

New EU Framework on Restrictive Measures Against Russia

May 2024

On 27 May, the Council of the EU introduced a new framework of sanctions implemented by Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1485 of 27 May 2024 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Russia (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation 1485") and Regulation (EU) 2024/1488, enforcing Regulation (EU) 2024/1485, in reaction to persistent human rights violations and internal repression in Russia (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation 1488").

Said framework responds to the EU's deep concern about the continuing deterioration of human rights in Russia, especially in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It strongly condemns the serious expansion of restrictive legislation, systematic and intensifying repression against civil society and human rights defenders, members of the political opposition and other active critical voices throughout the Russian Federation and beyond.

It should be noted that these new sanctions stand as a separate regime from the wide-ranging economic sanctions already imposed on Russia for its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which was formulated after the death of prominent Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who died under unclear circumstances in a Siberian penal colony in February.

Regulation 1488 introduces targeted restrictive measures against 19 natural persons and one legal entity identified for their involvement in severe human rights abuses. Furthermore, it introduces the freezing of funds and economic resources belonging to or controlled by these listed individuals and entities. These measures are intended to prevent the movement of persons and the transfer of assets that could contribute to the repression and human rights violations in Russia.

Moreover, Regulation 1485 includes trade restrictions on the export of equipment that could be used for internal repression, as well as equipment, technology or software primarily designed for information security and telecommunications monitoring or interception.

The regulation prohibits the sale, supply, transfer or export of any equipment, technology and software listed. These items, particularly those that could be used for internal repression or telecommunications monitoring, are subject to strict controls. Moreover, financial and technical assistance related to the restricted equipment and software is also banned. This aims to limit Russia's capacity to employ such tools against its own citizens.

This regulation aims to apply significant pressure on Russia by restricting financial and technical transactions that could support internal repression. Companies and individuals must ensure compliance to avoid severe penalties.

Additional new economic sanctions against Russia in the context of the invasion of Ukraine have also been discussed as part of the deliberations leading to this new framework of restrictive measures, with the 14th package anticipated to be issued by the end of June.

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