



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.

- The Council of the EU adopted additional sectoral measures targeting the Belarusian financial sector and the export of maritime navigation goods and technology to Russia, as well as added 160 individuals to the EU sanctions list.
- Russia has announced plans to restrict the trade of goods and raw materials, in response to the US and UK imposing bans on its oil and gas supplies.

EU measures

EU Council decisions

On 9 March, the Council of the EU adopted additional **measures targeting the Belarusian financial sector**. The agreed measures will (1) restrict the provision of specialized financial messaging services (SWIFT) to Belarusian banks and their subsidiaries; (2) prohibit transactions with the Central Bank of Belarus; (3) prohibit the listing and provision of services in relation to shares of Belarus state-owned entities on EU trading venues; (4) limit the financial inflows from Belarus to the EU; and (5) prohibit the provision of euro denominated banknotes to Belarus.

Furthermore, the Council introduced further restrictive measures with regard to the **export of maritime navigation goods and radio communication technology** to Russia. The Council also expanded the list of legal persons, entities and bodies subject to the prohibitions related to investment services, transferable securities (including crypto-assets), money market instruments and loans.

The Council also targeted **160 additional individuals** in the EU sanctions list, including 14 oligarchs and prominent businesspeople, as well as 146 members of the Russian Federation Council. Currently, EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus apply to a total of 862 individuals and 53 entities.

The relevant legal acts will soon be published in the EU's Official Journal.

EU Member States

Poland announced on 8 March that they would deploy all of their MIG-29 jets to the Ramstein Air Base in Germany and place them at the disposal of the Government of the United States of America. At the same time, they had requested that the United States to provide them with used aircrafts with corresponding operational capabilities. The statement also asked their allies to do the same in a pointed reference to Slovakia and Bulgaria. It had been expected that these Soviet built jets would be put at the disposal of the Ukrainian armed forces, given that their pilots are not trained to use US jets. **The US**, however, declined the offer, with the **Pentagon** releasing a statement citing logistical concerns with delivering the jets to Ukraine. In their statement they said that flying them from a NATO airbase into contested airspace would "raise serious concerns for the entire NATO alliance", describing the Polish proposal as untenable.

On 8 March, **Polish** Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau met in Warsaw with **Belgium**'s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sophie Wilmès. In their talks, the ministers focused on the strengthening of NATO's eastern flank and on the EU's joint response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, including in terms of stepped-up sanctions against Russia. They also discussed humanitarian aid to Ukraine, highlighting that the aid needs to be increased and that Poland and Belgium have cooperated well in this regard.

German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, gave a press conference with the Lower Saxony Minister for Environment, Olaf Lies, on 8 March where they indicated coal would have to play a



role in the country's efforts to achieve energy independence, at least in the short term, amidst poor relations with Russia. Lies, dismissed the option of using nuclear power, as he said these would be too expensive to get running again for what would be a short-term measure.

The Prime Minister of the **Netherlands**, Mark Rutte, met with **French** President Emmanuel Macron on 9 March. Following the meeting they released a [joint statement](#) saying both countries converged on the need to strengthen the European Union's strategic autonomy, and that both countries would cooperate closely on Ukraine.

Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, was in Berlin for talks with **German** Chancellor, Olaf Scholz on 9 March. In their meetings they [discussed](#) transatlantic relations and coordination against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

International measures

United Kingdom

On 9 March, the UK [announced](#) restrictions on Russia's aviation sector by banning Russian aircrafts to land in and take off from the UK and stating that will be detained upon doing so. The restrictions also prohibit UK companies from providing technical goods, technical assistance and insurance to aircraft owned by the Russian state or linked with the sanctioned individuals or entities. The UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the new measures are taken to inflict more pain on President Putin and his inner circle. She further said the UK will continue to resist Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking to the UK Parliament on 9 March, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said that before the invasion the UK [provided](#) Ukraine with 2,000 anti-tank missiles and is now increasing military aid, including a small number of longer-range Javelin missiles and air defence systems. Wallace stressed the purpose of this aid is to enable Ukraine to defend itself against Russian air attacks.

United States

President Biden's [announcement](#) on 8 March to ban the imports of Russian energy products will deprive Russia of exporting nearly 700,000 barrels per day of crude oil and refined petroleum products to the US. The new measures also restrict US citizens from financing or facilitating foreign companies to invest in the Russian energy sector.

New Zealand

On 9 March, New Zealand Parliament unanimously [passed the Russia Sanction Bill](#) that regards the Russian invasion of Ukraine as illegal. The law would allow New Zealand to freeze Russian assets in New Zealand, prevent people and companies from moving their money and assets to the country to escape sanctions imposed by other countries, and stop superyachts, ships and aircrafts from entering New Zealand waters or airspace.

On 6 March, New Zealand also [issued](#) a list of 100 individuals banned from travelling to New Zealand including President Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

China

On 9 March, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian [said](#) the US is spreading disinformation about China's position on the Ukraine conflict. Lijian stressed that by blaming China for the situation in Ukraine, the US is trying to maintain hegemony and suppress Sino-Russian relations.

Japan

On 9 March, Japan [said](#) the US ban on Russian oil and gas products has already led to higher prices but the Japanese people and government are aligned with the international community because Russia's action in Ukraine contradicts the foundations of the international order. Japan also said it will release crude oil from its reserves to mitigate the rising oil prices and called on the top oil producing countries to produce more oil.

South Korea

On 6 March, South Korea condemned the Russian military campaign and [imposed](#) export control sanctions against Belarus for its support of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The export control will apply in a similar way to



the one it earlier imposed on Russia. On 7 March, South Korea also decided to ban all financial dealings with the Central Bank of Russia.

Russian retaliation measures

On 8 March, Russia announced plans to restrict the trade of goods and raw materials, in response to the US and UK imposing bans on its oil and gas supplies. The Kremlin issued the order late in the evening but is yet to provide details on which products will be affected as part of the retaliatory measure against the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has instructed the cabinet to define the items and prepare a list of countries that restrictions will apply to over the next two days.

Upcoming meetings

10-11 March – European Council (announcement can be found [here](#))

- Informal meeting of EU heads of state and government.
 - Kick-off (TBC, Versailles, France)
 - End of meeting (TBC)

16 March – NATO (announcement can be found [here](#))

- Defense Ministerial meeting with the Ministers of Defense from every NATO member state.
 - Kick-off (TBC, Brussels)
 - End of meeting (TBC)

21 March – Council (agenda can be found [here](#))

- Exchange of views of the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the humanitarian aspects.
 - Kick-off (9:30 local time, Brussels)
 - End of meeting (TBC)
- This meeting will be followed by another Council meeting with the EU Ministers of Defense

24-25 March – European Council (agenda can be found [here](#))

- Meeting of EU heads of state or government.
 - Kick-off (TBC, Brussels)
 - End of meeting (TBC)