

20TH PACKAGE OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST RUSSIA

On the 23rd April 2026, the EU Council adopted a far-reaching 20th package of restrictive measures comprising 120 further individual listings and stern, multi-layered economic sanctions, targeting key sectors of Russia's economy.

The measures adopted in the 20th package include:

1. The imposition of a transaction ban on 20 Russian banks and four financial institutions in third countries for circumventing EU sanctions or connecting to the Russian System for Transfer of Financial Messages, the Russian banking messaging network.
2. The designation of 58 companies and associated individuals involved in the development and manufacturing of military goods, such as drones. Addressing Russia's reliance on third countries for the provision of critical high-tech items, the EU has now designated 16 entities based in China, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Belarus which have provided dual-use goods or weapons systems to the Russian military-industrial complex.
3. 60 new entities will be subject to tighter export restrictions on items which contribute to the technological enhancement of Russia's defence sector. Some of these entities are also located in third countries other than Russia, such as in China (including Hong Kong), Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.
4. For the first time ever, the EU is activating its anti-circumvention tool, by prohibiting the export of any computer numerical control machines or radios to Kyrgyzstan where there is a high risk that these products will be re-exported to Russia.
5. EU listed five individuals and one entity for enabling the forced transfer of Ukrainian children, as well as four persons involved in the appropriation of Ukrainian cultural heritage. Moreover,

the 20th package designated four propagandists, including ones with state-sponsored platforms.

6. The 20th package includes three new listings related to the Belarusian military-industrial complex and the Lukashenka regime. A Chinese state-owned entity is also being targeted under the Belarus sanctions regime, due to its role in the production of Belarusian military goods.

All the persons designated subject to the 20th Package of Measures are listed in the Annexes of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/509 of 23 April 2026 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 and Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2026/503 of 23 April 2026 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP (links below):

[Implementing regulation - EU - 2026/509 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

[Implementing decision - EU - 2026/503 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

It should be noted that the package mirrors certain provisions of the Russian regime related to trade, finance, services and legal protection of EU operators in the Belarus sanctions regime.

In addition to the above-mentioned measures, the package includes the following measures:

7. Trade measures

The package introduces new export and imports restrictions and bans, which include:

- New export bans to Russia on goods – from rubber to tractors
- New export restrictions on items and technologies used for Russia's military effort, such as explosives, laboratory glassware and high-performance lubricants and additives for lubricants

- New restriction on provision of cybersecurity services to Russia
- New import bans on metals, chemicals and minerals, not yet under sanctions
- A quota on ammonia to cap existing imports

8. Energy measures

- Russian energy sector listings: 36 listings encompassing both the upstream and downstream segments of the Russian energy sector, including the exploration, extraction, refining, and transportation of oil
- Shadow fleet ecosystem: Revenues from Russian oil exports are further reduced through the listing of additional shadow fleet entities, including those operating in third countries, as well as a significant maritime insurer and 46 additional vessel listings. The listed vessels are subject to a port access ban and a ban on receiving services. Alongside these additional listings, the EU continues its outreach to flag states to ensure that their registers do not allow these vessels to sail under their flags. While 46 vessels are added to the sanctions list, 11 vessels are also delisted in this 20th package, showing that delisting is a possibility for vessels returning to compliance
- Tanker sales: Inserting safeguards on tanker sales from the EU to prevent Russian end-use. Dedicated due diligence by EU sellers, as well as a mandatory 'no Russia' clause to be passed on into sales contracts is to prevent usage deployment within the shadow fleet. A new shadow fleet scrapping clause will facilitate the decommissioning or 'recycling' of vessels and exit from the shadow fleet
- Port infrastructure ban: Listing of two Russian ports (Murmansk and Tuapse) as well as, for the first time, a third country port (Karimun Oil Terminal, in Indonesia) for their connections with the shadow fleet and circumvention of the oil price cap
- Future maritime services ban on Russian crude oil and petroleum products: the 20th sanctions package includes the basis for a future prohibition to transport Russian oil and petroleum products, in full coordination and discussion with the G7 and the price cap coalition (G7 members and other participating countries). The Council will decide when the maritime services ban is to enter into force, considering an appropriate wind-down

period. This would further reduce the total available capacity to transport Russian oil, hitting Russia's main source of revenue for its war machine

- Maintenance: a new prohibition on maintenance services for Russian LNG tankers and icebreakers. This prohibits essential EU operators' support to Russian LNG exports and further constrains Russia's ability to maintain its seaborne assets
- Ban on LNG terminal services: This will allow Union operators to terminate any long-term contracts with Russian operators.

As can be seen in the above review of the energy measures, following a very successful negotiating strategy, the Cypriot Presidency at EU, managed to avoid the total maritime ban against Russia and maintain the oil price cap, which is extremely critical to the sustainable flow of oil.

The Cyprus Union of Shipowners extends its special thanks to our Deputy Minister of Shipping and her team for this successful conclusion.

Related Publications:

[*EU adopts 20th package of sanctions against Russia - Finance*](#)

[*Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: 20th round of stern EU sanctions hits energy revenues, military-industrial complex, trade and financial services, including crypto - Consilium*](#)

[*Decision - EU - 2026/508 - EN - EUR-Lex*](#)

[*Regulation - EU - 2026/506 - EN - EUR-Lex*](#)

[*Decision - EU - 2026/504 - EN - EUR-Lex*](#)

[*Implementing regulation - EU - 2026/509 - EN - EUR-Lex*](#)

[*Regulation - EU - 2026/511 - EN - EUR-Lex*](#)

[*en-20251218-text-ukraine.pdf*](#)

[*euco-conclusions-19122024-en.pdf*](#)