Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK – North Korea)

Specification	Restrictive measures in relation to the non-proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction
Acronym	WMD
Adopted by	UN and EU
Program	PRK
Last amendment date	16.12.2025
Notes	The ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities of the DPRK represent a serious threat to international peace and security. These activities undermine the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime of which the EU has been a steadfast supporter for decades. In this context, the EU has implemented the restrictive measures imposed by Resolutions of the UN Security Council and has complemented them through its own autonomous measures. These measures target the DPRK's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile-related programmes. The first set of restrictive measures were introduced with the UN Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006), adopted shortly after DPRK´s first nuclear test on 9 October 2006. The UN Security Council has repeatedly adopted new measures and expanded existing ones, most recently on 3 September 2017. On 27 May 2016, for the first time, the Council of the EU adopted additional autonomous restrictive measures in relation to the DPRK on the grounds that its actions constitute a grave threat to international peace and security in the region and beyond. On 6 April and most recently on 16 October, the Council again introduced additional restrictive measures to further increase pressure on the DPRK to comply with its international obligations. The EU is determined to combat proliferation and committed to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, including through the consideration of new restrictive measures. Derogations and exemptions to the restrictive measures are possible, including the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Measures

Arms export

It is prohibited to export the following items and technology to the DPRK: (1) arms and related materiel of all types; (2) all items, materials, equipment, goods and technology, which could contribute to the DPRK's nuclear-related, ballistic-missile-related or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs; (3) key components for the ballistic-missile sector; (4) any other item that could contribute to the development of the operational capabilities of the DPRK's armed forces; (5) other items listed in Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849. Related financial assistance, technical training, advice, services, assistance or brokering services, or other intermediary services are also prohibited.

Arms procurement

It is prohibited to procure from the DPRK (1) arms and related materiel of all types; (2) all items, materials, equipment, goods and technology, which could contribute to the DPRK's nuclear-related, ballistic-missile-related or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs; (3) key components for the ballistic-missile sector; (4) any other item that could contribute to the development of the operational capabilities of the DPRK's armed forces; (5) other items listed in Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849. The procurement of related assistance, technical training, advice and services are also prohibited.

Asset freeze and prohibition to make funds available

All assets of the listed persons and entities should be frozen. It is also prohibited to make any funds or assets directly or indirectly available to them.

Dual-use goods export

It is prohibited to export to DPRK (1) items, materials and equipment relating to dual-use goods and technology; (2) and any other item listed in the conventional arms dual-use list adopted by the UN Sanctions Committee pursuant to paragraph 7 of UNSCR 2321 (2016). Related assistance, technical training, advice and services are also prohibited.

Financial measures

Member States shall not enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance or concessional loans to the DPRK.

Financial measures

It is prohibited to sell or purchase, broker or assist in the issuance of DPRK public bonds issued after 18 February 2013 to or from the Government of the DPRK.

Financial measures

It is prohibited for the financial insitutions in the Member States to open representative offices, subsidiaries, branches or banking accounts in the DPRK. Existing

representative offices, subsidiaries or banking accounts in the DPRK shall be closed.

It is also prohibited for DPRK banks to (1) establish new joint ventures with the banks in the Member States; (2) take an ownership interest in banks under the jurisdiction of Member States; (3) or establish or maintain correspondent banking relationships with banks under the jurisdiction of Member States. Existing joint ventures, ownership interests and correspondent banking relationships with DPRK banks shall be terminated.



Financial measures

It is prohibited to transfer funds to or from the DPRK. Financial institutions in the Member States shall not enter into, or continue to participate in, any transactions with (1) banks domiciled in the DPRK; (2) branches or subsidiaries within or outside the jurisdiction of the Member States of banks domiciled in the DPRK; (3) or financial entities that are controlled by persons or entities domiciled in the DPRK.



Financial measures

It is prohibited to provide public or private financial support for trade with the DPRK or to DPRK nationals or entities involved in such trade.



