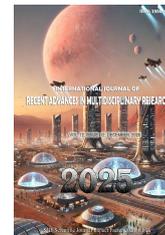




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RESEARCH ARTICLE

SANCTIONS OF EURONIAN UNIT IN RUSSIAN-UKRANIAN WAR

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the application of sanctions against Russia by the European Union. The activities of the governments of individual European countries and international organizations that have joined the sanctions restrictions in the sphere of military-technical, high technologies, energy, financial and trade with the Russian Federation aimed at stopping hostilities and restoring international law and order are revealed. Attention is drawn to the consequences of the EU sanctions policy towards the Russian Federation which have been very negatively manifested in relations in the EU countries towards refugees from Ukraine.

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INTRODUCTION

Today, an increasingly obvious and unpleasant fact of life for the European community is the fact that the war between Russia and Ukraine is increasingly taking on the dimension of escalation with unpredictable consequences. On the one hand, the rhetorical intentions and the tone of statements by European and world politicians indicate the determination of actions to put pressure on the Russian leadership, and on the other, that the military scenario for resolving the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation is opposed by a united Europe – the EU to the "sanctions path" of resolving this issue. However, in this context, important issues for EU politicians are the resources of the countries of the European community, solidarity in making political decisions, and managing geopolitical and geoeconomic risks that are borne by the leaders of the world community's opinion such as China, India, Brazil and other countries. The fourth year of war in the center of Europe seriously questions the possibility of a quick and peaceful resolution of the situation. Even the attempt by US President D. Trump to intervene in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the format of a "leaders' meeting" in 2025 (meetings between D. Trump and V. Zelensky, and D. Trump and V. Putin) shows that the positions of the parties are diametrically opposed and irreconcilable. So, in a situation of many uncertainties, the bet was made on a proven foreign policy tool – sanctions. In the foreign policy strategies of the leading countries of the European

Union and the United States of America, sanctions have long been a significant foreign policy tool and a lever of influence in relations with countries of the world. As a rule, these are measures of military-technical, high technologies, energy, financial and trade restrictions which can be strengthened by freezing the assets of "problematic countries" in foreign banks (1, p. 21). This tool remains a universal mechanism for the reaction of the countries of the leaders of the Western community to such situations in countries of the world as human rights violations, external aggression, terrorism, demonstration of a "special attitude" to certain world events and other forms of so-called "destructive behavior" by individual countries of the world community. Therefore, attention to the sanctions instrument of the European Union and the United States of America remains one of the ways to assess likely changes in international relations, as well as to analyze the impact of these measures on the dynamics of changes on a regional and global scale. The difficulty of the mechanism for imposing sanctions lies in achieving a common opinion of all member states of the "club of interested parties". A country may refuse to support sanctions if this contradicts its foreign policy obligations with a country with which it values relations. For example, Hungary is constantly in a state of "counter-position" with Brussels. It explains its position by stating that it will not participate in sanctions against Russia, justifying this by the fact that this will have a negative impact on its economy. However, Brussels does not pay any attention to this and demands "discipline" of sanctions policy (2). It should be added here that the picture of Brussels' policy of

sanctions “solidarity and discipline” is spoiled by the behavior of the Prime Ministers of Hungary V. Orban and Slovakia R. Fico. Both leaders, in the face of Brussels’ policy, allow themselves to meet with Russian President V. Putin and discuss common problems of economic bilateral relations. The consequences of the political situation in Romania after the scandalous presidential elections in 2024 are also difficult for Brussels. Since the beginning of Russia’s war against Ukraine, the EU has imposed an 19th package of sanctions aimed at weakening the Russian economy. The fact that this practice of Brussels pressure on Moscow is not working is evidenced by the fact that the European Commission has already agreed to a 19th package in September 2025. The goal of the sanctions policy remains the course to deprive Russia of its economic and technological ability to wage war. As the practice of sanctions measures shows, as of spring 2023, sanctions were imposed on 207 legal entities and 1,473 individuals. The European Commission believes that the sanctions against Russia have been successful. They are gradually destroying the Russian economy and its military potential. For example, according to experts, the Russian budget deficit in the period 2023-2024 exceeded 3 trillion rubles, purchases of medicines for hospitals fell by 20%, and revenues from oil exports decreased by 60%. The article draws attention primarily to the EU member states, since they are active actors in the Eastern Partnership format regarding Ukraine and future partners in the European Union. Thus, the sanctions applied by the European Union and the United States against Russia and other countries of the community have become an important element of modern international policy. The purpose of these measures is to ensure world order and security within the framework of existing rules.

