

Ukraine-Russia

Factual update on international response

This document intends to provide an overview of official EU and international government measures taken in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Among a lot of commentary and speculation on the crisis, this report focuses on official sources. H+K Brussels will share daily updates as long as the situation demands it.

- Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EU has proposed a series of sanction packages towards the Russian government, including financial, individual, economic and targeted restrictive measures.
- Besides the EU institutions, EU member states have taken restrictive measures as well, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden and Poland.
- International actors are also stepping in, with Australia, Japan, UK, US and Switzerland imposing further sanctions on Russia, as well as NATO allies providing financial aid and military equipment to Ukraine.

EU measures

1. EU institutions

Restrictive measures regarding Russia's actions undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine were first **introduced** on 17 March 2014, following the illegal annexation of Crimea. Since then, they have been regularly extended. The last **extension covers the period until 15 March 2022**.

On 21 February, the Council **adopted** restrictive measures on five individuals for supporting actions that undermine the sovereignty of Ukraine. These persons are **members of the Russian State Duma**, who were elected to represent the **illegally-annexed Crimean peninsula**. The relevant legal acts, including the names of the persons concerned, are **published** in the Official Journal of the EU.

On 23 February, the Council **adopted** the following measures after Russia decided to recognise Ukraine regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent 'republics' and send troops into these areas:

- Targeted restrictive measures:
 - **Asset freezes** and prohibition from making funds available to listed individuals and entities, as well as a **travel ban** preventing them from entering or transiting through EU territory.
 - **Extended restrictive measures covering all the 351 members of the Russian State Duma**, who voted on 15 February in favour of the appeal to President Putin to recognise the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk "republics."
 - **Imposed sanctions on 27 high profile individuals and entities**, who have played a role in undermining the sovereignty of Ukraine (e.g. decision-makers, banks and military officers).
- Restrictions on economic relations with the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk:
 - An **import ban** on goods from **the non-government controlled areas** of Donetsk and Luhansk;
 - **Restrictions on trade and investments** related to certain economic sectors;
 - A prohibition to supply **tourism** services;
 - An **export ban** for certain goods and technologies.
- Financial restrictions:
 - Sectoral **prohibition to finance** the Russian Federation, its government and Central Bank.
 - Restrained ability of the Russian government to access the EU's capital and financial markets and services.

On 25 February, the EU **decided** to sanction Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov. The Council also agreed on a further package of individual and economic measures, including on Belarus, to respond to the military aggression carried out by Russia against Ukraine. Implementing the European Council conclusions **agreed** on 24 February, the package of sanctions adopted included:

- Individual sanctions: in addition to freezing the assets of Russian President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the EU imposed restrictive measures on the **members of the National Security Council of the Russian Federation**. Sanctions are also extended to the **remaining members of the Russian State Duma**. Furthermore, the EU targeted those **individuals who facilitated the Russian military aggression from Belarus**.

- Economic sanctions:
 - *Financial sanctions*: the package cuts Russian access to the most important **capital markets**. It also prohibits the provision of services in relation to shares or Russian state-owned entities on **EU trading venues**. In addition, **financial inflows from Russia to the EU are limited**.
 - *Energy sector*: the EU prohibits the sale, supply, transfer or export to Russia of specific goods and technologies in **oil refining**, and introduced restrictions on the provision of related services.
 - *Transport sector*: the EU introduced an export ban covering goods and technologies in the **aviation and space industry**, as well as a prohibition on the provision of related technical and financial assistance.
 - *Technology sector*: the EU imposed **restrictions on exports of dual-use goods and technology**, as well as restrictions on exports of certain goods and technology which might contribute to Russia's technological enhancement of its **defence and security sector**.
 - *Visa policy*: diplomats, Russian officials, and businesspeople **will no longer be able to benefit from visa facilitation provisions**, which allow privileged access to the EU. This decision does not affect ordinary Russian citizens.

On 26 February, the European Commission issued a joint declaration together with France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States listing further restrictive measures. These specifically aim to:

- Ensure that selected Russian banks are removed from the **SWIFT** messaging system, thus disconnect them from the international financial payment system;
- Impose restrictive measures preventing the **Russian Central Bank** from deploying its international reserves at the international level;
- Commit to taking measures to limit the sale of citizenship – so called **golden passports** – that let wealthy Russians connected to the Russian government become citizens of EU/G7 countries and gain access to their financial systems;
- Decide on the launch of a **transatlantic task force** that will ensure the effective implementation of financial sanctions by identifying and freezing the assets of sanctioned individuals and companies that exist within EU jurisdictions.

