


WHAT ARE EU SANCTIONS ?

Sanctions (or EU restrictive measures) are foreign policy tools enabling the EU to exert pressure on governments, organisations or individuals, aiming to change their behaviour or prevent certain activities.

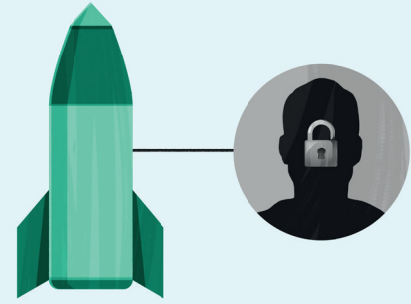
SANCTIONS ARE NOT PUNITIVE



They are **lifted** once they have reached their objective.


THERE ARE CLEARLY DEFINED GROUNDS FOR IMPOSING SANCTIONS

Each sanctions regime has a defined reason for targeting these specific individuals.




ALL SANCTIONS ARE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, BY ALL 27 EU MEMBER STATES

EU SANCTIONS ON INDIVIDUALS INVOLVE...



Travel bans to the EU. Freezing assets located in the EU. Banning EU companies from making funds available.

SANCTIONED INDIVIDUALS CAN GO TO THE EU'S GENERAL COURT TO CHALLENGE THE DECISION.



HOW DOES FREEZING ASSETS WORK ?

When authorities freeze the assets of a sanctioned individual, they make sure that person can no longer benefit from it or sell it.

THE OWNERSHIP DOES NOT CHANGE



FREEZING ASSETS IS NOT EASY, MANY ASSETS ARE HIDDEN

companies in tax havens



Offshore companies, complex ownership structures, etc. are used to **hide the real owners.**

oligarch's superyacht



First task for national authorities: **tracing assets.**

national authorities



Sometimes it takes a long time to identify the beneficial owners, and this can end up in legal limbo.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IS NEEDED




The **Freeze and Seize Task Force** was created to coordinate the enforcement of EU sanctions against Russian and Belarusian individuals and companies.

CAN WE CONFISCATE THE ASSETS OF SANCTIONED PEOPLE ?

Being on a sanctions list is not a proof of a crime : only courts can find someone guilty.


COURTS DECIDE ON CONFISCATIONS AS PART OF CRIMINAL JUDGEMENTS


Assets can be confiscated if linked to a specific crime. To confiscate assets of sanctioned individuals, law enforcement authorities need to start their own criminal investigations-which might not be connected to the grounds for sanctioning.



WHAT HAPPENS TO CONFISCATED ASSETS ?


Right now, Member States can use confiscated assets as they wish. But we think assets should be returned to the victim population.





- Physical assets can be given to the local community to use.
- Return assets to the victims of the crimes, where the assets were stolen from.
- Safeguards are needed to prevent funds from being diverted.

The European Commission's proposal to make sanctions more effective : **harmonising rules and definitions** around violations and circumvention of sanctions.



Under discussion by the European Parliament and the Council.

NEW RULES MIGHT LEAD TO MORE CONFISCATIONS, BUT PROACTIVE WORK FROM NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WILL STILL BE REQUIRED

