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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.8.2026)

The Commission remains fully committed to the EU's restrictive measures ('sanctions') imposed in response to Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

The 21 EU sanctions packages on Russia, with the last one adopted on 23 July 2026, include a broad range of measures in the field of energy, e.g. import ban on oil and measures targeting Russian liquified natural gas (LNG). In addition, the EU adopted, as part of the 20th sanctions package on 23 April 2026¹, a prohibition on maintenance services for Russian LNG tankers and icebreakers.

This prohibits – after relevant wind-down periods – EU operators' support to Russian LNG exports and further constrains Russia's ability to maintain its seaborne assets. EU operators are prohibited since April 2026 to provide technical or financial assistance, which also covers maintenance and repairs, to Russian owned, managed, flagged or operated ice-breaker vessels and LNG tankers. The prohibition to provide services to any LNG tankers used in Russia applies from 1 January 2027.

The Council may decide, in unanimity, on the possible extension of any restrictive measures, including limiting the transition period. Restrictive measures are established via Council decisions in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy and Council regulations giving effect to those decisions in EU law. Member States are responsible for the effective implementation and enforcement of sanctions, and the Commission is closely monitoring and supporting the Member States in those tasks.

¹ https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-adopts-20th-package-sanctions-against-russia-2026-04-23_en.