



EU restrictive measures in response to the crisis in Ukraine

Since March 2014, the EU has progressively imposed restrictive measures against Russia. The measures were adopted in response to the **illegal annexation of Crimea** and the deliberate **destabilisation of Ukraine**.

The EU imposes **different types** of restrictive measures:

- diplomatic measures
- individual restrictive measures (asset freeze and travel restrictions)
- restrictions on economic relations with Crimea and Sevastopol
- economic sanctions
- restrictions on economic cooperation

Below you can find more information on each type of restrictive measures.

Diplomatic measures

In 2014, the **EU-Russia summit was cancelled** and EU member states decided not to hold regular bilateral summits. Bilateral talks with Russia on visa matters as well as on the new agreement between the EU and Russia were suspended.

Instead of the G8 summit in Sochi, a **G7 meeting** was held in Brussels on 4-5 June 2014. Since then, meetings have continued within the G7 process.

EU countries also supported the suspension of negotiations over Russia's joining the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Individual restrictive measures

Asset freeze and travel restrictions

170 people and 44 entities are subject to an asset freeze and a travel ban because their actions undermined Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

The measures were introduced in March 2014. They were last extended in March 2019 until **15 September 2019**.

- > [List of persons and entities under EU restrictive measures over the territorial integrity of Ukraine \(EU Official Journal\)](#)

Misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

In March 2014, the Council decided to freeze the assets of individuals responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds. These measures were last extended in March 2019 until **6 March 2020**.

Restrictions on economic relations with Crimea and Sevastopol

The Council adopted restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation.

The measures apply to EU persons and EU based companies. They are limited to the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol.

These measures include:

- an **import ban** on goods from Crimea and Sevastopol
- **restrictions on trade and investment** related to certain economic sectors and infrastructure projects
- a **prohibition to supply tourism services** in Crimea or Sevastopol
- an **export ban** for certain goods and technologies

On 18 June 2018, the Council extended these measures until **23 June 2019**.

Economic sanctions targeting exchanges with Russia in specific economic sectors

In July and September 2014, the EU imposed economic sanctions targeting exchanges with Russia in **specific economic sectors**.

In March 2015, EU leaders decided to **align the existing sanctions regime to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements**, foreseen for the end of December 2015. Since this did not happen, the Council extended economic sanctions until 31 July 2016.

The economic sanctions have been **extended for 6 months successively** since 1 July 2016.

The extension was decided each time following an assessment of the Minsk agreements implementation. The economic sanctions are currently extended until **31 July 2019**.

These restrictive measures:

- **limit access to EU primary and secondary capital markets** for certain Russian banks and companies
- impose an **export and import ban on trade in arms**
- establish an **export ban for dual-use goods** for military use or military end users in Russia
- curtail Russian **access to certain sensitive technologies and services** that can be used for oil production and exploration

Measures concerning economic cooperation

Restrictions on economic cooperation were introduced by EU leaders in July 2014:

- the EIB was requested to suspend the signature of new financing operations in the Russian Federation
- EU member states agreed to coordinate their positions within the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Board of Directors with a view to also suspend the financing of new operations
- the implementation of EU bilateral and regional cooperation programmes with Russia was re-assessed and certain programmes suspended

Timeline of Council decisions

The following timeline* gives an overview of the decisions taken by the European Union regarding restrictive measures since the extraordinary meeting of the Council of the EU on 3 March 2014, which condemned the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russia.

**in reverse chronological order*

— 2019 —

15 March: EU responds to escalation at the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov, and renews sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council added eight Russian officials to the list of those subject to restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. These new listings have been adopted by the Council as a response to escalation in the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov and the violations of international law by Russia, which used military force with no justification.

- > [Ukraine: EU responds to escalation at the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov, and renews sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity \(press release, 15/03/2019\)](#)

4 March: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council **extended until 6 March 2020** the asset freezes against 12 people identified as responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds or for the abuse of office causing a loss to Ukrainian public funds. The restrictive measures against one person were not extended. This decision was based on the annual review of the measures.