The purpose: The application of sanctions policies by the European Union and world political actors during the Russian-Ukrainian war and determining their effectiveness on the development of events.

Analysis of recent research and publications: Important publications on this topic have recently been made by such scientists as: V.P. Gorbulin, V.V. Glazunov, T.M. Dzyuba, S.Ya. Zhuk, B.A. Kormych, V.O. Kosevtsov, O.V. Litvinenko, E.A. Makarenko, G.N. Perepelitsa, G.G. Pocheptsov, Y.I. Radkovets, A.O. Ros, V.V. Ostroukhov and others.

Presentation of the main material

The essence of the EU sanctions against the Russian Federation: Sanctions against Russia are restrictive political and economic measures imposed on the Russian Federation and a number of Russian individuals and organizations involved in the recognition of the independence of the terrorist groups of the Donetsk Popular Republic (DPR) and Luhansk Popular Republic (LPR), as well as due to the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 during the Russian-Ukrainian war. A new discussion of sanctions after the seizure of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and the occupation of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (ORDLO) began after Russian President Putin announced the recognition of the independence of the DPR and LPR (February 22, 2022) and on February 24 began the war against Ukraine. According to the then US President Joe Biden, the alternative to sanctions would be World War III, but such a war could lead to the death of all humanity. He emphasized that the sanctions imposed at the moment have become “the largest in history”. “And Russia will pay a serious price for this in both the short and long term, especially in the long term”, – added J. Biden (3). Today the Russian Federation is the most sanctioned country in the world and currently sanctions are the most effective tool of influence on the aggressor country by the international community. An important element of the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in the sanctions area is interaction with the capitals of the EU member states, the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and a number of other partner countries – 41 countries in total. Today, the European Union applies a certain list of sanctions. These include blocking and freezing of assets, embargoes, prohibitions on military and secondary goods, prohibitions on financial services and

investments, introduction of various types of restrictions on various sectors of the economy of the target country, as well as restrictions on imports and exports, etc. Economic sanctions are effective if the cost of sanctions is at least 2% of the GDP of the target country; the economic power of the country against which sanctions are imposed is at least 10 times greater than the economic power of the offending country; the joint trade turnover of the target country and the country against which sanctions are imposed is at least 25%; control over imports and exports is effective; economic sanctions are imposed quickly and on a large scale which increases their effectiveness; economic sanctions are effective if the cost of sanctions is significant, but other things being equal. Effective if the cost of sanctions is not significant and other conditions are met (4). For example, the sanctions imposed by the EU against Russia due to the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014 turned out to be ineffective. After the introduction of sanctions, Russia’s losses amounted to 1.5% in 2014-2015 and 0.75% in 2016-2017, while the EU countries expected that the losses of the aggressor country would amount to at least 4.8% of the country’s GDP (5, p. 257). The main reason for this state of affairs was the policy of a “special vision” of the political situation on the part of the leading EU economies, which were too heavily tied to Russian energy resources. First of all, we are talking about the EU leader– Germany during the era of Chancellor A. Merkel. In its sanctions policy against Russia, the European Union has already implemented 19 packages of sanctions aimed at weakening the Russian economy. The European authorities are trying to ensure the effectiveness of sanctions, first of all, on the basis of the “solidarity” mechanism. That is, “all as one”, which ensures their implementation. Otherwise, the sanctions will be ineffective, and the countries subject to sanctions will only suffer losses. Since 2018, the EU has not lifted sanctions against Russia only because of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. Lifting the sanctions would mean a violation of the Agreement by the EU and recognition of the occupied territories in Ukraine as Russian territory. Currently, the EU is forced to continue sanctions against Russia and introduce new, stricter restrictions, but this is not the longest period of sanctions. For example, since 1989, sanctions have been in effect against the People’s Republic of China, and since the 1990s – against Afghanistan, Libya, Serbia, and Burma. The EU imposes sanctions on a long-term basis if they do not have a significant impact on the economy of the sanctioned country and if the economies of the sanctioned countries and the countries against which sanctions are imposed do not have a strong relationship (6).

