

Economic response to Ukraine-imposed sanctions

Dmitry Medvedev's answer to a media question.

Excerpts from the transcript:

Dmitry Medvedev's answer to a media question

Question: A presidential executive order on Russia's response measures with regard to Ukraine was released yesterday. The President instructed you to develop them. When will the proposals be drafted, whom will they affect and will they affect ordinary Ukrainians?

Dmitry Medvedev: The proposals under the executive order will be drafted shortly. I already have several Government resolution drafts on my desk. Of course, these resolutions follow the point of the executive order. They focus on the fact that the sanctions are imposed on the people who harm Russia's interests. Meanwhile, neither the executive order, nor the Government resolution will apply to Ukrainians in general, this is absolutely unacceptable. On the contrary, we have the most friendly feelings towards the Ukrainian people. However, individuals who have caused harm to Russia's interests and commit actions designed to cause damage to our country, will be the objects of these resolutions.

What are the implications? We are speaking, first, about freezing their assets in Russia, that is, they will not be able to use them in any way.

Second, there will be a ban on wiring funds that are located in Russia, that is, the ban on capital exports.

And finally, imports of certain Ukrainian-made goods into Russia will be banned.

Perhaps, it is not that common to talk about it – in any case, our Ukrainian colleagues tend to not emphasise this – but Ukraine's trade with Russia is fairly significant. We are talking about billions of roubles, which is quite a lot for Ukraine. In other words, despite all the difficulties in recent times and all the bans and restrictions that they have already imposed on our country, the share of the Russian market for Ukrainian exports and the Ukrainian capital remains quite significant. In other words, we remain Ukraine's largest foreign trade partner.

Such measures will be taken, indeed. As for the individuals and legal entities, these lists are being drafted. Regarding individuals, there will likely be hundreds of people affected whose actions have caused harm to our country's interests. There will be businesspeople and others. It is up to Russia to decide on the proposals that the Government will come up with. The

list also includes Ukrainian companies, legal entities incorporated under the laws of Ukraine that are controlled by the individuals that these sanctions will apply to.

These documents will be on my desk soon, and I will sign them. We will provide a comment once they are fully drafted. There will be many relatively well-known people on the list.

[Russian-Belgian talks](#)

Dmitry Medvedev held talks with Prime Minister of Belgium Charles Michel.

[Dmitry Medvedev's meets with Prime Minister of Belgium Charles Michel](#)

[News conference by Dmitry Medvedev and Charles Michel following talks](#)

Dmitry Medvedev's meets with Prime Minister of Belgium Charles Michel



Russian-Belgian talks

19 October 2018



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News conference by Dmitry Medvedev and Charles Michel following talks

Excerpts from the transcript:

Charles Michel (via interpreter): Good afternoon,

I had an opportunity to hold a working meeting with Prime Minister Medvedev today. He came with a delegation, including, in particular, the Minister of Economic Development.

We discussed Belgium-Russia relations. We met in Russia in January to discuss opportunities in investment and economic activities in order to expand our cooperation. Many Belgian companies interact with their Russian partners. Some of them have been in business for a long time now and are successfully operating, developing the infrastructure, engaging in the mining business and working in the chemical industry. So, the relations between our countries have a long track record, and we must do our best to give a new impetus to bilateral trade.

We also had an opportunity to review international affairs and geopolitical issues. Belgium will become a non-permanent member of the Security Council in January 2019, and we will thus be able to work closely in this organisation with all its members, including Russia. We agreed that we will hold regular consultations. In particular, our delegation will visit Russia in the near future to discuss cooperation in the Security Council and interaction with

our various partners.

We also discussed the future of relations between the European Union and Russia. We are fully aware of the fact that a number of issues have caused disagreements between the European Union and Russia over the past few years, and my colleague and I discussed these issues. Acting in line with the Harmel Doctrine, Belgium is trying to find points of contact in order to prevent the escalation of current processes.

Other subjects were covered during the working meeting as well.

Mr Prime Minister, I am very pleased that we were able to openly share our points of view. Everyone has to protect their vision and values. Human rights and the rule of law are the most important values for Europeans. You can count on us as we will always be candid and open in our desire to continue a dialogue and cooperation in various areas, bilateral or multilateral, when we work with you, in particular, on international platforms.