- > [Misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds: Council prolongs EU sanctions for one year \(press release, 04/03/2019\)](#)

21 December: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until **31 July 2019**. This decision follows an update from President Macron and Chancellor Merkel to the European Council of 13-14 December 2018 on the state of implementation of the Minsk agreements.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months \(press release, 21/12/2018\)](#)

10 December: EU adds nine people to sanctions list for their involvement in the so-called elections of 11 November 2018

The Council added nine persons involved in the so-called "elections" 11 November 2018, which the EU considers as illegal and illegitimate, to the list of those subject to restrictive measures over actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

- > [Ukraine: EU adds nine persons involved in 'elections' in "Donetsk People's Republic" and 'Luhansk People's Republic' to sanctions list \(press release, 10/12/2018\)](#)

13 September: EU extends sanctions over action against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council has extended the EU restrictive measures for a further six months, until 15 March 2019. The measures consist of asset freezes and travel restrictions. They currently apply to 155 persons and 44 entities.

- > [EU prolongs sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity until 15 March 2019 \(press release 13/09/2018\)](#)

31 July: EU adds 6 entities involved in the construction of the Kerch Bridge to sanctions list

The EU added six entities to the sanctions list because of their involvement in the construction of the Kerch Bridge, connecting Russia to the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. Through their actions they supported the consolidation of Russia's control over the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, which in turn further undermines the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

- > [EU adds six entities involved in the construction of the Kerch Bridge connecting the illegally annexed Crimea to Russia to sanctions list \(press release, 31/07/2018\)](#)

5 July: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until **31 January 2019**. This decision follows an update from President Macron and Chancellor

Merkel to the European Council of 28-29 June 2018 on the state of **implementation of the Minsk agreements**.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months \(press release, 05/07/2018\)](#)

18 June: Extension of sanctions in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol

The Council extended the restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia until **23 June 2019**.

- > [Illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol: EU extends sanctions by one year \(press release, 18/06/2018\)](#)

14 May: EU adds five people involved in the organisation of Russian presidential elections to sanctions list

The EU has added **five people** to the sanction list for their **involvement in the organisation of Russian presidential elections in illegally annexed Crimea and Sevastopol**. Thereby these individuals actively supported and implemented policies that undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

The restrictive measures now apply to **155 persons and 38 entities**.

- > [Ukraine: EU adds five persons involved in the organisation of Russian presidential elections in illegally annexed Crimea and Sevastopol to sanctions list \(press release, 14/05/2018\)](#)

12 March: Extension of EU sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council prolonged for a further six months, until **15 September 2018**, the application of sanctions targeting actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. The measures consist of asset freezes and a travel ban applying to 150 people and 38 entities.

- > [EU prolongs sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity until 15 September 2018 \(press release, 12/03/2018\)](#)

5 March: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council **extended until 6 March 2019** the asset freezes against 13 people identified as responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds or for the abuse of office causing a loss to Ukrainian public funds. The restrictive measures against two persons were not extended. This decision was based on the annual review of the measures.

- > [Misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds: EU prolongs asset freezes against 13 persons by one year \(press release, 05/03/2018\)](#)

21 December: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until **31 July 2018**. This decision follows an update from President Macron and Chancellor Merkel to the European Council of 14 December 2017 on the state of **implementation of the Minsk agreements**.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months \(press release, 21/12/2017\)](#)

21 November: "Governor of Sevastopol" added to sanctions list over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council added **Dmitry Vladimirovich Ovsyannikov**, "Governor of Sevastopol", to the list of those submitted to restrictive measures over actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

The restrictive measures now apply to **150 persons and 38 entities**.

- > [EU adds the "Governor of Sevastopol" to its sanctions list over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity \(press release, 21/11/2017\)](#)

14 September: Extension of EU sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council prolonged for a further **six months**, until **15 March 2018**, the application of sanctions targeting actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

The restrictive measures now apply to **149 persons and 38 entities**.

- > [EU prolongs sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity until 15 March 2018 \(press release, 14/09/2017\)](#)

4 August: EU adds 3 persons and 3 companies to sanctions list

The EU has added **3 Russian nationals and 3 companies involved in the transfer of gas turbines to Crimea** to the list of persons subject to restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

- > [EU adds 3 persons and 3 companies to sanctions list over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity \(press release, 4/08/2017\)](#)

28 June: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until **31 January 2018**. This decision follows an update from President Macron and Chancellor Merkel to the European Council of 22-23 June 2017 on the **implementation of the Minsk Agreements**.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months \(press release, 28/06/2017\)](#)

19 June: Extension of sanctions in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol

The Council **extended the restrictive measures** in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia **until 23 June 2018**. The measures apply to EU persons and EU based companies. They are limited to the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol.

