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Germany Bends EU Rules to Give Russia Spot at G20 Berlin Meeting

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German chancellor Angela Merkel **Armin Kübelbeck / Wikicommons**

The German government has reclassified a G20 meeting as an OSCE☒event in order to allow Russia to take part, German news outlet☒Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland reported Friday.

German Agriculture Minister Christian☒Schmidt reportedly pushed for the change to allow his Russian☒counterpart Alexander
Tkachov to attend a ministerial☒
G20 agriculture meeting
in Berlin on Jan. 22.

EU sanctions sparked by Moscow's☒annexation of Crimea in 2014 prevent
Tkachov
from☒entering Germany — but
reclassifying the event as a one-day☒gathering for the
Organization for Security and Co-Operation in☒Europe (OSCE) will allegedly allow

Tkachov to
bypass the restrictions.

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EU rules allow sanctioned individuals to attend OSCE meetings, and the organization is actively involved in brokering a peace deal in the Ukrainian conflict. The EU does not make exceptions for sanctioned politicians to attend G20 events.

As well as allowing Tkachov to attend the event, the German Foreign Ministry has green-lighted a meeting between Schmidt and his Russian counterpart "without a press release."

Neither the Russian nor German Foreign Ministries have commented on the claim.

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