



EUROPEAN UNION
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Biennial Panel on Unilateral Coercive Measures

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EU Intervention

Mr President,

The European Union thanks the organizers for the preparation of today's panel discussion.

We take note of the research-based report of the HRC Advisory Committee¹. We also take note of the first report of the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures.

In spite of the fact that the EU has had numerous concerns about the Council's initiatives on unilateral coercive measures, we have taken part in the informal consultations of the draft resolutions. We also actively participated in the workshop held in April 2013, during which our position was clearly presented and is now reflected in the summary report².

The EU was deeply concerned by the Council recent resolution 27/21, therefore, we called for a vote and voted against it. The nature and content of this resolution dwells essentially on relations between States instead of on concrete human rights of individuals. The EU considers that the Human Rights Council is not the appropriate forum to address this issue.

¹ A/HRC/28/74.

² A/HRC/24/20.

Mr President,

The EU would like to reiterate that the introduction and implementation of restrictive measures must always be undertaken in accordance with international law. Such measures must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular due process and the right to an effective remedy. The measures imposed must always be proportionate to their objective.

The EU restrictive measures are not punitive; they target the policies and the means to conduct them and those identified as responsible for the policies or actions that have prompted the EU decision to impose sanctions. Such targeted measures should minimise adverse consequences for those not responsible for such policies and actions. Targeted sanctions should provide for appropriate exemptions to take account of the basic needs of targeted persons. This is in line with the EU's Guidelines on implementation and evaluation of restrictive measures in the framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Mr President,

The EU regrets that the Special Rapporteur characterizes in his report the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation as a case of "tension on Crimea". The suffering of the Crimean population and the Tatar minority whose rights are being violated today, as repeatedly reported by OHCHR, deserve fairer treatment from an instrument of this Council.

We invite the Special Rapporteur to analyse in his research the issue of root causes and to visit the countries object of sanctions in order to look at their human rights record and not only to the consequences of the sanctions that their human rights record has triggered; this would also help giving direction to the provision of advisory services.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the EU considers sanctions a legitimate part of its foreign policy carried out in accordance with international law, as well as with its human rights and humanitarian obligations. The sanctions applied by the EU always

include clearly defined safeguards in order to limit any unintended effects and to ensure that human rights obligations are respected.

I thank you.

