

EN

E-003465/2026

Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.10.2026)

The Commission remains fully committed to the EU's restrictive measures ('sanctions') imposed in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The by now 21 sanctions packages on Russia, with the last one having been adopted on 23 July 2026¹, 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 2026², a prohibition on maintenance services for Russian LNG tankers and icebreakers.

This prohibits, after relevant wind-down periods - essential EU operators' support to Russian LNG exports and further constrains Russia's ability to maintain its seaborne assets. In detail, 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 applies from 1 January 2027 in principle to any LNG tankers used in Russia.

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://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/07/23/21st-package-of-sanctions-eu-hits-russian-energy-financial-services-and-crypto-hard/>.

² https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-adopts-20th-package-sanctions-against-russia-2026-04-23_en.