

AIDE MEMOIRE

- The EU has been urging the Russian leadership to seriously back a process towards a political solution of the conflict in Ukraine. Russia has committed to such a process several times (Geneva Joint Statement, OSCE Roadmap, Berlin Agreement) but has failed to back it with real action on the ground.
- Therefore, and in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea, a clear breach of international law, and continued deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU, as well as other international partners, has applied targeted measures against specific sectors of the Russian economy. These measures are part of a dual-track approach, together with diplomatic initiatives to find a negotiated resolution. The measures have a clear legal basis and are designed to be scalable and reversible.
- The EU's main objective is to make all efforts to de-escalate the conflict, put an end to violence and promote a peaceful and diplomatic solution. We seek your support and constructive engagement in urging all sides to commit to this path.
- The Russian Federation adopted on 6 August 2014 retaliatory measures - predominantly in the agriculture area - following the European Union's restrictive measures.
- The Russian measures have been adopted for the purpose of retaliation for which there is no basis in international law. Moreover, they divert the attention from our common priority - the de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine.
- The European Commission is currently assessing their content and extent, and naturally reserves the right to take action as appropriate.
- Although the EU reserves its right to take further action, it firmly maintains that it will not engage in any form of tit-for-tat retaliation.
- The EU stresses that its main priority remains the stabilisation of the situation in Ukraine, and any further action on Russia will be considered exclusively in light of the position and action of Moscow on the situation in Ukraine.
- As regards the trade measures adopted by Russia in retaliation to our restrictive measures, they affect primarily the EU. In our estimation, almost three quarters of all trade affected by Russian restrictions originates in the EU. As a result, the impact on the EU domestic markets is bound to be particularly large compared to other countries affected by these measures.
- In view of the need to ensure the unity of the international community and to uphold the rule of law on trade matters, we call on Serbia to refrain from supporting or encouraging exports of products affected by the Russian import ban.
- We understand of course that traditional trade volumes between Serbia and Russia are maintained. We would however call on Serbia to refrain from using any Government measures to support new trading activities, such as export subsidies, credits and guarantees, or state trading companies and/or substantially expanding Serbian exports market share in Russia by replacing EU illegally banned exports.
- The EU would consider using such tools under these conditions as unfair and unfriendly and likely to undermine the actions taken by the EU and other countries to stabilise the situation in Ukraine. Moreover, it would impact on our goal of intensifying our trade and investment relationship.
- The European Union remains committed to helping the stabilisation in Ukraine together with other key international actors, including Serbia, to join in this effort. The EU reiterates its support for a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Ukraine, and to agree on a genuine and sustainable ceasefire by all parties with the aim of restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity.