

Russia Leads World in Trade Restrictions Against EU

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Roman Pimenov / TASS

Russia has imposed more trade barriers against the European Union than any other country in the world, according to the bloc's annual report.

The EU remains Russia's [largest](#) trading partner despite economic sanctions and retaliatory measures against Russia after its annexation of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. Russia [overtook](#) Switzerland last year as the third main source of imports for the European bloc.

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The European Commission's annual report on trade barriers [said](#) Wednesday that Russia had 36 barriers against the EU, and China a close second with 25 trade barriers.

The six new restrictions imposed by Russia in 2017 include tax discrimination against imported wines and a requirement that only allows Russian-flagged vessels to cross the Arctic coast to transport hydrocarbons and coal.

In a rare visit to Western Europe earlier this month, President Vladimir Putin said he had no political interest in dividing the EU, and [called](#) the bloc “our most important trading and economic partner.”

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