International Sanctions. Case study

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Abstract: The international sanctions represent an important instrument which provides democracy, freedom and security to the international community, as well as to every individual. Used more frequently lately, the international sanctions have changed with a view to avoid, as much as possible, the collateral effects, and to have a more effective impact on the guilty states. In this respect, their intention is to isolate the guilty state by blocking the economic funds and resources, by commercial restrictions, restrictions related to operations with products and technologies of double use and military products, trip restrictions, restrictions of transport and communication, diplomatic sanctions or in the technical-scientific, cultural or sport fields. Recently, Russia has been imposed a range of sanctions, both by international organisations, and by states, individually, with a view to isolate and determine to no longer impair or threaten the territorial integrity, suzerainty and independence of Ukraine. Such sanctions have seriously affected the economy of Russia and we hope that they will convince Russia to put an end to the actions that have determined the enforcement of such sanctions.

Keywords: international sanctions; Russia; EU; USA.

Introduction

The situations when the international disputes cannot be solved by peaceful means are rather frequent. Under such circumstances, there is the possibility that the states and international organisations use international sanctions, which represent a special form of state liability for committing illicit deeds or acts against other state or the breach of norms of international law. Practically, these are an intermediary instrument, between negotiations and coercive action, important for the maintenance of international peace and security. These are adopted with a view to determine the state against which these are taken to put an end to the actions that have determined the enforcement of such sanctions. In other words, the international sanctions follow to re-establish international normative order, breached by the conduct of some states.

Considering the fact that states have the obligation to settle disputes among them by peaceful means, as well as the fact that force is forbidden [1], the international sanctions must observe certain conditions. Practically, the states cannot enforce sanctions, but in completely special cases:
- when the dispute cannot be settled peacefelly;
- it is forbidden the enforcement of sanctions using armed force;
- the sanctions using armed force may be enforced only by the Security Council, besides the case stipulated by Article 51 of UN Charter, of individual or collective self-defence against an armed attack, when states are entitled to use armed force, under the conditions stated in the prior article.

Thus, the objective is that international sanctions are proportional to the followed purpose, considering the basic needs of those sanctioned.

I. System of International Sanctions

The international sanctions may be defined as „restrictions and obligations related to the governments of some states, with non-state entities or natural or legal persons, adopted by the UN Security Council, by the European Union, by other international organisations or by unilateral decisions of states,
with a view to maintain peace and international security, prevention and combating terrorism, providing observance of fundamental rights and liberties, development and consolidation of democracy and state of law and achieving other goals, in conformity to the objectives of international community and international law [2].

Such sanctions have a unitary manner of being conceived, elaborated and enforced, which proves us the existence of a system of international sanctions. This system includes international sanctions of several kinds, divided in several categories, based on different criteria. Depending on their nature, the sanctions of international law are: sanctions without the use of armed force and sanctions with the use of armed force. The first category of sanctions is stipulated in Article 41 of the UN Charter and "may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations". Such sanctions without the use of armed force must be exceptionally used and only pursuant to exhausting the peaceful ways of settling disputes [3]. The second category is stipulated in Article 42 of the UN Charter, which allows the use of force "should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade and other operations by air, sea or land forces of Members of the United Nations".

1.1. International Sanctions without Using Armed Force

This category includes sanctions of retort and reprisals.

**Retort** consists in measures taken by a state with a view to force other state to put an end to its unfriendly acts contrary to international practices [4]. Consequently, the inimical acts to which one answers are not breaches of public international law, but only of international courtesy, as well as some legislative, court or administrative acts which impair the good relations between states or its citizens [5]. Retort may consist in inimical but not illicit acts, such as: reduction of imports by the state that committed unfriendly acts, increase of custom taxes, not acknowledging its deeds, not providing a financial aid, expulsion of nationals of such state, restriction of the access in ports of citizens and of the vessels of the state sanctioned, as well as resorting to different prohibitive measures related to international trade [6].

