

Poland Warns Russia to Change Tack on Ukraine or Face Further Sanctions

October 08, 2014



Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski (L) shakes hands with new Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna during a swearing-in ceremony for the new government at the presidential palace in Warsaw, Poland.

WARSAW — The European Union will impose tougher sanctions on Russia unless Moscow's policy in Ukraine changes, Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna has said.

Since a cease-fire was agreed between pro-Moscow separatists and Ukraine's government a month ago, most European leaders have focused on when the sanctions on Russia can be eased, with little discussion about making them tougher.

But breaches of the cease-fire in eastern Ukraine have renewed Western diplomatic pressure on Moscow. Western states accuse Russia of giving military support to the rebels — an allegation the Kremlin has denied.

"If Russia does not change its policy, sanctions will be toughened and they will make themselves felt even more in Russia," Schetyna said in an interview with Polish broadcast

Polsat News.

"All the European countries are speaking with one voice, together with Australia, the U.S. and Canada. The free world says 'no' to this kind of policy," he said. "The Polish viewpoint is shared by other countries."

Poland, a NATO member which has borders with Russia and Ukraine, has been more hawkish than many other EU states on how to react to Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

Schetyna was appointed foreign minister last month. His predecessor, Radoslaw Sikorski, was elected speaker of the Polish parliament.

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