- > [Illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol: EU extends sanctions by one year \(press release, 19/06/2017\)](#)

13 March: Extension of EU sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council prolonged for a further **six months**, until **15 September 2017**, the application of sanctions targeting actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. The measures consist of asset freezes and a travel ban applying to 150 people and 37 entities.

- > [EU prolongs sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity until 15 September 2017 \(press release, 13/03/2017\)](#)

3 March: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council **extended until 6 March 2018 the asset freezes against 15 people** identified as responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds or for the abuse of office causing a loss to Ukrainian public funds.

- > [Misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds: EU prolongs asset freezes against 15 people by one year \(press release, 03/03/2017\)](#)

— 2016 —

19 December: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council extended the application of economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy, **until 31 July 2017**.

This was decided following the European Council meeting on 15 December 2016, where the leaders assessed the progress in implementing the Minsk agreements and paved the way for a further extension of sanctions.

- > [EU extends economic sanctions against Russia](#)

9 November: EU adds six members of the State Duma from Crimea to sanctions list

The EU added six members of the Russian Federation State Duma elected from the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the list of persons

subject to restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

- > [EU adds six members of the State Duma from Crimea to sanctions list](#)

15 September: Extension of EU sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council prolonged until 15 March 2017 the application of sanctions targeting actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. These sanctions consist of an asset freeze and a travel ban against 146 persons and 37 entities.

- > [EU prolongs sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity](#)

1 July: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged the economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until **31 January 2017**.

On 19 March 2015, the European Council agreed to link the duration of the sanctions to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements. In July 2016, having assessed the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the Council decided to renew the sanctions for a further six months, until 31 January 2017.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months](#)

17 June: Extension of sanctions in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol

The Council **extended the restrictive measures** in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia **until 23 June 2017**. The measures apply to EU persons and EU based companies. They are limited to the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol.

- > [Illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol: EU extends sanctions by one year](#)

10 March: Extension of EU sanctions over action against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council extended until **15 September 2016** EU restrictive measures against **146 people and 37 companies**, in view of the continuing undermining or threatening of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

- > [Ukraine territorial integrity: EU extends sanctions by 6 months](#)

4 March: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council **extended by one year asset freezes against 16 people** identified as responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds or for the abuse of office causing a loss to Ukrainian public funds.

- > [Misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds: EU extends asset freezes against 16 people](#)

21 December: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council prolonged EU economic sanctions against Russia until **31 July 2016**.

In March 2015, EU leaders decided to align the existing sanctions regime to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements, which was foreseen for the end of December 2015. Since the Minsk agreements will not be fully implemented by 31 December 2015, the duration of the sanctions has been prolonged whilst the Council continues its assessment of progress in implementation.

- > [Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months](#)

5 October: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council extended the asset freeze for one person covered by measures applying until 6 October 2015.

- > [Council decision \(CFSP\) 2015/1781 amending decision 2014/119/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine, 5 October 2015](#)

14 September: Extension of EU sanctions over action against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council extended until **15 March 2016** the application of EU restrictive measures targeting action against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. 149 persons and 37 entities are subject to **asset freeze and travel bans** under these sanctions.

- > [EU extends the validity of sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity](#)

22 June: Extension of economic sanctions

The Council extended EU economic sanctions until 31 January 2016. These sanctions were introduced in response to Russia's destabilising role in Eastern Ukraine. They target certain exchanges with Russia in the financial, energy and defence sectors and dual-use goods.

- > [Russia: EU extends economic sanctions by six months](#)

19 June: Extension of restrictions in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol

The Council has extended until 23 June 2016 the EU restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. These measures include prohibitions on import of products, investment, tourism services and exports of certain goods and technologies.

- > [Crimea: EU extends restrictions in response to illegal annexation](#)

5 June: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council has extended the asset freeze for three persons covered by measures applying until 6 June 2015.

- > [Misappropriated Ukrainian state funds: Council extends asset freezes](#)

19 – 20 March: European Council

Leaders decided to align the existing sanctions regime to the implementation of the **Minsk agreements**. Economic sanctions will remain enforced until the end of 2015 when the last point of the peace plan is to be implemented: Ukraine regaining control over its borders in the east.