**Reprisals** are coercive acts adopted by a state, by derogation from the norms of international law, against another state, with a view to compel it to re-enter in legality and to repair the prejudice caused [7]. They may have a political, legal and economic nature and cannot have a military nature, since they may breach the disposals mentioned in Article 2, paragraph 4 of UN Charter, which stipulates that „All UN members will refrain, in their international relations, to use threat by force against territorial integrity or political independence of a state, in any other manner incompatible to the scopes of United Nations”.

Reprisals may be taken only if the following conditions are met:
- there is an international delict committed by a state against other;
- it was previously required the reparation of the damage, but without results;
- the reprisals are directed only towards the state that committed the illicit act;
- the reprisals are proportional to the acts against which they are directed;
- the reprisals to be used without the use of armed force or threat by force. Even during war, the reprisals by armed force are forbidden.

Among the typical measures of reprisals we state: expulsion of the citizens of the guilty state or seizing their goods, suspension of treaties, suspending the communications etc., and as special forms of reprisals we mention: embargo, boycott, peaceful maritime blockade and breaking diplomatic relations. Some of these measures may be taken individually by states, as well as collectively based on the decisions of the Security Council.

**Embargo** represents a particular form of reprisals and consists in the preventive action by which a state which breaches seriously the international law is forbidden the imports and exports, the entry and exit of commercial vessels from ports, airports or from its territorial sea, or even seizing its goods, until the suspension of illegal actions and reparation of damages [8].

This sanction may be applied as well to other goods of the state considered on fault or its citizens, being deemed a measure applied to property. We state that the embargo does not apply to the goods necessary for the surviving of population, humanitarian aids, as well as medicines.

**Boycott** is a particular form of reprisals and consists in actions of compelling a state that is seriously breaching the international law, mainly when endangers the international peace and security. Such actions
may consist in the breaking of commercial relations between states, and interruption of rail, maritime, post, telegraphic, radio communications or other similar means, to put an end to a breach of the norms of international law.

This sanction is generally applied by the UN Security Council or the UN General Assembly, by resolution, against the states that commit acts of threat of peace, of breach of it, or aggression. The states may, individually, use boycott only as means of reprisals.

The breaking of diplomatic relations is a particular form of reprisals which represents a unilateral act of state, by which it is decided the recall of its diplomatic mission and asks the other state to recall its diplomatic mission, the mutual representation of such states being performed further on by a third party, state or international organisation [10]. This sanction is stipulated as well by UN Charter, as a coercive measure against a state which threatens or breaches the peace committing acts of aggression.

I.2. International Sanctions involving the Use of Armed Force

The UN Charter admits two exceptions from the principle of forbidding the use of force: Article 51 acknowledges to member states “the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence”, and by Chapter VII it is awarded to the Security Council the prerogative to authorise, under certain conditions, the force for maintaining international peace and security. Thus, if the Security Council considers that the sanctions without the use of armed force are inadequate or proved to be inadequate, it may undertake, by air, sea or land forces, any action deemed necessary for maintaining international peace and security.

Among such sanctions we mention the force demonstrations, measures of blockade and other operations performed by air, sea or land forces of the UN Members.

The force demonstrations represent force manifestations without acts of violence, meant to put pressure on a state. The force demonstrations are acts of threat against a state and consist in development of military strengths, movements of troupes, dislocation and staying in the area of terrestrial, air and/or naval military forces or other similar manifestations of one or several states in order to impose a certain conduct deemed legal or to remove measures previously taken by which the interests of other state have been impaired.

This sanction may be taken legally only by the Security Council, according to Article 42 and under the conditions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter [11].

Blockade is a sanction meant to put pressure on a state forbidding it, by force if needed, any communication and any economic exchange with exterior, blocking all air or maritime means, which leave or have as destination one of the ports or its banks. This sanction may be applied, legally, only by the Security Council, in compliance with Article 42 and under the conditions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The Security Council may turn to the institution of a collective blockade, using naval forces of member states, in the actions meant to provide maintenance or restoration of peace [12].