Financial measures

It is prohibited for a DPRK diplomatic mission or consular post, and their DPRK members, to own or control banking accounts in the Union.



Flights, airports, aircrafts

Member States shall deny permission to land in, take off from or overfly their territory to any DPRK aircraft.



Inspections

Member States shall inspect vessels on the high seas if they have information that the cargo contains items whose export is prohibited.
They shall also cooperate with another State which has information that leads it to suspect that the DPRK is attempting to supply, sell, transfer or procure illicit cargo where that State requests additional maritime and shipping information in order to, inter alia, determine whether the item, commodity or product in question originated in the DPRK.

Inspections

Member States shall inspect all cargo to and from the DPRK and seize and dispose any prohibited items. Member States shall deny entry into their ports of any vessel that has refused to allow an inspection.

Investments

It is prohibited for the DPRK, its nationals, or entities incorporated in the DPRK to invest in the territories of the Member States.

Investments

All EU investments in the DPRK, in all sectors, are prohibited.

Other restrictions

It is prohibited to purchase or transfer fishing rights from the DPRK.

Other restrictions

It is prohibited for real property to be leased or otherwise made available to the DPRK for any purpose other than diplomatic or consular activities. It is also prohibited to lease from the DPRK real property which is situated outside the territory of the DPRK.

Other restrictions

Member States shall not provide work authorisations for DPRK nationals in their jurisdictions in connection with admission to their territories. With a view to eliminating remittances to DPRK, Member States shall not renew work authorisations for DPRK nationals present on their territory.
Member States shall repatriate to the DPRK all DPRK nationals earning income in that Member State's jurisdiction and all DPRK government safety oversight attachés monitoring DPRK workers abroad immediately, but no later than 21 December 2019.

Ports and vessels

It is prohibited to obtain authorization for a vessel to use the DPRK flag, to own, lease, operate, or provide any vessel classification, certification or associated service, or to insure any vessel flagged to the DPRK, including chartering such vessels.
It shall be prohibited to register vessels in the DPRK. It is prohibited to apply for or to assist in the registration or maintenance on the register of any vessel owned, controlled or operated by the DPRK or DPRK nationals, any vessels listed in Annex XVIII or that has been deregistered by another State.
It is prohibited to provide vessel classification services to vessels listed in Annex XVIII of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509. Member States shall de-register any vessel that is owned, controlled, or operated by the DPRK and any vessel where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel has been involved in activities prohibited by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

It is prohibited to provide insurance or reinsurance services to vessels owned, controlled, or operated by the DPRK or vessels listed in Annex XVIII of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509.

Ports and vessels

A Member State that is a flag State of a vessel designated by the UN Sanctions Committee shall, if the Committee has so specified, de-flag the vessel or direct the vessel to an identified port.

Ports and vessels

It is prohibited to provide any servicing to DPRK vessels, if there is information available that the vessels carry prohibited items. Vessels listed in Annex XIV of the Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 shall be seized.

Ports and vessels

It is prohibited to facilitate or engage in ship-to-ship transfers to or from any DPRK flagged vessel of any goods that are being sold, supplied, transferred or exported to or from the DPRK.

Ports and vessels

Member States shall seize, inspect and impound any vessel in their ports, and may seize, inspect and impound any vessel subject to their jurisdiction in their territorial waters where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel has been involved in activities, or the transport of items, prohibited by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.



Ports and vessels

Member States shall prohibit the entry into their ports of DPRK vessels.



Restrictions on admission

Member States shall enforce travel restrictions on persons listed in Annex I, II and III of Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849.

Member States shall also expel: (1) DPRK nationals who they determine are working on behalf of or at the direction of a listed person or entity, or who they determine are assisting in the evasion of sanctions; (2) individuals working on behalf of or at the direction of a DPRK bank or financial institution; (3) DPRK diplomats, government representatives or other DPRK nationals acting in a governmental capacity who they determine are working on behalf of or at the direction of a listed person or entity or of a person or entity assisting in the evasion of sanctions; (4) any national of a third country determined to be involved in similar activities.



