

European Sanctions in Perspective: Theory and Policy after Russia's Full-Scale Invasion

**International Academic Conference
SGH Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), Warsaw
in cooperation with RUSI Centre for Finance and Security (CFS) and MINOS
24–25 September 2026
Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), Warsaw, Poland**

Sanctions have long been used as instruments of international diplomacy, yet their visibility and intensity have accelerated dramatically since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. By situating current restrictive measures within a longer trajectory of economic statecraft, we will explore how lessons from past inform today's strategies, how the unprecedented scope of recent sanctions reshapes European sanctions framework, and what their future role may be in international security and economic relations.

Exploring the above-mentioned issues during the conference will be done with particular focus on Central Europe. While historically the region played only a limited role in shaping global and European sanctions regimes, this has shifted dramatically as it has become both a driver of policy design and a laboratory for sanctions implementation.

Additionally, Britain's exposed role in assisting Ukraine, recent conclusion of the EU-UK agreement on defence and security cooperation and the forthcoming review of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement would justify discussion the state of play in Union's relations with Britain and the opportunities for enhancing their cooperation regarding both sanctions policy, and their implementation.

This conference brings together scholars and academics from across Europe to assess the evolution of sanctions, the lessons of history, and the implications of today's rapidly changing landscape, especially in the context of Central Europe.

Date & Venue: 24-25 September 2026, Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), Warsaw, Poland:
<https://www.sgh.waw.pl/en>

DAY 1: Thursday, 24 September 2026

Arrival of Participants

12:00 – 13:00 Registration & Welcome Lunch

13:00 – 13:15 Opening Remarks

- SGH Warsaw School of Economics
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
- MINOS Network
- RUSI Centre for Finance and Security

13:15 – 14:00 Keynote Lecture (Open to Students): *The Future of Poland's and EU's Sanctions Policy*

- **Keynote speech by His Excellency Mr. Radoslaw Sokowski, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs (TBC)**

14:00 – 14:15 Coffee Break

14:15 – 14:45 Featured Policy Presentation

- **Elzbieta Kaca** (Head of Sanction Project, PISM): *Shadow Fleet Networks and the Future of Sanctions Enforcement*

14:45 – 15:45 PANEL I: Judicialisation, Litigation, and EU Courts

The panel examines the growing judicialisation of sanctions governance within the EU legal order. The papers address judicial review, evidentiary standards, litigation strategies, and the evolving role of EU courts in shaping sanctions implementation and designation practice.

Chair: TBC

Presentations:

- **Jan Dunin-Wasowicz** (Partner and Co-Founder, Bennink Dunin-Wasowicz): *The Role of EU Courts in Shaping Compliance Standards*
- **Dr Francesca Finelli** (Visiting Researcher, Court of Justice of the European Union) & **Prof. Peter Van Elsuwege** (Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law, Ghent University; Coordinator, MINOS): *Judicial Limits to the Listing of "Secondary Targets": How the EU Courts Shape the Council's Designation Practice*
- **Dr hab. Marcin J. Menkes, prof. SGH** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics / BOEX) & **Dr Michael de Boeck** (Founder and Managing Partner, BOEX): *Frozen Sovereign Assets in EU Financial Infrastructure: Enforcement, Immunity, and the Limits of European Sanctions*

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:15 PANEL II: Legal Architecture and the Evolution of EU Sanctions Power

The panel explores the legal and conceptual evolution of sanctions as instruments of economic statecraft. Contributions address tensions between sanctions law and traditional trade law frameworks, the rise of extraterritorial enforcement practices, and the growing regulatory power of the European Union in the global economic order.

Chair: TBC

Presentations:

- **Dr Marcin Łukowski** (legal practitioner & researcher, EMEA Trade Compliance Manager): *The Intersection of Customs Law and EU Sanctions Law*
- **Mina Batirova** (Master's Graduate in European Public Law, preparing for the French Bar Exam): *Is the European Union Becoming a Secondary Sanctions Power?*

- **Frederik van Essen** (Independent Legal Adviser and International Trade Professional): *The Decline of Private Law and the Rise of Economic Sanctions: Reconstructing the Legal Foundations of Modern Economic Statecraft*
- **Nolwenn Floc'h** (Export Control and Sanctions Practitioner): *Competing Regulatory Powers? EU and US Sanctions Enforcement in a Fragmenting Economic Order*

17:15 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 18:45 PANEL III: Compliance, Enforcement, and Circumvention

This panel focuses on sanctions implementation and enforcement in practice. Topics include compliance infrastructures, anti-circumvention mechanisms, private-sector enforcement, insurance and financial intermediaries, and the operational challenges of sanctions governance.