II. International Sanctions applied to Russia related to the events from Crimea and the East of Ukraine

The international sanctions related to the events from Crimea and the East of Ukraine consist in restrictive political and economic measures applied to Russia and a range of individuals and Russian and Ukrainian organisations which, in the opinion of international organisations and some states, were involved in destabilisation of the situation from Ukraine. The initiator of enforcing sanctions for international isolation of Russia was the US Government, joined by the EU, G7, other international organisations and, individually, other few states.

Such sanctions have been applied since March 2014, when, despite the warnings, Russia acknowledged the results of referendum from Crimea and sustained the unilateral declaration of independence of Crimea Republic [13], accepting the adhesion of Crimea as part of Russia.

Subsequently, the sanctions applied to Russia were extended and roughened due to the worsening of situation in the East of Ukraine. Those who applied such sanctions accused Russia of actions meant to impair the territorial integrity, and suzerainty of Ukraine.

The following round of sanctions was associated to the accident Boeing 777 in the region of Doneţk dated 17 July 2014, caused, in the opinion of leaders to a number of states, by insurgents supported by Russia.
II.1. Sanctions applied to Russia by the International Organisations

*Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):*
- on the date of 12 March 2014, by decision of OECD Council it was suspended the process of admission of Russia as member state in the organisation and it was announced the consolidation of cooperation with Ukraine.

*North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):*
- on 6 March 2014, it suspended the military and civil meetings with Russia, refusing as well the planning of common military missions;
- on 17 March, it suspended the practical cooperation with Russia and excluded it from the process of liquidation of Syrian chemical weapons;
- on 1 April, it suspended all forms of cooperation with Russia, excepting the discussions on the level of ambassador and those of higher degree;
- on 5 April, the Parliamentarian Meeting of NATO ceased the collaboration with the Federal Meeting of Russia;
- on 7 April, it closed the access to its seat to all members of Russian mission attached to NATO, except for the ambassador, its deputy and two assistants;
- on 30 May, it withdrew the capacity of associate member of Russian parliament in the Parliamentary Meeting of NATO;
- on 7 August, the general secretary of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, during his visit to Kiev, declared that NATO ceased any kind of collaboration with the Russian Federation.