On 27 February, the EU further extended sanctions, which:

- Close the **EU airspace** to Russian planes (including private jets);
- Establish an EU-wide ban of **state-owned media outlets** Russia Today (RT) and Sputnik, which will no longer be able to operate and broadcast in the EU;
- Impose further restrictions on the Lukashenko regime in **Belarus**, tackling key sectors including (i) export of products, such as mineral fuels, tobacco, wood, timber, cement, iron and steel; (ii) extend to Belarus the export restrictions on dual-use goods, already introduced for Russia.

On 28 February, the EU adopted a new set of measures, including:

- Two assistance measures under the **European Peace Facility (EPF)** – worth in total €500m – that will contribute to strengthening the Ukrainian Armed Forces, financing equipment and supply provisions.
- Further severe restrictive measures related to **aviation and finance**, which:
 - Deny permission to aircrafts from Russian air carriers to land in, take off, or overfly EU territories.
 - Prohibit any legal person, entity or body to make transactions with the Russian Central Bank.

2. EU Member States

Germany

On 27 February, German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz announced that Germany would be changing its post-WWII policy on weapons shipments and pledged to **increase defense spending to 2% of GDP**. He also declared that the 2022 federal budget will provide a one-off €100 billion special defense fund to finance the transition to a more capable military.

Finland

The Finnish Parliament is to consider NATO membership following a citizens initiative calling for a referendum which passed more than 50,000 signatures. According to the law, the initiative must now enter the parliamentary agenda. This follows news that the Finnish government is to send to Ukraine 2,000 bulletproof vests, 2,000



composite helmets, 100 stretchers as well as equipment for two emergency medical care stations. The Government also granted Estonia a license to re-export to Ukraine artillery guns and their ammunition, which Estonia had previously purchased from Finland.

Bulgaria

The speaker of the Bulgaria's national assembly, Nikola Minchev, has said that the country will no longer seek to take a more balanced position in disputes between the West and Russia. "Bulgaria's interest is in the West", he [said](#). The Bulgarian Defence Minister, Stefan Yanev, was [forced to resign](#) after he had warned people not to call the conflict in Ukraine a war. "Putin is careful to avoid using the word war. This word is used quite frivolously", he reportedly said.

Ireland

The Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD has [announced](#) on 25 February the immediate lifting of visa requirements between Ukraine and Ireland to grant access to Ukrainian refugees.

Sweden

On 27 February, Swedish Prime Minister, Magdalena Andersson, made the "extraordinary" [decision](#) to send military aid to Ukraine, including anti-tank weapons, helmets and body armour. The move is historic as Sweden had always previously taken a neutral stance on foreign policy.

Poland

On 27 February, the government of Poland [announced](#) that they would be joining Canada in requesting an extraordinary meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) be convened in view of the situation in Ukraine and the related implications for nuclear safety and radiological protection. The government has also set up a [website](#) to aid with receiving refugees from Ukraine and has announced that Ukrainians will be entitled to [free rail travel](#) in the country.

Hungary

On 28 February, Hungary President János Áder [said](#) Hungary strongly condemns Russia's attack on Ukraine adding "that Hungary shares the joint position of the EU and NATO and will hold to that position." Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [denied](#) that Hungary had ever been against imposing sanctions on Russia.

Belgium

On 27 February, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo [announced](#) that the country would be sending 3,000 automatic weapons and 200 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

Denmark

On 27 February, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen [announced](#) that Denmark will donate 2,700 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

International measures

NATO

On 27 February, NATO allies announced to [send](#) thousands of anti-tank weapons, hundreds of air-defence missiles including small arms and ammunition. NATO allies have also boosted financial aid to Ukraine.

United States

On 24 February, the US [imposed](#) economic and financial sanctions on Russia's largest financial institutions and enterprises:

- Sanctions on Sberbank, VTB Bank, Bank Otkritie, Sovcombank OJSC, and Novikombank and their subsidiaries.



