Russia

Specification  Restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (sectoral restrictive measures)

Adopted by  EU

Expiry date  31.07.2022

Last amendment date  13.01.2022

Notes  On 6 March 2014, EU’s Heads of State or Government strongly condemned the unprovoked violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russia and called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing. They stated that any further steps by Russia to destabilise the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional and far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas.

On 22 July, the Council of the EU urged Russia to actively use its influence over the illegally armed groups in order to achieve full, immediate, safe and secure access to the site of the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 in Donetsk, full cooperation with the work on recovering remains and possessions and full cooperation with the independent investigation, including unhindered access to the site for as long as needed for the investigation and possible follow up investigations. The Council of the EU also urged Russia to stop the increasing flow of weapons, equipment and militants across the border in order to achieve rapid and tangible results in de-escalation. The Council of the EU further urged Russia to withdraw its additional troops from the border area. In view of the gravity of the situation, on 31 July 2014 the Council of the EU took restrictive measures in response to Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine.

On 30 August 2014, the European Council condemned the increasing inflows of fighters and weapons from the territory of Russian into Eastern Ukraine and the aggression of Russian armed forces on Ukrainian soil. On 8 September 2014, the Council of the EU took further restrictive measures in response to Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. On 4 December 2014, the Council of the EU clarified certain provisions. On 19 March 2015 the European Council agreed that the duration of the restrictive measures should be clearly linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements. On 22 June 2015, the Council of the EU renewed the restrictive measures for a further six months in order to enable the Council to assess the implementation of the Minsk agreements.
On 21 December 2015, the Council of the EU found that the Minsk agreements will not be completely implemented by 31 December 2015 and renewed the restrictive measures for a further six months in order to enable the Council to further assess the implementation of those agreements.

In March 2016, EU's Foreign Affairs Council agreed on five guiding principles for EU-Russia relations:

• Implementation of the Minsk agreement as the key condition for any substantial change in the EU's stance towards Russia.
• Strengthened relations with the EU's Eastern Partners and other neighbours, in particular in Central Asia.
• Strengthening the resilience of the EU (for example energy security, hybrid threats, or strategic communication).
• Need for selective engagement with Russia on issues of interest to the EU.
• Need to engage in people-to-people contacts and support Russian civil society.

On 1 July and 19 December 2016, on 28 June and 21 December 2017, on 05 July and 21 December 2018, on 27 June and 19 December 2019, on 29 June and 17 December 2020, and on 12 July 2021 having assessed the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the Council of the EU renewed the restrictive measures for a further six months in order to enable the Council to further assess their implementation.

**Measures**

**Arms export**

It is prohibited to export arms and related materiel to Russia. Related technical or financial assistance and services are also prohibited.

**Arms import**

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transport arms and related materiel from Russia.
Dual-use goods export

The sale, supply, transfer or export of all dual-use goods and technology for military use in Russia or for any military end-user in Russia is prohibited. The sale, supply, transfer or export of dual-use goods and technology to any person, entity or body in Russia as listed (Annex IV of Regulation No 833/2014) is also prohibited. Any provision of related technical or financial assistance and services are also prohibited.

Financial measures

It shall be prohibited to make or be part of any arrangement to make new loans or credit with a maturity exceeding 30 days to any legal person, entity or body listed in Annex III, V or VI of Council Regulation No 833/2014 or to any legal person, entity or body established outside the EU but owned for more than 50% by an entity listed in Annex III, V or VI of Council Regulation No 833/2014, or to any legal person, entity or body acting on behalf or at the direction of such entity.

Financial measures

Any transactions or dealings with certain financial instruments issued by institutions listed in Annex III, V or VI of Council Regulation No 833/2014 or issued by any legal person, entity or body established outside the EU but owned for more than 50% by an entity listed in Annex III, V or VI of Council Regulation No 833/2014, or issued by any legal person, entity or body acting on behalf or at the direction of such entity shall be prohibited.

Prohibition to satisfy claims
It is prohibited to satisfy claims in connection with any contract or transaction the performance of which has been affected by any of the measures imposed under this restrictive measures regime, if they are made by entities listed in Annex I, II, III or IV of the Council Regulation No 833/2014 or entities related to them; by any Russian person, entity or body; or by any person, entity or body acting through or on behalf of one of the aforementioned.

**Other items**

The export of certain equipment listed in Annex II of Council Regulation 833/2014 shall be subject to prior authorisation by the competent authority of the exporting Member State. The provision of technical assistance or other services related to the equipment and the provision of financing or financial assistance for any sale, supply, transfer or export of the equipment or for the provision of related technical assistance or training, shall also be subject to prior authorisation.

**Restrictions on services**

The provision of services necessary in Russia for the oil exploration and production in waters deeper than 150 metres, in the offshore area north of the Arctic Circle and for projects that have the potential to produce oil from resources located in shale formations by way of hydraulic fracturing (it does not apply to exploration and production through shale formations to locate or extract oil from non-shale reservoirs) shall be prohibited.