EU leaders also stressed the need to challenge **Russia's ongoing campaign of public disinformation** about the conflict in Ukraine. The EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini, was invited to prepare an action plan on strategic communication for the June European Council.

EU leaders agreed on the objectives of the **Eastern Partnership summit**, which then took place in Riga on 21-22 May 2015. The European Council repeated its **commitment to the eastern partners** and set as a priority to **strengthen the democratic institutions** to the east.

- > [European Council conclusions on Ukraine and relations with Russia, 19 March 2015](#)

13 March: Extension of EU sanctions over action against Ukraine's territorial integrity

The Council **extended until 15 September 2015** the application of EU restrictive measures targeting action against Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

150 persons and 37 entities are subject to asset freeze and travel bans under these sanctions.

- > [EU extends validity of sanctions over action against Ukraine's territorial integrity, 13 March 2015](#)

5 March: Extension of EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds

The Council has adjusted and extended EU restrictive measures focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds.

- > [Council extends EU sanctions over misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds, 5 March 2015](#)

16 February: EU strengthens sanctions against separatists in Eastern Ukraine

As requested by the Foreign Affairs Council of 9 February, an asset freeze and an EU travel ban were imposed to 19 persons and 9 entities involved in action against Ukraine's territorial integrity.

This decision brought the total of persons subject to EU sanctions over Ukraine's territorial integrity to **151 and the number of entities under EU asset freeze to 37.**

- > [List of persons and entities under EU restrictive measures over the territorial integrity of Ukraine, 16 February 2015 \(pdf\)](#)

12 February: EU leaders welcomed the results of the Minsk agreement

At an informal meeting of heads of state or government, EU leaders gave **cautious support** to the Minsk agreement. They indicated that they will not hesitate to take the necessary steps if the agreement is not implemented and the **ceasefire** is not respected.

- > [Informal meeting of heads of state or government, 12 February 2015](#)

9 February: Additional listings on hold

The Council unanimously adopted additional listings concerning **separatists in Eastern Ukraine and their supporters in Russia**. These consist of an asset freeze and a travel ban on 19 persons and 9 entities involved in action against Ukraine's territorial integrity.

To give space for current diplomatic efforts and the upcoming Minsk talks, the Council put the entry into force of the measures on hold until Monday **16 February 2015**.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council, 09/02/2015](#)

29 January: Extension of existing individual restrictive measures

The Council strongly condemned the indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas, especially in Mariupol, and the escalation of fighting in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

In response to those events, the Council agreed to **extend the existing individual restrictive measures**, targeting 132 persons and 28 entities for threatening or undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, **until September 2015**.

It also called for a proposal on **additional designations** for decision at the Foreign Affairs Council on 9 February 2015.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 29 January 2015](#)

— 2014 —

18 December: European Council focused on the eastern neighbourhood

EU leaders discussed the situation on the eastern borders of Europe, support to Ukraine and relations with Russia. They welcomed the strengthening of the sanctions on investment, services and trade with Crimea and Sevastopol.

- > [European Council meeting, 18 December 2014](#)

28 November: EU strengthens sanctions against separatists in Eastern Ukraine

As requested by the Foreign Affairs Council of 17 November, an asset freeze and an EU travel ban were imposed to 13 persons and five entities involved in action against Ukraine's territorial integrity.

This decision brought the total of persons subject to EU sanctions over Ukraine's territorial integrity to **132** and the number of entities under EU asset freeze to **28**.

- > [EU strengthens sanctions against separatists in Eastern Ukraine, 28 November 2014 \(pdf\)](#)
- > [List of persons and entities under EU restrictive measures over the territorial integrity of Ukraine, 1 December 2014 \(pdf\)](#)

17 November: New sanctions under consideration

Ukraine was the main focus of the Foreign Affairs Council. EU ministers asked the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission to present a proposal on further sanctions against separatists.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 17-18 November 2014](#)

12 September: Further economic sanctions on Russia

A new package of restrictive measures targeting exchanges with Russia in specific economic sectors entered into force, reinforcing the measures adopted on 31 July.

- > [Reinforced restrictive measures against Russia, 11 September 2014](#)
- > [Statement by the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy on further EU restrictive measures against Russia, 8 September 2014](#)

30 August: Special meeting of the European Council

Following the dramatic escalation of the situation, with the presence and actions of Russian armed forces on the Ukrainian territory, the European Council asked for the preparation of new economic sanctions against Russia.

