

KAJA KALLAS

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 29/01/2026
A(2026)39619-347616

To all MEP co-signatories to the letter concerning EU restrictive measures adopted on 15 December 2025

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

It is with great attention that I read your letter of 17 December 2025 in which you shared your views on the recently adopted package of listings by Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2572. I am hereby replying also on behalf the President of the European Council António Costa to whom you have also addressed the letter.

EU restrictive measures are a tool of the Common Foreign and Security Policy in pursuit of its objectives such as peace, democracy and rule of law. In this context, it is necessary to recognise the industrial scale of Russian information manipulation and interference campaigns, instrumentalising both social media and traditional media. These operations carry significant destabilising effects for our democracies, the Union as a whole, and for our partners such as Ukraine. Such disinformation campaigns are carried out and supported by numerous media figures and commentators. The goal of our sanctions is to respond to such destabilising activities.

Please note that all the decisions on restrictive measures are taken by Member States in the Council. The latest package of listings in the framework of restrictive measures in view of Russia's destabilising activities, which was adopted on 15 December 2025, received unanimous support of all EU Member States. This Decision, as well as the sanctions regime itself, meets all the well-established legal and procedural standards for EU sanctions, including the following:

- The reasons for every listing are public and contained in the Annex to the legal acts.
- Those reasons are underpinned by ample open source evidence which is at the disposal of the listed persons or their legal representatives upon request.
- Every listed person can also bring forward a legal challenge and contest their listing in front of the European Courts, which are independent, and ensure that any listing is lawful.
- Where the EU Court decides that a listing does not comply with EU law, it has the power to annul the listing.
- The assets of designated persons are not confiscated, but frozen. The property rights of designated persons are therefore not affected.
- As was confirmed by numerous judgements of the Court of Justice, the Council is not obliged to pre-notify persons of upcoming sanctions, as such a pre-notification could lead the persons to remove their assets from the EU jurisdiction, thereby undermining the efficacy of our measures.
- The restrictive measures are regularly reviewed by the Council.

Yours faithfully,