In any case, the EU is trying to limit the negative impact on the economies of its member states by maintaining economic relations with countries that have been sanctioned. In general, such a policy is irrational. This is due to the fact that maintaining economic relations with countries that violate the world order contradicts the principle of sanctions (7). Therefore, such a mechanism objectively creates a paradoxical situation within the sanctions policy community: “we prohibit when necessary, we violate prohibitions when it is not beneficial”. The EU leadership is trying to correct the situation of “behavioral alogism” by introducing a “horizontal” sanctions regime aimed at individuals. Horizontal sanctions help protect the reputation of the country against which sanctions are imposed, since they do not harm the citizens of the country against which sanctions are imposed, but they are much less effective. In many cases, the European Union cooperates with the UN and the US in imposing sanctions, but in other cases the EU takes the initiative. For example, since 1990, sanctions have been imposed against Sudan, including an arms embargo and the suspension of all economic cooperation and development programs. These measures were taken due to violations of human rights and democratic principles and the implementation of the policy of “Islamization and Arabization”, which led to the deaths of about two million people and the emergence of four million refugees as a result of the armed conflict in Sudan. After the imposition of the above-mentioned sanctions, the EU increased funding for humanitarian aid to Sudan to 206 million euros which was a mistake (8). An example of such sanctions is the EU sanctions against Belarus as a response to diplomatic restrictions after the EU recognized the threat to democracy posed by the regime of A.

Lukashenko: since 1997, the EU Council has limited political contracts with the Belarusian authorities and refused to conclude partnership and cooperation agreements with the EU. The Council has also imposed a number of sanctions against Belarus. These sanctions were aimed at significantly restricting political and diplomatic relations with EU member states; in 2010 it was expected that the sanctions would be eased or lifted altogether when the Baltic countries and Poland, which had insisted on resolving the conflict with Belarus in 2004, joined the EU. However, in 2012 following the crackdown on opposition parties following parliamentary elections, an arms embargo and severe sanctions were imposed against those involved in the crackdown, as well as those working to undermine democracy (5). The European Union's sanctions demonstrate that the international community recognizes the importance of respecting international norms, human rights and legal standards. The use of these instruments is a response to violations of sovereignty, aggression or other forms of irresponsibility. However, it is important to constantly assess the effectiveness of sanctions, adapt them to specific conditions and take into account possible geopolitical and economic consequences. In a world where international relations are becoming more complex, it is important to develop a balanced approach to sanctions, contributing to security and development, rather than increasing geopolitical tensions. The result of such an approach can be not only punishment for violators of the international order, but also stimulation of positive changes in the political and economic spheres of the countries experiencing them.

Main sectors of sanctions imposed by the European Union against the Russian Federation: In its relations with Russia, the European Union has mainly applied sanctions pressure to five sectors: military-technical, high technologies, energy, financial and trade. Here is an extended list of some measures in this regard. The sample was carried out consistently across all sanctions packages.

Military-technical sector: The following Russian companies were subject to sanctions – primarily all the most important military-industrial complex concerns, including Oboronprom (manufacturer of helicopters, aircraft engines), United Aircraft Corporation (military transport aircraft), Sirius (military software products, automated and information systems, television and video equipment), Stankoinstrument, Almaz-Antey, RT-Khimkompozit, Kalashnikov, Bazalt (manufacturer of air bombs), Tula Arms Plant, Machine-Building Technologies, Uralvagonzavod (tank production), NPO High-precision Complexes, aircraft and shipbuilding corporations, including MiG, Russian Helicopters, Sukhoi, Tupolev, USK, space sector companies, including the Progress Rocket and Space Center, etc. The supply of aircraft, spare parts and equipment to Russian airlines is prohibited. Their insurance and maintenance are also prohibited. The EU skies have been closed to aircraft associated with Russia. The military-patriotic movement “Yunarmiya”, the “Russkiy Mir” foundation, the rocket and space industry enterprise JSC Scientific and Production Association “Kvant”, and the FORSS group of companies operating in the shipbuilding markets have been sanctioned. The sale, supply, transfer or export of civilian firearms, their main components and ammunition, as well as military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts have been banned.

High technologies: As experts testify, without modern Western technologies, the situation of the military-industrial complex is quite difficult. It is well known that the Soviet Union was “fed” by new developments of the West, and in this “fed” military-technical and industrial espionage has played a great role. Now, when Russia, through sanctions and the expulsion of numerous spies working under the diplomatic roof, largely blocked the channels for obtaining relevant high technologies and equipment, Moscow froze some of the rearmament programs, while implementing others with serious schedule violations and at a much lower quality level, which is holding back the pace of increasing the power of the Russian military machine. This is not surprising, because it is one thing to obtain the necessary technologies legally and promptly, and quite another to lose such an opportunity and try to acquire them illegally or semi-

legally through third countries losing much more money and time, or even replacing the relevant technologies and equipment with outdated foreign analogues or even lower-quality products of its own production. By the way, in this context Moscow is also suffering from Ukrainian sanctions, especially the military-space and aviation industries and some other sectors of the military-industrial complex. One can trace the increased accident rate in relevant Russian projects in which Ukraine's participation has been suspended, such as the launch of military missiles or carrier rockets to put artificial satellites into low-Earth orbit. It is prohibited to provide architectural and engineering services to Russia, as well as IT consulting services and legal advice.