- > [Special meeting of the European Council, 30 August 2014](#)

29 — 31 July: Adoption of additional restrictive measures against Russia

Following the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 16 July, the Council adopted a package of targeted '**economic sanctions**'. These measures concern exchanges with Russia in specific economic sectors.

- > [Statement in the name of the European Union on the agreed additional restrictive measures - 'economic sanctions' against Russia, 29 July 2014](#)
- > [Adoption of agreed restrictive measures - 'economic sanctions' - in view of Russia's role in Eastern Ukraine, 31 July 2014](#)

- > [Adoption of agreed EU restrictive measures over Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, 30 July 2014](#)
- > [A summary of the EU restrictive measures including 'economic sanctions' over the situation in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea, 29 July 2014](#)

25 July: Further EU sanctions over situation in Eastern Ukraine

The Council adopted reinforced EU sanctions. The Council's Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) also discussed the preparatory work on **further targeted measures**.

- > [EU sanctions over situation in Eastern Ukraine strengthened, 25 July 2014](#)

22 July: Council takes action following the downing of flight MH17

EU ministers discussed the situation in Ukraine following the downing of flight MH17. They asked to finalise preparatory work for economic sanctions in four sectors, paving the way for their adoption.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 22 July 2015](#)

18 July: Ukraine crisis: EU broadens remit of sanctions

The Council widened the legal basis for EU restrictive measures making it possible to target entities which materially or financially support actions against Ukraine.

- > [Ukrainian crisis: EU broadens remit of sanctions, 18 July 2014](#)

16 July: Special meeting of the European Council

EU leaders regretted that Russia and the separatists had not taken the requested steps set out in the June European Council conclusions. They agreed to target Russia with a new set of 6 restrictive measures including restriction on economic cooperation with Russia.

- > [Special meeting of the European Council, 16 July 2014](#)

26 June: European Council conclusions

EU leaders set out **four specific steps** to be taken by Russia and the separatists for de-escalation. They also signed the Association Agreement with Ukraine.

- > [European Council, 26 – 27 June 2014](#)

23 June: Import ban on goods from Crimea

The Council adopted measures to implement the EU's policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea and decided on a ban on goods originating from Crimea or Sevastopol.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 23 June 2014](#)

12 May: Agreement on a new set of sanctions

In light of the recent events in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal confiscation of entities in Crimea, the Council agreed on a new set of sanctions and took note of the preparatory work done by the Commission and Member States on **possible targeted measures**, as requested by the European Council in March.

> [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 12 May 2014](#)

15 April: Foreign Affairs Council focused on the situation in Eastern Ukraine

The Council decided to strengthen **sanctions** against persons responsible for misappropriating Ukrainian state funds and targeted additional individuals under the assets freeze and travel ban.

> [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 14 – 15 April 2014](#)

20 March: European Council focused on Ukraine crisis and further sanctions

Following the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation, **12 names** were added to the list of Russian and Crimean officials subject to **EU travel bans and asset freezes**. In addition, the European Council **cancelled a planned EU-Russia summit** and noted that member states will not hold any bilateral regular summits with Russia.

EU leaders also requested the European Commission to prepare **broader economic and trade sanctions** that could be imposed if Russia further destabilises Ukraine.

> [European Council meeting, 20 – 21 March 2014](#)

17 March: Introduction of a first set of restrictive measures against 21 Russian and Ukrainian officials

EU ministers decided to introduce a first set of measures against 21 officials responsible for actions threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity.

> [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 17 March 2014](#)

6 March: Extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State or Government on Ukraine

EU leaders condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine and decided to **start preparing individual restrictive measures (assets freeze and travel bans)**.

The leaders confirmed the actions proposed by EU foreign ministers on 3 March, that is to **suspend bilateral talks** with the Russian Federation **on visa matters** and on the **New Agreement**.

> [Extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State or Government on Ukraine, 6 March 2014](#)

3 March: Extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on the situation in Ukraine

The EU and the member states who participate in the G8 decided to **suspend the preparations for the G8 Summit in Sochi** in June and considered possible consequences for bilateral EU-Russia relations.

Furthermore, the Council agreed to swiftly work on the adoption of restrictive measures for the freezing and recovery of assets of persons identified as responsible for the **misappropriation of Ukrainian state funds**.

