

Question for written answer E-003924/2026

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Removal of Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman from the EU sanctions list

On 22 September 2026, the EU decided to extend for three years the individual sanctions against persons and entities responsible for undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. At the same time, Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman, leading oligarchs and financiers of the Kremlin regime, were removed from the sanctions list¹. This decision significantly weakens the EU's pressure on Russia, which is stepping up its aggressive hybrid actions against EU Member States, and also paves the way for a gradual reset of relations with Moscow.

In light of the above:

1. What specific grounds were behind the decision to remove Usmanov and Fridman from the sanctions list?
2. Does this decision not undermine the effectiveness, coherence and credibility of the EU sanctions regime?
3. What action does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to take to address the impact of the resulting loophole in the sanctions regime against Russia, and to prevent the EU from voluntarily relinquishing its means of exerting pressure on Russia in future, given the ongoing war against Ukraine and hostile actions directed against EU Member States?

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¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/eu-renews-russia-sanctions-drops-russian-billionaires-usmanov-fridman-2026-09-22/>, (accessed on 23.9.2026).