Energy sector: In the energy sector almost all the largest companies have also been sanctioned – Rosneft, Lukoil, Transneft, Surgutneftegas, Gazpromneft, and the gas company Novatek. A ban has been imposed on investments in Russia's energy and transport sectors, as well as on oil and gas production on its territory. European companies are prohibited not only from supplying equipment, but also from providing financial services to Russian enterprises in the above-mentioned sectors. In particular, it is prohibited to supply equipment for deep oil and gas extraction, development of the Arctic shelf, drilling platforms, equipment for horizontal drilling, underwater and marine equipment for work in the Arctic, etc. Russian companies that built the illegal Kerch Bridge were subject to sanctions; investments in Crimea and Sevastopol were completely prohibited. The supply of goods, equipment and technologies for oil refining is also prohibited. A ban on the import of Russian coal has been implemented. A ban is foreseen on the purchase, import or transfer of crude oil and certain petroleum products from Russia. A ban has been implemented targeting new investments in the Russian energy sector, additionally prohibiting new investments in the Russian mining sector, except for mining and quarrying activities related to certain critical raw materials. The EU is also introducing additional measures to prevent the circumvention of sanctions and to ensure compliance with the oil prices. The EU has banned transshipment services for Russian liquefied natural gas on EU territory for transportation to other countries. In addition, the EU has banned new investments, as well as the provision of goods, technology and services for the completion of liquefied natural gas projects under construction, such as Arctic LNG 2 and Murmansk LNG. Restrictions have been imposed on the import of Russian gas through EU terminals not connected to the natural gas system, as well as a ban on the temporary storage of Russian crude oil and petroleum products on EU territory. In May 2025 the European Union imposed sanctions covering, in particular, the “shadow fleet”. Almost 200 vessels, including oil tankers, were subject to restrictions.

Financial sector: Sanctions have been imposed against banks that finance the defense industry (VEB, Promsvyazbank and their 42 subsidiaries, including FC CSKA). The EU blacklist, which prohibits European institutions from providing them with investments, providing assistance in conducting transactions with securities or other financial market instruments, as well as concluding agreements, includes: Almaz-Antey, Kamaz, Novorossiysk Commercial Port, Rostec, RZ, Sevmash, Radkomflot and USK. Sanctions have been imposed against banks – Alfa-Bank, Odkritie, Rossiya. Regarding the specified banks, it is prohibited to carry out transactions including purchase and sale, as well as investment, operations with securities issued after April 12, 2022. A complete ban on transactions with the Russian Bank for Regional Development and the freezing of the assets of two more Russian banks (Moscow Credit Bank and Far Eastern Bank) are provided for. A derogation has been applied, allowing the release of cash balances stored in EU central securities depositories. A ban has been implemented on transactions with credit or financial institutions established outside Russia that use the Central Bank's “Financial Messaging System” and 13 more Russian regional banks have been disconnected from the SWIFT payment system. In July 2025 European Union ambassadors approved the 18th package of sanctions against Russia. It includes new energy, financial and trade measures. The restrictive measures include: a new dynamic oil price cap mechanism is being introduced which will set the price at

15% below the average market price for Russian crude oil. Specifically, this means that the price will be reduced from 60 to approximately 47.6 USD per barrel. A new ban on transactions related to Nord Stream 1 and 2 is being introduced, and 105 new vessels are being added to the shadow fleet (9). The EU has imposed a series of sanctions against the financial sector of the Russian economy which has led to the collapse of Russian industry (10, p. 197). These include: a ban on the purchase of securities issued by Russian banks; a ban on loans and advances to Russian banks; a freeze on Russian assets; a ban on the export of banknotes in the official currency of the EU; a ban on cooperation with companies operating in the Russian military-industrial complex; a ban on the provision of cryptocurrency services, rating services and trust services; a ban on large deposits in EU banks and a ban on Russian citizens holding positions in EU governing bodies. Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves have been frozen, and a number of Russian banks have been disconnected from the SWIFT system. In total, 70% of the Russian banking system is subject to sanctions (11).

