

Russia to 'Look After Own Interests' as EU Keeps Sanctions in Place

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A man holds a placard, which reads "Crimea is Russia!," as he poses for a picture to his acquaintance in front of a board, showing the Moskva river and its embankments, after a festive concert marking the first anniversary of the Crimean treaty signing in central Moscow, March 18, 2015.

Russia described "sanctions rhetoric" as destructive on Friday and said it would do what is in its national interests after European Union leaders kept economic sanctions in place over the Ukraine crisis.

In comments to reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also accused Kiev of violating the terms of a peace deal for eastern Ukraine that was agreed in the Belarussian capital Minsk.

"We prefer to engage in creative matters, not destructive matters such as sanctions rhetoric. So we do not discuss sanctions and the Russian Federation will do what is in its national interests," he said.

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