- Debt and equity restrictions on Sberbank, AlfaBank, Credit Bank of Moscow, Gazprombank, Russian Agricultural Bank, Gazprom, Gazprom Neft, Transneft, Rostelecom, RusHydro, Alrosa, Sovcomflot, and Russian Railways. As a result, these companies will not be able to raise money through US markets.
- Imposing a travel ban and freezing assets of powerful Russians and their family members, including Sergei Ivanov (and his son, Sergei), Nikolai Patrushev (and his son Andrey), Igor Sechin (and his son Ivan), Andrey Puchkov, Yuriy Solviev (and two real estate companies he owns), Galina Ulyutina, and Alexander Vedyakhin. The US has also sanctioned 24 Belarusian individuals and entities for aiding the Ukraine invasion.
- A wide range of restrictions on Russia's import of technology and items that help strengthen Russia's military and defence.

On 26 February, the US [decided](#) to remove Russia from the SWIFT payments systems, imposed sanctions on the Russian Central Bank and launched a task force to identify the physical assets of the Russian individuals and companies.

United Kingdom

On 24 February, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss [announced](#) a list of comprehensive sanctions targeting Russian elites, companies and financial institutions. In particular, the UK decided to:

- Freeze Russian bank assets in the UK;
- Ban Russian state-owned and key strategic private companies from raising finance on the UK financial markets;
- Impose sanctions on more than 100 companies and oligarchs with close ties with the Russian government;
- Impose new restrictions on trade and export controls against Russia's hi-tech and strategic industries;
- Ban Russia's national airline Aeroflot from UK airspace.

On 26 February, the UK [signed](#) a joint declaration together with France, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States and the European Commission, deciding on further restrictive measures.

On 28 February, the UK, together with the EU and the US, [decided](#) to take further restrictions by targeting the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (CBR). This action will prevent the CBR from deploying its foreign reserves in ways that undermine the impact of sanctions imposed by the UK and its allies, and to undercut its ability to engage in foreign exchange transactions.

Australia

On 28 February, Australia [sanctioned](#) 350 Russian individuals including imposing a travel ban on President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu, and Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev. Canberra also sanctioned 13 Belarusian individuals and entities, including Belarusian Minister of Defence Viktor Khrenin.

Under the measures which have entered into force, Australia will:

- Switch off selected Russian banks from SWIFT payments systems.
- Prevent the Russian Central Bank from using its international reserves in a way that undermines sanctions.
- Limit golden passports for wealthy Russians connected to the Russian government.
- Set up a transatlantic task force to identify and freeze the assets of sanctioned individuals and companies that exist within its jurisdiction.

Japan

Following a telephone conversation with President Zelensky of Ukraine on 27 February, Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida announced to [freeze](#) the assets of President Putin and his associates who are directly involved in the Ukraine invasion. Japan will also join the EU, UK and US in isolating Russia from the SWIFT international payments messaging systems, said Prime Minister Kishida.

Switzerland

On 28 February, Switzerland [adopted](#) the package of sanctions already imposed by the EU on 23 ([here](#)) and 25 February ([here](#)), mainly tackling goods and the financial sector, as well imposing an asset freeze on selected individuals and companies. Switzerland also decided to close its airspace, except for flights for humanitarian, medical or diplomatic purposes.

Upcoming meetings

28 February 2022

- EU Defense Council:
 - Defence ministers are meeting to discuss the provision of weapons to Ukraine
- EU Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council:
 - Energy ministers will hold extraordinary Council meeting to discuss the energy situation in EU
- European Parliament:
 - EP's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) & EP's Committee on International Trade (INTA) will discuss impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the EU's agricultural markets, economy and trade
- Coordination call between the leaders of the G7, the EU Commission and Council, Poland, Romania and NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg.
- Videoconference between Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, French President Emmanuel Macron, the President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen and the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz
- Emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly & U.N. Security Council meetings

1 March 2022

- European Parliament (12:30-14:30): plenary debate and resolution
 - MEPs will debate with President of the European Council Charles Michel, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and HR Foreign Policy Josep Borrell
 - MEPs will vote on a resolution
- G7 finance leaders will meet virtually to discuss potential aid options for Ukraine

3-4 March 2022

- EU Justice & Home Affairs Council:
 - Meeting about the influx of refugees from Ukraine
 - Focusing on increased security at the Schengen area's external borders, migration and asylum rules