

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

International Academic Conference

SGH Warsaw School of Economics

in cooperation with RUSI Centre for Finance and Security (CFS) and MINOS

24–25 September 2026

SGH Warsaw School of Economics, 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 the past inform today's strategies, how the unprecedented scope of recent sanctions reshapes the 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.

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, Building S, 02-591 Warszawa, ul. Batorego 8:

<https://www.sgh.waw.pl/kgs/badania-prowadzone-przez-pracownikow-instytutu-miedzynarodowej-polityki-gospodarczej>

DAY 1: Thursday, 24 September 2026

Arrival of Participants

12:00-13:00 Registration & Welcome Lunch

13:00 - 13:30 Official Opening

- **Prof. Mariusz Próchniak** (Dean of the World Economy Collegium, SGH)
- **Prof. Ewelina Szczech-Pietkiewicz** (Director of the Institute of International Economic Policy, Collegium of World Economy. SGH Warsaw School of Economics & Deputy Dean of the SGH Doctoral School)
- **Tom Keatinge** (Director, Centre for Finance and Security, RUSI)
- **Prof. Peter Van Elsuwege** (Ghent University & MINOS Coordinator)

13:30 - 14:15 Opening Scene-Setting Lecture and Q&A

- **Tom Keatinge** (Director, Centre for Finance and Security, RUSI): *Beyond Economic Diplomacy: Rethinking Sanctions in an Age of Economic Warfare*

14:15 - 14:45 Featured Policy Presentation

- **Elżbieta Kaca** (Head of Sanctions Project, The Polish Institute of International Affairs): *Shadow Fleet Networks and the Future of Sanctions Enforcement*

14:45 - 15:00 Break

15:00 - 15:30

Inaugural Keynote Address and Q&A

Chair: Prof. Dorota Niedziółka (Vice-Rector for Development and Head of the Department of Economic Geography)

- **Ignacy Niemczycki** (Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland): *Sanctions as an instrument of Foreign Policy - Polish Perspective*

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break and Informal Discussions with the Minister

15:45 – 17:00 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: Dr Celia Challet (Assistant Professor, Université Catholique de Lille - ESPOL)

Presentations:

- **Jan Dunin-Wasowicz** (Partner and Co-Founder, Bennink Dunin-Wasowicz): *The Role of EU Courts in Shaping Compliance Standards*
- **Prof. Peter Van Elsuwege** (Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law, Ghent University; Coordinator, MINOS) & **Dr Francesca Finelli** (Assistant Professor, Luxembourg School of Business): *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*

17:00 -17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 18:30 PANEL II: 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: Prof. Peter Van Elsuwege (Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law, Ghent University; Coordinator, MINOS)

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), paper 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 III: 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: Dr Przemysław Biskup (Institute of International Economic Policy, SGH)

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 – 11:00 Featured Lecture

- **Dr Kinga Redłowska** (Dr Kinga Redłowska, Head of the Centre for Finance and Security at RUSI Europe): *Beyond Banks and Borders: Sanctions in a Fragmenting Global Financial System*

11:00 – 12:00 PANEL IV: 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: Dr Kinga Redłowska, Dr Kinga Redłowska, Head of the Centre for Finance and Security at RUSI Europe

Presentations:

- **Anastasiia Panicheva** (PhD Candidate, European Doctorate in Law & Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam): *Public Support for Secondary Sanctions: Evidence from a Vignette Experiment*
- **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*

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch Break

12:45 - 13:00 Book Presentation

- **Dr Francesca Finelli** (Assistant Professor at the Luxembourg School of Business): *Targeted Sanctions and Circumvention: Who's Next?* (Edward Elgar, 2026)

13:00 - 14:15 PANEL V: 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: Dr Celia Challet (Assistant Professor, Université Catholique de Lille - ESPOL)

Presentations:

- **Dr Marcin Łukowski** (Sanctions Advisor and Researcher): *The Intersection of Customs Law and EU Sanctions Law*
- **Mina Batirova** (Master's Graduate in European Public Law): *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*

14:15 – 14:30 Coffee Break

14:30 – 15:45 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: Dr Przemyslaw Biskup (Institute of International Economic Policy, SGH)

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 Sylwoniuk-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*
- **Nathan Oostindjer** (Senior Policy Advisor Sanctions): *Empowering EU Sanctions in a Tense World*

15:45 – 15:50 Closing Remarks

Departure of Participants