

Ukraine Crisis – Sanctions Update The Ninth package



By Katerina Pillakouri, associate, Elias Neocleous & Co LLC

On 16 December 2022, the United States, the European Union (EU) and other countries adopted the ninth package of sanctions with the intention to step up pressure on Russia and its economy.

We summarise below the new measures.

1. Export controls

The EU imposes additional export controls and restrictions on dual-use goods and technology with the intention to expand the list of goods and technology which can contribute to the technological enhancement of Russia's defence and security sector.

Furthermore, the EU will expand the export ban on aviation and the space industry related goods and technology to include aircraft engines and their parts and this will apply to both manned and unmanned aircrafts.

2. Asset-freezing

None of the measures adopted target in any way the trade in agricultural and food products, including wheat and fertilisers, between third countries and Russia. However, in view of the Union's determined stance to avoid and combat food insecurity around the world, and in order to avoid disruptions in the payment channels for agricultural products, it was decided to introduce a new derogation allowing to unfreeze assets of, and to make funds and economic resources available to, certain individuals who held a significant role in international trade in agricultural and food products, including wheat and fertilisers, prior to their listing.

In addition, the EU imposed an asset freeze against two additional Russian banks and added the Russian Regional Development Bank to the list of Russian State-owned or controlled entities that are subject to a full transaction ban.



3. Broadcasting restrictions

The EU expanded the list of Russian entities subject to broadcasting restrictions by suspending the broadcasting licences of four additional media outlets: NTV/NTV Mir, Rossiya 1, REN TV and Pervyi Kanal.

4. Consulting services

Further, restrictions were imposed on the provision of EU advertising, market research and public opinion polling services, as well as product testing and technical inspection services to the Russian Federation.

5. Energy and mining

The EU expands the prohibition targeting new investments in the Russian energy sector by additionally prohibiting new investments in the Russian mining sector, with the exception of mining and quarrying activities involving certain critical raw materials.

In fact, the Council decided to adopt a comprehensive package of individual measures both in number and content with list a very significant number of additional individuals and entities.

6. Russian state-owned entities

For instance, the EU nationals will be forbidden from holding any posts on the governing bodies of all Russian State-owned or controlled legal persons, entities or bodies located in Russia.

To conclude, the ninth package of sanctions takes the form of amending the regulations listed below:

- 1. Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2474, which amends the core sectoral sanctions regime on Russia set out in Council Regulation (EU) 833/2014 (Regulation 833).**
- 2. Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2475, which amends the existing asset freeze framework on Russia set out in Council Regulation (EU) 269/2014 (Regulation 269).**
- 3. Regulation 269 is further amended through the addition of extra designations under EU Implementing Regulation 2022/2476.**

