Russia's special economic, innovation and preferential zones. They are a core element of the economic development strategy of the Russian Federation. The EU prohibits any new participation in, the creation of joint ventures with, and the provision of financing to, any enterprise established in or operating through certain Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and prohibits entering into new contracts with such enterprises. In addition, the EU prohibits the maintaining of any participation in, or of joint ventures or contracts with, any enterprise established in or operating through certain SEZs.

Prohibitions relating to Russian diplomats

The EU restricts the movement of Russian diplomats and their family members across the EU. When travelling within the Schengen area to a Member State other than their country of accreditation, Russian diplomats, consular officers, members of the administrative, technical or service staff of diplomatic missions or consular posts and their family members must inform in advance the relevant EU Member State.

EU Member States may impose an authorisation requirement on Russian diplomats for travelling to their territories, based on visas or residence permits issued by another Member State. This measure aims to curb increasingly hostile intelligence activities that support Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Other prohibitions on services

In order to limit the ability of the Russian state to obtain revenues from old, under-maintained aircraft and vessels, the EU prohibits providing reinsurance for Russian used aircraft or vessels for up to five years following their sale or lease.

The EU imposes restrictions on the provision of crypto-asset services and payment services and on the issuing of electronic money to Russian nationals, natural persons residing in Russia, and legal persons, entities or bodies established in Russia. The restrictions are introduced because these services are important for the development of Russia's financial technology and e-commerce sectors and because crypto-asset services may be used to circumvent sanctions.

The EU makes prior authorisation mandatory for all services provided to the Russian government. The EU continues to urge EU companies to exit Russia and extends the deadline to 31 December 2026 for derogations related to divestment from Russia. The EU strengthens the legal remedies available to Member States in investor-state disputes.

Sanctions against Belarus

The EU adds to the list of sanctions against Belarusian individuals four new entities and one natural or legal person (Council Regulation (EC) No 765/2006, Annex I).

The list of sectoral sanctions against Belarus is extended significantly. The export ban list against Belarus is expanded and harmonised with the corresponding list against Russia by adding goods and technology which

might contribute to Belarus's military and technological enhancement or to the development of its defence and security sector. (Council Regulation (EC) No 765/2006, Annex Va).

Similarly, the EU harmonises the list of goods subject to export and transit restrictions to include items which could contribute to the enhancement of Belarusian industrial capacities.

The EU has imposed sanctions against Belarus since 2004. It has substantially expanded its sanctions after the fraudulent presidential elections in 2020 and the start of Russia's war of aggression in 2022. The current individual sanctions list holds 311 natural or legal persons and 50 entities. Belarus is also subject to an arms embargo and a ban on the overflight of EU airspace and on access to EU airports by Belarusian carriers. The previous extension and harmonisation of sanctions against Belarus were decided by the EU in July 2025. New sanctions against Belarusian individuals were most recently adopted in July 2025.