

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001144/26  
to the Council  
Maciej Wąsik (ECR)  
(18 March 2026)**

*Subject:* Removal of Niels Troost from the EU sanctions list

On 16 March 2026, the [swissinfo.ch](https://www.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 <sup>(1)</sup>.

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 <sup>(2)</sup>.

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

**Reply  
(1 June 2026)**

It is an essential principle of EU restrictive measures that the fundamental rights of targeted persons and entities must be respected. That is why EU restrictive measures are regularly reviewed and, if necessary, amended.

The Council reassesses the circumstances pertaining to each listed person and entity and determines whether changes to the legal acts should be made. In the case of Niels Troost and Maya Bolotova, the Council decided as part of a review of the restrictive measures that their listings should not be maintained.

A decision to include or remove individuals and entities from the EU's list of restrictive measures in the regime concerned requires unanimity in the Council on the basis of an initiative or proposal from EU Member States or the Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The removal of individuals or entities from the EU's list of restrictive measures means that the measures against these individuals and entities stop applying to them (e.g. any frozen assets are unfrozen, and/or travel restrictions are lifted).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/1%27ue-retire-le-trader-niels-troost-de-sa-liste-de-sanctions/91108456>, (accessed on 17 March 2026).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.noviny.sk/slovensko/1182090-slovensko-prestalo-blokovat-predlzenie-sankcii-eu-voci-rusom-a-bielorusom>, (accessed on 17 March 2026).