Statement by President von der Leyen on the 22nd package of sanctions against Russia

Strasbourg, 23 November 2026

Good afternoon.

Today, we present our 22nd package of sanctions. The aim is to keep pressure on Russia to end their war of aggression in Ukraine. And we will continue to propose new sanctions until Russia shows genuine intent for a lasting peace in Ukraine. With this package, we are increasing the pressure in three ways. We are striking harder at Russia's ways to finance its war by targeting its banks and crypto platforms. We are further isolating Russia. We are shutting the door to its participation to European sports and cultural events. We are tightening our visa rules. And we are doubling down on enforcement.

Allow me to go into some of the key elements. First, on financial services. We are extending the transaction ban to some 60 Russian banks. All 60 banks will be removed from the SWIFT system. And we are cracking down on the crypto and payment networks. We will focus on Russia but also include third countries that help Russia to evade our sanctions. This is a major focus of our new package. And an important area where we want to align efforts with international partners. This is the reason why we have also launched a Crypto Sanctions Task Force to support this work.

Second, on the Russian energy sector. We are expanding the energy services ban so that no European company can help Russia build, operate or repair its energy infrastructures, and notably its refineries. For the first time, this ban also covers electricity services. On the Russian Shadow Fleet, we are listing over 70 more ships. And we are proposing to ban all tanker vessels which are insured in Russia.

Third, we have proposed a visa ban for Russian ex-combatants. We have recently seen an escalation in non-conventional kinetic activities of Russian operatives in Europe. And this ban is a part of our response. Russian ex-combatants pose a security risk to Europe. They cannot be allowed to wander freely across our countries. Therefore, entry into the European Union will be off limits.

Fourth, we will prohibit Europeans from continuing to occupy posts in the governing bodies of companies in Russia. There cannot be business as usual in our economic relations with Russia.

And finally, on sports and culture. Sports events cannot be a forum for propaganda activities. Today, for any sports events in the EU, we are introducing bans on Russian teams and athletes competing under the Russian flag. We propose to ban the display of official Russian symbols. We will also restrict financial flows from Russian sponsors to European-based sports and cultural associations. And we will introduce restrictions on Russians holding posts in governing bodies of European based sports federations.

Our position is clear: we are giving Ukraine the strength to secure peace – and Russia every reason to choose it.

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