Trade sector: The list of goods prohibited for trade that could contribute to Russia's military and technological strengthening or the development of its defense and security sector has been expanded. From now on, this list will include certain electronic components, additional chemicals, and goods that could be used for capital punishment, torture, or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The export of quantum computers, high-tech semiconductors, and transport components to the Russian Federation has been banned. Export restrictions are being expanded to include goods and technologies that could contribute to the technological advancement of Russia's defense and security sector. They include 80 types of chemicals that could be used to produce chemical weapons. The list of sanctioned goods has been expanded to include goods that "could contribute to Russia's military and technological advancement or the development of its defense and security sector." This should tighten export controls on dual-use goods and advanced technologies. Additionally, sanctions have been imposed on goods that could be used for the defense and security sector or could contribute to increasing the industrial potential of the Russian Federation:

- Drone engines – restricted exports to the Russian Federation and exports to any third countries where there are suspicions that they will be used in Russia;
- Chemical and biological equipment;
- Riot control equipment;
- Electronic components;
- Generators for toy drones;
- IT components, laptops and hard drives;
- Night vision and radio navigation devices, cameras and lenses.

Export restrictions are imposed on sensitive dual-use technologies and advanced technologies that contribute to Russia's military potential and technological advancement, and weapons systems (drones, missiles, helicopters and other vehicles), as well as certain rare earth elements and thermal imaging cameras.

Restrictions are also imposed on goods that could be used to support Russian military aggression, including:

- Transport vehicles: heavy trucks and spare parts for them, semi-trailers and special vehicles such as snowmobiles;
- Goods that can be used by the Russian military, in particular; electric generators, binoculars, radars, compasses
- Construction products such as bridges, tower-like structures for buildings, forklifts, cranes;
- Goods that are critical for the functioning and development of the Russian industrial potential: electronics, machine parts, pumps, metalworking equipment;
- Complete industrial plants;
- Goods used in the aviation industry.
- Restrictions were imposed on 96 enterprises associated with the Russian military-industrial complex, such as enterprises

associated with the Wagner PMC, and 7 Iranian enterprises that supply Shahed drones.

The European Union sanctions have also affected the Russian transport sector: EU airspace is closed to all aircraft registered in Russia, maintenance and repair services for these aircraft have been prohibited, loans for the transport sector have been prohibited, and the export and transfer of aircraft, their equipment and spare parts to Russia also have been prohibited. The export and transfer to Russia of aircraft, their equipment and parts have been prohibited. Restrictions have also been imposed on maritime navigation and radio communication technologies (12, p. 25-28). Permits for licensing the export of military goods and services to Russia have also been suspended. Russian and Belarusian companies operating in the EU are subject to a ban on road freight transport, except for food and agricultural products, essential goods and humanitarian aid. Russian-flagged vessels are not allowed to enter EU ports, except for vessels carrying food, medicine, energy and humanitarian aid. The EU also pays special attention to the military and defense sectors of the Russian economy and has imposed import and export sanctions. In 2014, an arms embargo was imposed against the Russian Federation and the EU, an embargo on the supply of arms and dual-use goods, including a ban on maintenance, repair, development, technology transfer, testing and assembly of military equipment (13). The sale, supply, transfer, and export to Russia of goods and technologies intended for use in the aviation or space industry, leasing of aircraft, helicopters, and other aircraft in the Russian Federation, supply of dual-use goods and technologies, and introduction of restrictions on the export of high-tech goods and technologies for their production are prohibited.

The impact of sanctions on the Russian economy and their consequences: The impact of sanctions on the Russian economy is determined by a set of restrictions that are established by international communities as a result of specific events or political decisions. Sanctions are applied with the aim of influencing the political decisions, behavior or responsibility of the target country. The main forms of sanctions include asset freezing, economic restrictions, a ban on the export and import of goods and services, as well as restrictions on financial cooperation (14).

Economic consequences of sanctions for Russia

- Reduced investment – sanctions lead to a decrease in investment activity, as prohibitions and restrictions make the market less attractive to foreign investors.
- Reduced access to financial markets which limits access to international financial resources leads to difficulties in the financial sector and makes operations on international capital markets difficult.
- Reduced foreign trade – sanctions can lead to restrictions in international trade in goods and services which affects Russia's exports and imports.
- Exchange rate and financial fluctuations which are provoked by sanctions and economic difficulties can cause fluctuations in the national currency exchange rate and financial stability.
- Increased inflation – obstacles to foreign trade and a decrease in economic activity can affect the level of inflation in the country.