Dmitry Medvedev: Thank you very much.

Mr Prime Minister, media members,

I find it difficult to add anything to what my colleague just said. Indeed, we went over the entire range of economic cooperation between our countries and political interaction, both in the bilateral format and in terms of Russia-EU relations. We pinpointed all the difficulties, all the missed opportunities. Most notably, we discussed our future plans.

Like Belgium, Russia is open to this kind of interaction. I am very pleased that our dialogue, which began in January, quickly found a continuation here, in Belgium. On one hand, I am here because of the ASEM Summit; on the other, I received an invitation to visit Belgium, for which I thank the Prime Minister.

Indeed, we had a very productive dialogue in a friendly atmosphere. We exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, multilateral, economic, political and security issues.

We welcome the fact that Belgium will soon become a non-permanent Security Council member. This will give us an opportunity to communicate in the UN Security Council as well. We believe that the UN remains the only universal international institution that can take up and resolve issues, because other institutions do not include all international community members. We appreciate Belgium's contribution to promoting relations with all countries (including ours) and its attempts to find solutions to challenges on the international agenda and in bilateral relations.

We have discussed a number of specific matters. If you have questions, go ahead and ask them now.

Question (via interpreter): Belgian Radio and Television.

Mr Medvedev, when our Prime Minister visited Moscow a few months ago, you

said that Belgium could play an important role in restoring relations between the Russian Federation and the European Union. However, a lot has happened since that time, including the Skripal poisoning and a cyber-attack attempt in the Hague. Do you think that normal relations can still be restored, and that Belgium is also ready to pursue this?

Dmitry Medvedev: First, I believe this question should be addressed to my Belgian colleague, not me.

Second, a lot of things happen in the world. They should not necessarily affect our relations.

I can give you examples of things that happen in the world but that do not interfere with our relations.

If our partners are willing to help Russia restore and develop its ties with the European Union, we would only appreciate it. Especially, since we think our relations are going through a rough patch, and we have lost a lot in recent years. I have repeatedly spoken of this. We have lost half of our trade volume, and this trade has been transferred to other countries. In the process of restoring our contacts in different areas, including the economy and political cooperation (which is of great significance, and this ASEM summit shows this), an important role belongs to those countries who would like to participate. And our partners in Belgium have expressed their interest in this.

To be continued...

[12th Asia–Europe Meeting \(ASEM\) summit](#)



**Opening ceremony of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit
(photo courtesy of <https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>)**

19 October 2018



Opening ceremony of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit

19 October 2018



Opening ceremony of the 12th Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit. With President of the European Council Donald Tusk and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker (photo courtesy of <https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>)

18 October 2018

Предыдущая новость Следующая новость

Opening ceremony of the 12th Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit (photo courtesy of <https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>)

The 12th Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit was established at a meeting of heads of state and government in Bangkok in March 1996. Currently it comprises 53 members, including 31 European representatives (28 EU members, Norway, Switzerland and the European Commission) and 22 Asian representatives (10 ASEAN members, Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea and the ASEAN Secretariat).

Russia joined ASEM at the 8th summit in October 2010 in Brussels.

ASEM is an open and informal interregional dialogue for countries to cooperate in politics and security, financial, economic, social and cultural affairs.

The biennial meetings of the heads of state and government are held alternately in Asian and European countries.

[Dmitry Medvedev meets with Prime Minister of Slovenia Marjan Sarec](#)

Dmitry Medvedev meets with Prime Minister of Slovenia Marjan Sarec

18 October 2018 22:00 Brussels, Belgium

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting summit.



Meeting with Prime Minister of Slovenia Marjan Sarec

19 October 2018



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18 October 2018

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[12th ASEM Summit](#)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was formally established at the first ASEM Summit in March 1996 in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM currently has 53 partners, including 31 European members (28 EU member states plus Norway, Switzerland and the European Commission) and 22 Asian members (10 ASEAN economies plus Australia, Bangladesh, China, Japan, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea and the ASEAN Secretariat).

Russia joined ASEM at the eighth summit in Brussels in October 2010.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal interregional process of dialogue for cooperation that addresses political, security, financial, economic, social and cultural issues.

The biennial ASEM summits of the heads of state and government are held alternately in Asia and Europe.