Chair: TBC

Presentations:

- **Alexander Leonhardt** (Compliance Specialist, International Reinsurance): *The Insurance and Reinsurance Industry as Gatekeepers in EU Sanctions Enforcement*
- **Jan Lepeu** (Research Fellow, European University Institute) proposal in co-authorship with Kristin Fabbe, Julia Grauvogel & Hana Attia: *The Flawed Art of Interpreting Sanctions: Evidence from a Sanctions Professionals Survey Experiment*
- **Mariusz Nowaczek** (Deputy Sanctions Officer; DZ BANK AG): *The Evolution of Sanctions as an Independent Compliance Topic Since Russia's Attack on Ukraine*
- **Lucy Mellows** (PhD Researcher, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London; HMRC Senior Policy Advisor): *The Enforceability Gap in Diamond Sanctions*

20:00 Conference Dinner

DAY 2: Friday, 25 September 2026

09:00 – 10:15 PANEL IV: Central Europe and the Balkans as a Sanctions Laboratory

The panel examines sanctions implementation, adaptation, and geopolitical contestation in Central Europe and the Western Balkans. In particular attention will be devoted to the region's evolving role as a testing ground for sanctions policy and enforcement.

Chair: TBC

Presentations:

- **Dr Nikolas Sabján** (Assistant Professor, Department of International Law and International Relations, Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava) & **Dr Peter Matuška** (Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic; Comenius University Bratislava), *From Brussels to Bratislava: Legal and Political Aspects of EU Sanctions Implementation and Enforcement in Slovakia*
- **Dr Csaba Weiner** (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Economics, ELTE Centre for Economic and Regional Studies), in co-authorship with **Dr László Tőkés** (Corvinus University of

Budapest): *The Behaviour of Hungarian Exporters to Russia Across Two Sanctions Episodes: Evidence from Firm-Level Microdata*

- **Adna Softić** (M.A. International Relations and Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute): *Between Brussels, Washington, and Moscow: Sanctions and Political Leverage in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- **Weiyi Zhang** (Geneva Graduate Institute – IHEID): *Peace on Paper: Sanctions and Peace Processes in Yugoslavia, 1992–1995*

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 PANEL V: Effectiveness, Legitimacy, and Sanctions Narratives

The panel addresses sanctions legitimacy, effectiveness, public support, and political narratives. Contributions explore how sanctions are justified, communicated, and evaluated across historical and contemporary contexts.

Chair: TBC

Papers

- **Anastasiia Panicheva** (PhD Candidate, European Doctorate in Law & Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam): *Public Support for Secondary Sanctions: Evidence from a Vignette Experiment*
- **Franziska F.N. Schreiber** (Doctoral Researcher, PRIF – Peace Research Institute Frankfurt): *Old Wine in New Bottles? Shifting Narratives on EU Sanctions*
- **Prof. Asoc. Dr Emilio Çika** (Vice Dean, Faculty of Law and Humanities Studies, Mediterranean University of Albania): *Economic Sanctions as Instruments of Economic Diplomacy: Effectiveness, Legal Foundations and Geopolitical Implications in the Russia–Ukraine War*
- **Maciej Martyniuk** (PhD Student, SGH Warsaw School of Economics): *From Naval Blockades to Networked Sanctions: Comparing the Effectiveness of Historical Economic Warfare with Contemporary Sanctions on Russia*
- **Yifan Jia** (PhD Candidate, Law School, King's College London): *Effectiveness of Global Human Rights Sanctions*

12:00-12:45 Lunch Break

12:45 – 14:00 PANEL VI: Strategic Statecraft and Global Economic Governance

The panel examines sanctions within the broader transformation of global economic governance and strategic competition. Topics include sanctions adaptation, strategic autonomy, commodity governance, and future institutional models for EU sanctions governance.

Chair: TBC

Presentations:

- **Dr Ferdinand Arslanian** (Post-Doctoral Researcher, the American University of Beirut; Senior Researcher, the Arab Studies Institute): *Sanctioned Targets, Political Alliances, and Economic Cooperation: The Case of Syria and Iran (2011–2024)*

- **Dr Agnieszka Syliwoniuk-Wapowska** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics): *The blockade of Qatar (2017-2021) and the development of Qatar's relations with European Union member states*
- **Prof. Virginie Grzelczyk** (Professor of International Relations, Aston University) & **Yannick Maier** (Legal Advisor [Ass. Iur.], Compliance Specialist): *Crystal-Clear Sanctions, Opaque Diamonds: Regime Layering in Global Diamond Governance*
- **Bregje Galema** (Senior Policy Advisor, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs) & **Nathan Oostindjer** (Senior Policy Advisor, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs): *Empowering EU Sanctions in a Tense World*

14:00-14:30 Closing Roundtable: The Future of European Sanctions Research and Policy

14:30-15:00 Closing Remarks

- Tom Keatinge, Director, Centre for Finance and Security, RUSI

Conference Concludes - Departure of Participants