

Russia Expands EU Entry Ban in Retaliation to War Anniversary Sanctions

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Russia's Foreign Ministry in Moscow. **Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency**

Russia's Foreign Ministry [announced](#) Thursday that it "significantly" expanded its entry ban on European officials, activists and scientists in response to the EU's latest sanctions imposed on the third anniversary of Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Brussels' 16th round of sanctions, adopted on Feb. 24, targeted Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" used to bypass oil export restrictions, banks that help evade sanctions, media outlets broadcasting in the EU and gaming consoles that could be repurposed for drone use.

The package also includes restrictions on Russian aluminum imports.

Russia's Foreign Ministry did not disclose the number or names of those impacted by its retaliatory travel ban but said it applies to officials from EU member states' security agencies, government institutions and businesses involved in military aid to Ukraine.

It also targets EU figures engaged in prosecuting Russian officials, promoting the creation of a

tribunal for Russia's leadership or backing efforts to seize Russian state assets for Ukraine's benefit.

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In addition, Russia's Foreign Ministry said it banned civil society activists accused of "Russophobia," members of the scientific community and lawmakers from the European Parliament and individual EU nations who supported anti-Russian resolutions.

The ministry vowed to continue pursuing Russia's national interests and defending what it called a "new and just world order."

Since Moscow launched what it terms a "special military operation" in Ukraine three years ago, the EU has sanctioned some 2,000 officials and entities.

Shortly after Russia's announcement, the EU's foreign policy branch [said](#) it had begun work on a 17th sanctions package, according to the news agency Interfax.

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