

September 25, 2026

**No Reward for the Kremlin:
Keep EU Sanctions on Those Who Enable Russia's War**

We, members of the United for Ukraine inter-parliamentary network, Chairs of the Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and EU Integration Committees of national parliaments, express our grave concern regarding the removal of Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman from the list of persons subject to EU restrictive measures adopted in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We recall that these individuals were designated under the EU restrictive-measures regime as key financial and material pillars of the Russian regime. For decades, they have directly benefited from the Kremlin system, contributed to the destabilisation of Ukraine, and supported the economic base underpinning Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The Council sets out the grounds for their designation in the Statement of Reasons first adopted in Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/336 of 28 February 2022. Mr Fridman was designated as a leading Russian financier with longstanding ties to the Kremlin who engaged in the Kremlin's efforts to lift sanctions imposed on Russia. Mr Usmanov was designated as he owns and controls assets in key sectors of the Russian economy, including Metalloinvest and MegaFon, which provide substantial revenue to the Russian state. On these grounds, the Council determined that both individuals had supported, materially or financially, and benefited from the Russian decision-makers responsible for the annexation of Crimea and subsequent full scale aggression against Ukraine.

The delisting raises serious concerns about the consistency, credibility and effectiveness of the EU's restrictive-measures policy. Any decision to remove a designated person from the list must rest on a rigorous, individualised assessment of three things, namely, the applicable listing criteria, the evidence underlying the designation, and any subsequent developments that may constitute legally relevant grounds for delisting. We are not aware of any such developments in these two cases. Neither individual has distanced himself from the Kremlin or condemned Russia's war against Ukraine.

We therefore call upon the Governments of the EU Member States and the relevant EU institutions to ensure that decisions on the designation or delisting of Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman are taken strictly on the basis of the applicable legal framework, the available evidence and the established review procedures. Such decisions must not be made as part of any political, diplomatic or bilateral exchange unrelated to the substantive legal criteria for designation.

Sanctions relief that is traded for concessions unrelated to Russia's conduct undermines the very logic of the regime.

Such a delisting would also set a dangerous precedent. It would signal to the thousands of other persons on the list, and to the third countries acting on their behalf, that designations can be undone not through any change in conduct, but through sustained lobbying or diplomatic pressure. This would invite further delisting demands, expose individual Member States to coercion, and erode the deterrent effect of the EU's restrictive measures as a whole.

We commend the Republic of Latvia for its principled stance throughout these negotiations and for its enacted decision to impose national restrictive measures on Mr Usmanov and Mr Fridman. We urge all Member States that share our concerns to follow Latvia's example without delay.

We further urge the Member States to maintain a coordinated and effective sanctions policy towards all persons whose conduct continues to fall within the applicable criteria. Any weakening of the regime must be assessed in light of its implications for the credibility of the Union's response to Russia's aggression and for the enforcement of existing measures.

The EU's restrictive-measures policy must remain legally robust, evidence-based, consistent and effectively enforceable for as long as the circumstances giving rise to those measures persist.

Respectfully,

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