

EN

P-000721/2023

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(24.3.2023)

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Belarus' involvement in Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine. In response to Belarus' actions, since 2 March 2022, the EU has amended the framework of restrictive measures (sanctions) in view of the situation in Belarus<sup>1</sup> and has adopted several individual and economic measures targeting various sectors of the Belarusian economy, including the financial sector, trade, energy, dual-use goods, transport, technology and other sectors, as well as ban on export of arms. As a result, economic sanctions on Belarus are already aligned to a large extent with those imposed on Russia. The Council is considering a proposal to further align the sanctions regime of Belarus with that of Russia, with the twofold objective of putting pressure on Belarus to stop its involvement in the illegal aggression of Russia against Ukraine and avoiding circumvention via Belarus of the restrictive measures imposed on Russia.

The EU is constantly monitoring the situation and is ready to adopt further measures as appropriate. The EU also stands ready to impose sanctions on any individual or entity directly contributing to the Russian war effort, including by providing equipment to the Russian military, or facilitating infringements of the prohibition against circumvention of the sanctions. Please note however that any decision to expand the restrictive measures on Belarus is for the Council to take by unanimity.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP of 15 October 2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Belarus and the involvement of Belarus in the Russian aggression against Ukraine, OJ L 285, 17.10.2012, p. 1; consolidated version available at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02012D0642-20220720>