

EN

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Answer given by Mr Reynders
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.5.2023)

In line with the Treaties, Member States are responsible to implement EU (restrictive measures) sanctions. The tenth package of sanctions, adopted on 25 February 2023, strengthens Member States' and EU operators' reporting obligations concerning frozen assets owned, held, controlled by listed persons, entities and bodies¹ and immobilised assets of the Central Bank of Russia and its affiliated entities². These obligations will enter into force on 26 April 2023 and 27 April 2023 respectively³. A provision in the relevant EU sanctions Regulation clearly provide that such information can be used only for the purposes for which it was provided by National Competent Authorities or relevant economic actors or received by the Commission⁴. Up to 16 March 2023, the total reported amount of frozen assets in the EU was EUR 20.95 billion. It is not yet known how much in immobilised assets are held in the EU⁵.

The Commission does not collect data on the number of issued short-stay visas on a monthly basis. Statistics on short-stay visas issued by Member States are published on an annual basis. Statistics on short-stay visas issued by Member States in 2022 are under preparation and will be published on the Commission website, where statistics on previous years can also be found⁶.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of 17 March 2014.

² Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 for immobilised assets.

³ Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of 17 March 2014 for frozen assets and Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 for immobilised assets.

⁴ Article 5a(4)(d) Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 for immobilised assets.

⁵ According to a press statement issued by the G7 Russian Elites, Proxies and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force in June 2022, there are about USD 300 billion worth of Russian Central Bank's assets immobilised in G7 countries, the EU and Australia.

⁶ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/visa-policy_en