

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: EU adopts 18th package of economic and individual measures

The EU just approved one of its strongest sanctions packages against Russia to date. Each sanction weakens Russia's ability to wage war. The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine. The EU will keep raising the pressure until Russia ends its war.

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and chair of the Foreign Affairs Council

The Council adopted today a 18th package of economic and individual restrictive measures hitting hard on Russia's energy, banking and military sectors, as well as trade with the EU, and ensuring accountability for Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine. Furthermore, the Council complemented the package by agreeing further measures on Belarus.

Today's package includes economic and individual measures with a view to increasing pressure on Russia and to achieving a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

The Council has agreed on a significant set of **55 listings**, consisting of 14 individuals and 41 entities responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, bringing the total number of individual listings to over 2 500.

Energy

With today's package, the **EU is curtailing Russia's energy revenues** through a number of different measures. The EU is lowering the **price cap for crude oil** from USD 60 to **USD 47.6 per barrel**, to align it with current global oil prices and is introducing an automatic and dynamic mechanism to modify the oil price cap and ensure that this price cap is effective. Oil exports still represent one third of the Russian government's revenues.

The EU is also imposing further sanctions **across the shadow fleet value chain**. An **additional 105 vessels** will be subject to a port access ban and a ban on the provision of a broad range of services related to maritime transport, bringing the total number of listed vessels to 444. This measure targets non-EU tankers that are part of Vladimir Putin's shadow fleet circumventing the oil price cap mechanism, which support the energy sector of Russia or which transport military equipment for Russia or stolen Ukrainian grain.

Full-fledged sanctions (asset freezes, travel bans, bans on providing resources) target Russian and international companies managing **shadow fleet** vessels, traders of Russian crude oil and a major customer of the shadow fleet – a refinery in India with Rosneft as its main shareholder. For the first time, The EU is also listing the captain of a shadow fleet vessel, as well as a private operator of an international flag registry. Lastly, one entity in the Russian **LNG sector** is also included in today's listings.

Furthermore, the EU is introducing an **import ban on refined petroleum products** made from Russian crude oil and coming from any third country – with the exception of Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States – thereby preventing Russia's crude oil from reaching the EU market through the back door.

The EU is also imposing a full **transaction ban on Nord Stream 1 and 2**, including for the provision of goods or services, thus preventing the completion, maintenance, operation and any future use of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines.

Lastly, the Council decided to end the exemption for oil imports from Russia to Czechia.

Banking

The EU is upgrading the existing **prohibition on providing EU-based specialised financial messaging services to certain Russian**

banks to a full transaction ban. This will apply to **22 additional Russian banks**, on top of the 23 banks already subject to the ban.

The EU is lowering the threshold for sanctioning third-country financial and credit institutions and crypto-asset service providers that are frustrating sanction measures against Russia, supporting Russia's war of aggression or are connected to the **System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS)**, the Russian alternative financial messaging service, developed by the Central Bank of Russia and used to shield Russian banks from the impact of EU sanctions.

The EU is also expanding the transaction ban on third countries' financial and credit institutions and crypto-asset service providers which, through their actions, **frustrate EU sanctions or support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**. The transaction ban on third-country operators that **circumvent oil-related** prohibitions has also been widened.

Additionally, a ban is imposed a ban on carrying out any transaction with the **Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF)** and its sub-funds and companies, and Council has have established an instrument to extend such a ban to certain companies in which the RDIF has invested and to entities providing investment services or other financial services to the RDIF itself. Such companies and financial institutions will be selected by the Council; four Russian entities in which the RDIF has invested are already listed. This measure further limits Russia's access to global financial markets and foreign currency.

Lastly, the Council is putting in place a new ban on selling, supplying, transferring and exporting **software management systems** and software with certain uses in the **banking and financial sector**.

Military industry

With a view to curbing Russia's military capabilities, the Council is imposing further full-fledged sanctions **on suppliers of the Russian military industrial complex**, including three entities based in **China** that sell goods used on the battlefield. These measures aim to further constrain Russia's access to goods and technologies. Additionally, the package covers eight companies operating in the **Belarusian** military-industrial complex, which is supporting Russia's war efforts.

26 new entities will be subject to tighter export restrictions concerning **dual-use goods and technologies**, including those that could contribute to the **technological enhancement of Russia's defence and security sector**. Eleven of these entities are located in **third countries** other than Russia (seven in China and Hong Kong, and four in Türkiye), and have been involved in circumventing export restrictions, including for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Additionally, the EU has agreed **further export bans** worth more than €2.5 billion. The list of restricted items contributing to the technological enhancement of Russia's defence and security sector will now include items for the development and production of Russia's military systems such as computer numerical control (**CNC machines**) and constituent **chemicals for propellants**. Furthermore, the existing transit ban via the territory of Russia is expanded to cover selected economically critical goods used for construction and transport.

Accountability

The Council is imposing sanctions on another individual actively involved in Russia's "military education" of **Ukrainian children**. This brings the total number of listings in relation to the deportation and indoctrination of Ukrainian children to over 90. The package also lists several Russian proxies in occupied territories, including a person responsible for manipulating Ukrainian **cultural heritage**, another leading Russian businessperson and a prominent Russian **propagandist**.

Belarus

In addition to the **eight new listings** related to the Belarusian military complex, today's package also further mirrors the measures imposed on **Belarus' trade** with those imposed on Russia.

Furthermore, the **ban on specialised financial messaging services is upgraded to a full transaction ban** and an **embargo on imports of arms** from Belarus is introduced.

Other

The EU is also introducing measures to protect member states from illegitimate Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) arbitration proceedings launched by Russian companies and individuals, including oligarchs and their proxies (i.e. damages recovery provision to be taken by member states, tailored non-recognition provision in the EU for those arbitration proceedings and an obligation on member states to act in BIT proceedings).

The relevant legal acts will soon be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

Background

In its conclusions of 19 December 2024, the European Council reiterated its resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter, and reaffirmed its continued support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. The European Council also reconfirmed the EU's unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed. Russia must not prevail.

The European Council reaffirmed its support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, in line with the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula, and underlined the principle that no initiative regarding Ukraine can be taken without Ukraine. To this end, the EU and its member states will maintain their intensive global outreach efforts and will participate in discussions affecting Europe's security.

The European Union remains ready to step up pressure on Russia, including by adopting further sanctions.

- [Official Journal of the EU of 19 July 2025: legal acts concerning the 18th package of sanctions](#)
- [Statement by the European Commission on the 18th package of sanctions](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 19 December 2024](#)
- [Russia's war against Ukraine \(background information\)](#)
- [Timeline - Packages of sanctions against Russia since February 2022 \(background information\)](#)

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