

EU ACTION TO STOP CRIME and the violation of restrictive measures

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Freezing assets controlled by oligarchs and other individuals linked to the Russian aggression on Ukraine is key to disrupt the Russian war machine. **Taking away criminal profits will ensure that crime does not pay.**

'Freeze and Seize' Task Force

The Commission set up the Task Force to coordinate the enforcement of the EU's restrictive measures.

Operation Oscar

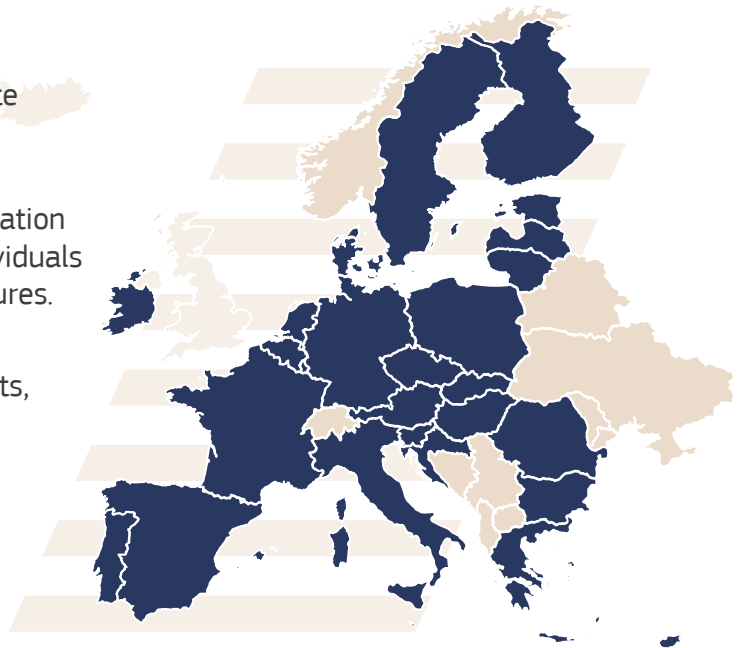
Eurojust, Member States, Eurojust and Frontex operation Oscar to investigate criminal assets owned by individuals and legal entities covered by EU's restrictive measures.

Asset recovery and confiscation

New rules proposed to recover and confiscate assets, including those linked to the violation of restrictive measures.

Assets frozen

So far, €9.89 billion of frozen assets and €196 billion of blocked transactions.



Tracing property linked to EU restrictive measures

1. Asset Recovery offices will be tasked with tracing and identifying property covered by EU restrictive measures
2. In case of violation of EU's restrictive measures, property could be frozen, subjected to management, and finally confiscated

ASSET RECOVERY PHASES



Trace

Investigators follow the trail of illicit gains to identify property of suspected criminal origin



Freeze

Suspected property is temporarily blocked to make sure that it does not disappear pending criminal investigation



Manage

Preserve and maintain the value of the property



Confiscate

Property is permanently taken away from a criminal following the end of judicial proceedings



Dispose

Actual recovery of criminal assets, after which the assets either revert to the state, or are used for victim compensation or social purposes

Stronger asset recovery: rules and tools

The current legislative framework does not address the reality of modern organised crime. National authorities have limited powers to trace and freeze criminal assets and frozen property loses value if not adequately managed. Confiscation tools do not capture all criminal assets, so that 99% of criminal profits remain in the hands of criminals.

Powers to trace and identify assets will be strengthened through: financial investigations, access to key databases, strengthening powers and competences of Asset Recovery Offices.

Urgent freezing powers will ensure that as soon as assets are identified they are safeguarded, avoiding their disappearance.

Tools will be strengthened by harmonising good practices in the Member States, establishing Asset Management Offices to manage frozen assets.

Confiscation rules will be strengthened through expanding the possibilities to confiscate assets to a wider set of crimes, and to allow for the confiscation of a wider set of property linked to criminal activities.

Strong safeguards will ensure full respect of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees for the suspected or accused person.

Recovered assets will contribute to more money being available for victim compensation. It could also be reverted back to the state, or being used for social purposes.