Restrictions on goods

It is prohibited to procure coal, iron, and iron ore, as listed in Annex V of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.



Restrictions on goods

It is prohibited to export helicopters and vessels as listed in Annex XI of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 to the DPRK.



Restrictions on goods

It is prohibited to import copper, nickel, silver and zinc, as listed in Annex VII of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Restrictions on goods

It is prohibited to export to the DPRK all condensates and natural gas liquids, as listed in Annex XIc of the Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509.

Aviation and jet fuel

It is prohibited to export aviation fuel, as listed in Annex III of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 to the DPRK.

Crude oil

It is prohibited to sell, supply, transfer or export crude oil, as listed in Annex XIe of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509, to the DPRK.

Earth and stone

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer earth and stone, including magnesite and magnesia, listed in Annex XIi of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Food and agricultural products

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer food and agricultural products listed in Annex XIg of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Gold, precious metals, diamonds

It is prohibited to export, import or broker gold and precious metals, as well as of diamonds, as listed in Annex IX of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 to, from or for the Government of the DPRK. The procurement from the DPRK of gold, titanium ore, vanadium ore, rare-earth minerals, copper, nickel, silver and zinc, as listed in as listed in Annex IV of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 is also prohibited.

Luxury goods

It is prohibited to import or export luxury goods, as listed in Annex VIII of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 to or from the DPRK.

Machinery and electrical equipment

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer machinery and electrical equipment listed in Annex XIh of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Other items

It is prohibited to deliver newly printed, minted or unissued DPRK-denominated banknotes and coinage to or for the benefit of the Central Bank of the DPRK.

Other items

It is prohibited to import textiles from the DPRK, as listed in Annex XIf of the Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509.

Other items

It is prohibited to procure statues, as listed in Annex X of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Petrol products

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer petroleum products, as listed in Annex VI of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509, from the DPRK.

Refined petroleum products

It is prohibited to sell, supply, transfer or export all refined petroleum products as listed in Annex XId of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509, to the DPRK.

Seafood

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer seafood, as listed in Annex XIa of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509, from the DPRK.

Vessels

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer vessels listed in Annex XIk of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

Wood

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transfer wood listed in Annex XIj of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 from the DPRK.

industrial machinery, transportation vehicles, and iron, steel and other metals

It is prohibited to sell, supply, transfer or export all industrial machinery, transportation vehicles, and iron, steel and other metals listed in part A of Annex XII of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 to the DPRK.

Restrictions on services

It is prohibited to provide computer and related services to the DPRK.

Restrictions on services

It is prohibited to provide services incidental to mining and to manufacturing in the chemical, mining and refining industry to the DPRK.

Restrictions on services

It is prohibited to lease or charter vessels and aircraft and to provide crew services to (1) the DPRK, (2) any persons listed in Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/849, (3) any other DPRK entities, or (4) any other persons or entities whom the Member State determines to have assisted in the evasion of sanctions.

Restrictions on services

It is prohibited to procure vessel or aircraft services from the DPRK.

Training and education

Member States shall take the necessary measures to exercise vigilance and prevent specialized teaching or training of DPRK nationals, within their territories or by their nationals, in disciplines which would contribute to the DPRK's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities and the development of nuclear-weapon delivery systems.

Scientific and technical cooperation involving persons or groups officially sponsored by or representing the DPRK shall be suspended.

Vigilance

Member States shall exercise vigilance with a view to reducing current commitments for grants, financial assistance or concessional loans to the DPRK and, if possible, putting an end to them.

Vigilance

Member States shall exercise enhanced vigilance over DPRK diplomatic personnel so as to prevent such persons from contributing to the DPRK's nuclear or ballistic-missile programs or other prohibited activities.