Question for written answer E-001144/2026
to the Council
Rule 144
Maciej Wąsik (ECR)

Subject: Removal of Niels Troost from the EU sanctions list

On 16 March 2026, the swissinfo.ch website reported that the EU had removed from its sanctions list Niels Troost – who is suspected of involvement in Russian oil transactions through a Dubai-based subsidiary of his company, Paramount Energy & Commodities – as well as Maya Bolotova, the daughter of Nikolay Tokarev, head of Russia's Transneft[1].

Press reports also suggest that, prior to the Council meeting scheduled for 14 March 2026, Slovakia – with the backing of some other Member States – argued that it would block the extension of the EU sanctions list targeting individuals and entities directly cooperating with Russia if the Member States did not agree at the Council meeting to remove two Russian oligarchs from the aforementioned list: Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman[2].

In light of the above:

1. Does the removal of the two individuals mentioned above from the EU sanctions list mean that they are no longer involved in aiding Russia by executing transactions on the oil and commodities markets?

2. Was this decision linked to press reports suggesting that Slovakia had threatened to block the Council's decision to extend the validity of the sanctions list imposed on entities and individuals closely associated with the Russian regime by a further six months?

3. What are the consequences of removing the individuals in question from the sanctions list, and what were the factual circumstances that justified this decision?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

[1] https://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/l%27ue-retire-le-trader-niels-troost-de-sa-liste-de-sanctions/91108456, (accessed on 17 March 2026).
[2] https://www.noviny.sk/slovensko/1182090-slovensko-prestalo-blokovat-predlzenie-sankcii-eu-voci-rusom-a-bielorusom, (accessed on 17 March 2026).