

EN

E-001202/2024

Answer given by Ms McGuinness
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.8.2024)

Restrictive measures (sanctions) are one of the EU's tools to achieve the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). These include safeguarding the EU's values, its fundamental interests and security; consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law; preserving peace; preventing conflicts and strengthening international security.

As noted by the Honourable Member the purpose of sanctions is to impose the maximum constraint on Russia's capacity to wage war in Ukraine. At the same time, sanctions are designed to ensure a minimal negative impact on the Union's economy and, in particular, on strategic EU sectors. Commission findings and the feedback received from Member States and concerned industries are of particular relevance. In order to make sanctions impactful, they have to be properly enforced by the Member States and concerned EU businesses alike.

As regards future measures or any adjustment of existing measures, EU sanctions are kept under regular review. Their adoption is decided solely by the Council and requires the unanimous approval of all Member States. The same procedure applies for any amendment to sanctions.

To support the EU industry, on 23 March 2022, the Commission adopted a Temporary Crisis Framework¹ to enable Member States to support the economy in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This Framework became the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for state aid² and complements the existing State aid toolbox with other possibilities already available, such as measures outlined in the Commission Communications on energy market developments.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.CI.2022.131.01.0001.01.ENG>

² Communication from the Commission on the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy following the aggression against Ukraine by Russia (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3), as amended by Commission Communication C(2023)8045 (OJ C1188, 21.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1188/oj>) and by the Communication from the Commission – Second amendment to the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy following the aggression against Ukraine by Russia C/2024/3123 (OJ C, C(2024)3113, 2.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3113/oj>).