

EN
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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

The EU has adopted a wide range of restrictive measures ('sanctions') on Russia, including far-reaching trade restrictions in several economic sectors, and specific financial measures against Russian individuals and entities. As the Honourable Member is aware, these sanctions are adopted under the EU's common foreign and security policy and are intended to limit Russia's ability to conduct and finance its war of aggression.

The import restrictions imposed on iron and steel are one of the most stringent sets of sectoral sanctions applicable to Russia, with most having entered into force in March 2022.

All imports of steel into the EU of Russian origin are now under restrictive measures. Two specific types of semi-finished products are not fully banned, but subject to a quantitative limit (quota) that will last until September 2028, with gradual declining volumes, to allow EU re-rollers of steel to find adequate alternatives in a global market characterised by limited available alternative supplies.

The quotas of the products referred to by the Honourable Member were adopted by Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP¹ and given effect into EU law by Council Regulation (EU) 833/2014². According to these acts, the import value quotas are managed by the Commission and the Member States in accordance with the management system for tariff-rate quotas provided for in Articles 49 to 54 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447³.

EU sanctions are kept under regular review; their adoption is decided solely by the Council of the European Union and requires the unanimous approval of all Member States.

¹ See article 4i (4), (5) and (5a) of Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 13–17); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014D0512>

² See Article 3g(4),(5) and (5a) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (OJ L 229, 31.7.2014); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0833>

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code (OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015R2447>