Consequences for society

- A decline in the standard of living, i.e. Economic difficulties can lead to a decrease in the real income of the population and a deterioration in the quality of life.
- Restrictions in the economy can cause an increase in unemployment and a deterioration in the labor market.
- Difficult economic conditions can have a negative impact on education, healthcare and other social areas.
- Economic instability can cause socio-political tensions and dissatisfaction with the authorities.

According to the current main rule of international life, which emphasizes the “interdependence of benefits and losses”, today the success of the sanctions policy for the EU countries has become hostage to the negative prolongation of the “war response” within the EU itself. And this situation is not very acceptable for EU politicians under two circumstances. The first is that according to all expert assessments, the industry of the EU countries has been in a state of “stagnation” for the 4th year in a row (15). The second is that according to Eurostat, as of the end of July 2024, 4.1 million Ukrainians had received temporary protection in the EU, mainly in Germany and Poland. Almost half were women, a third were children, and less than a quarter were men. However, according to the UN, as of the end of September 2024, more than 6 million Ukrainians had temporary protection in European countries. Another almost 600 thousand Ukrainians received protection outside Europe (16). In accordance with these pressure factors, the financial and social situation in the EU countries has changed dramatically during the war years, and this makes it necessary to make adjustments to politics.

The tone of statements in European capitals and the socio-economic sharpness of this current pan-European trend are set by the economic locomotives of the EU. We are talking about Germany, France, Italy and other industrial countries. We are not talking about small EU countries. They have long forgotten about the term “growth” and are eager for money from Brussels for various social programs. We are talking about the fight against unemployment and poverty, support for emigrants from the Maghreb countries and refugees from Ukraine. It is clear that the consequences of growing social tension were taken advantage of by the political forces of the “right camp”, which have forced the ruling elites of Germany, Hungary, Poland and other EU countries to include a “sanctions regime”, but already regarding non-citizens in the host countries, in order to use the resource of emigrants and refugees for their national economies. But already in the regulatory and legal field of the countries of residence. From now on, a new rule works in the European political background regarding this group of people: “to be useful to society”. In practice, this means – active participation in public life through official work and payment of national insurance without receiving state benefits (17). So, “social begging” is planned to be put to an end.

Poland has become a pioneer of new rules for refugees (including from Ukraine) within the EU. Right-wing conservatives and the country’s new president, Karol Nawrocki, signed a law extending special protection programs for Ukrainian refugees. From now on, “foreign parents – not just Ukrainians – will be able to claim social benefits for their children only if they work in Poland and pay taxes there. In addition, foreigners who do not work in Poland will not be able to access a number of free medical services and other benefits”. According to Polish officials, the new decisions will “effectively put an end to tourism from Ukraine at the expense of Polish taxpayers”. In addition, starting in 2026, Ukrainians in Poland will no longer be provided with special support (18). This position of government officials in Poland is based on the current state of social sentiment in the country. According to a study by the Mieroszewski Center conducted in late 2024, 51 percent of respondents considered social assistance paid to Ukrainians to be excessive, only 5 percent considered it insufficient. A group of researchers from the University of Warsaw reported in February 2025 that 96 percent of respondents were in favor of reducing financial assistance to refugees (18). Similar refugee policies have been introduced in Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, and other EU countries (19).

CONCLUSION

The European Union’s sanctions against Russia demonstrate that the world community, albeit cautiously, is also accepting this instrument of international law. The sanctions mechanism allows the EU countries to remain united while maintaining good relations with the United States and other countries in the world community. This reduces the negative impact on the economies of EU member states and avoids the escalation of economic sanctions against countries

with which the EU states do not share common views on Russia’s actions.

In the current geopolitical context, the issue of the impact of sanctions on the economy is one of the key topics of discussion. Sanctions applied to Russia have become not only an instrument of political pressure, but also a factor that significantly determines the financial and economic landscape of the country. As international practice shows, the impact of sanctions has profound negative consequences for almost all spheres of life of the country that falls under this burden. This also applies to Russia, as evidenced by statistical data from Moscow. Reduced investment, limited access to financial resources, difficulties in foreign trade and other economic difficulties lead to a decrease in the standard of living, unemployment and a general deterioration in the economic condition of the country.

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