- > [Foreign Affairs Council meeting, 3 March 2014](#)

Sanctions: **how and when the EU adopts restrictive measures**

Restrictive measures or 'sanctions' are an essential **tool of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)**. They are used by the EU as part of an **integrated and comprehensive policy approach**, involving political dialogue, complementary efforts and the use of other instruments at its disposal.

Sanctions seek to bring about a change in the policy or conduct of those targeted, with a view to promoting the objectives of the CFSP. They can target:

- **governments** of non-EU countries because of their policies
- **entities** (companies) providing the means to conduct the targeted policies
- **groups or organisations** such as terrorist groups
- **individuals** supporting the targeted policies, involved in terrorist activities etc.

They are developed in such a way as to **minimise adverse consequences for those not responsible** for the policies or actions leading to the adoption of sanctions. In particular, the EU works to minimise the effects on the local civilian population and on legitimate activities in or with the country concerned.

All restrictive measures adopted by the EU are **fully compliant with obligations under international law**, including those pertaining to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Key objectives when adopting sanctions

- safeguarding EU's values, fundamental interests, and security
- preserving peace
- consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law
- preventing conflicts and strengthening international security

Guidelines on restrictive measures

In 2004, the Political and Security Committee agreed on some basic principles on:

- the use of sanctions
- their implementation
- how to measure and control their impact

These basic principles are included in the "guidelines on the implementation and evaluation of restrictive measures" first adopted by the Council in 2003 and reviewed and updated in 2005, 2009, 2012 and 2017.

More information: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/>

Adoption and review procedure for EU sanctions

Adoption of a Council decision

Restrictive measures are laid down in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Council decisions. A proposal is made by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR).

The proposed measures are then examined and discussed by the relevant Council preparatory bodies:

- The **Council working party responsible for the geographical region** to which the targeted country belongs (for example, the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Working Party (COEST) for Ukraine or Belarus; the Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party for Syria, or other preparatory body)
- the Working Party of **Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX)**
- if required, the **Political and Security Committee (PSC)**
- the Committee of Permanent Representatives (**COREPER II**)

The decision is then adopted by the Council by **unanimity**.

If the Council Decision includes an asset freeze and/or other types of economic and/or financial sanctions, those measures need to be implemented in a Council regulation.

Adoption of a Council regulation

Based on the CFSP Council decision, the High Representative and the Commission present a joint proposal for a Council regulation.

The joint proposal is examined by RELEX and forwarded to COREPER and the Council for adoption. The Council then informs the European Parliament of the adoption of the Council regulation.

The regulation lays down the precise scope of the measures and details for their implementation. As a legal act of general application, the regulation is binding on any person or entity (economic operators, public authorities, etc.) within the EU.

Entry into force

The Council decision enters into force upon publication in the **Official Journal of the European Union**.

The CFSP Council decision and the Council regulation are adopted together to allow for both legal acts to produce their effects at the same time. This is particularly relevant in the case of an asset freeze.

Measures laid down only in the CFSP decision, such as arms embargoes or travel restrictions, will be implemented by the member states, while the Commission will verify that the member states have implemented the regulations in a proper and timely manner.

Notification procedure

Persons and entities subject to an asset freeze or travel restrictions (listed persons and entities) are notified of the measures that have been taken against them:

- individually by letter if their address is available
- by means of a notice published by the Council in the "C" Series of the Official Journal of the European Union

Review process

All restrictive measures in force are kept under **constant review** to ensure that they continue to contribute towards achieving their stated objectives.

UN Security Council Resolutions

Restrictive measures adopted in implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions do not have an end date. They are amended or lifted without delay, following a decision by the UN to that effect.

Mixed sanctions regimes

UN provisions are also **open-ended** in time. EU autonomous provisions are **reviewed at least once every 12 months**.

Autonomous restrictive measures

Council decisions imposing EU autonomous restrictive measures apply for **12 months**, while the corresponding Council regulations are open-ended.

Before deciding to extend such a Council decision, the Council will review the restrictive measures. Depending on how the situation develops, the Council can decide at any time to amend, extend or temporarily suspend them.

Request for lifting of restrictive measures

Listed persons and entities may **submit a request to the Council**, together with supporting documentation, requesting that the decision to list them be reconsidered. They should send it to the following address:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
DG C 1C
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Lastly, listed persons and entities have the possibility of challenging the Council's decision before the General Court of the European Union, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the second paragraph of Article 275 and the fourth and sixth paragraphs of Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Last updated on 29 March 2019