*European Union (EU):*
- on 17 March 2014, by decision of European Council, the EU introduced sanctions against 21 Russian and Crimean politicians and officials, mainly: restriction to entry or pass through the territory of European Union, as well as freezing „all funds and economic resources which belong, are held and controlled by such individuals”;
- on 20 March, it annulled the EU-Russia summit, scheduled for July the same year;
- on 21 March „due to worsening the situation” it included on the list of sanctions other 12 state officials and military leaders from Russia and Crimea, as well as the general manager of the international press agency „Russia Today” – Dmitri Kiselev;
- on 25 March, all its embassies from Russia were forbidden to award any kind of visa to the citizens from Crimea;
- on 17 April, the European Parliament adopted a consultative resolution, by which it was asked to waive the construction of gas conduct „SouthStream”; 
- on 28 April, it decided to extend the list of sanctions by another 15 individuals;
- on 12 May, it continued to extend the list of sanctions by another 13 individuals and applied sanctions against the companies „Chernomorneftegaz” and „Feodosia”. Also, it announced sanctions against companies from Crimea seized to Ukraine and invited all UN member states to adopt economic, commercial and financial measures against Russia, pursuant to the actions from Crimea and Sevastopol;
- on 14 May, it refused to participate to the conference „Dialogue on Russia–EU Energy: issues related to gas” organised in Brussels;
- on 11 July, it extended the list of sanctions by another 11 individuals;
- on 18 July, the European Investment Bank (EIB), on recommendation of European Council, stopped the financing of new projects in Russia;
- on 26 July, it extended the list of sanctions by another 15 individuals and 18 organisations. Nine of these organisations („Luhans People Republic”, „Donetck People Republic”, „Federal State Novorussia”, „International Union of Public Organisation „Big Army on Don”, radical paramilitary organisation „Sobol”, „Luhans Squad”, „South-East Army”, „People army of volunteers from Donbass”, „Vostok” regiment) were accused of acts impairing the suzerainty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine. The other nine were companies from Crimea, that changed property pursuant to the unilateral declaration of independence of Crimea;
- on 30 July it imposed sanctions against other 8 individuals, as well as against the “Commercial National Bank of Russia”, „Almaz-Antey” Concern and air company „Dobrolet”. It imposed as well commercial and investment sanctions against Crimea and Sevastopol. Thus, interdictions were applied related to the investments in infrastructure, transportation, telecommunication and energy, as well as oil, gases and other mineral sources. It was restricted the supply of equipment for such sectors, as well as the
supply of financial and insurance services. It was forbidden the procurement of more than 250 SKUs (stock-
keeping-unit), including useful minerals and hydrocarbons, and the European financial institutions were
forbidden to provide loans or to procure parts of projects affected by sectorial sanctions;
- on 31 July it imposed sanctions against several banks, such as: „Sberbank”, „VTB Bank”, „Gazprombank”, „Vnesheconombank (VEB)” and „Russian Agricultural Bank”. Also, it introduced an
embargo related to the import and export of weapons and other similar in Russia, as well as an interdiction on
the export of double use products and technologies, sanction that did not impair the export of double use
products and technologies, including for aeronautic sector and space industry, meant for non-military uses or
non-military final users. It imposed the exporters to acquire a prior authorization from the competent
authorities of member states related to the export of certain kinds of energetic equipments (of power) and
technology in Russia and applied an interdiction on transfer of high-tech equipments in Russia for exploitation
of oil and schist gases;
- on 12 September, it introduced a new range of sanctions: it interdicted the refinancing of the debt of
three energetic companies from Russia – „Rosneft”, „Transneft”, „Gazprom Neft”; it tightened up the
restrictions related to credit duties and investments for „Sberbank”, „VTB Bank”, „Gazprombank”, „Vnesheconombank (VEB)” and „Russian Agricultural Bank”, forbidding the granting of loans to such
banks for a period longer than 30 days, as well as the procurement and sale of new bonds, shares and similar
financial tools with a due date longer than 30 days. It restricted the financing of the debts of the two big
defence concerns – „Uralvagonzavod”, „Oboronprom”, „United Aircraft Corporation”. It included in the list
of sanctions 9 Russian defence concerns – „Sirius” Concern, „Stankoinstrument”, „Himkompozit”, „Kalaşnikov” Concern, weapon factory from Tula, „Rostec”, „Complexe de précision” Holding, „Almaz-
Antey” Concern and „Basalt” Holding, as well as other 24 individuals;
- on 29 November, it entered on the list of sanctions another 30 individuals as well as organisations:
„Doneck Republic”, „World of Luhansk”, „Free Donbass”, „People Union” and „Economic Union
Luhanski”; 
- on 4 December it cleared up the drafting of the sanctions related to the oil production, against
Russia. According to such clarifications, the restrictions enumerated are applied not only related to the
equipment on the Russian territory, as well as for its exclusive economic area as well as the continental
platform;
- on 20 December, the EU restricted the investments in Crimea and Sevastopol: the European
companies and those with the seat in the European Union were forbidden to procure real estate goods and
enterprises in Crimea, financial companies from Crimea, supply of touristic services in Crimea (except for
the entry of touristic vessels in the ports from Crimea in emergency situations).
Also, it imposed an interdiction related to supply in Crimea of around 200 SKUs, mainly related to
energy, transport, telecommunication, as well as the exploration and production of gas, oil and mineral
resources, as well as precious metals – gold, silver and platinum, and semi-finished products obtained from
them.
In addition, it restricted the awarding of technical support and construction and engineering services
related to infrastructure of Crimea.

Council of Europe:
- on 25 May, it suspended all activities planned in Russia;
- on 10 April, it withdrew to Russian delegation the voting right and forbade the members of Russian
delegation to occupy managing positions in the Parliamentary Meeting of the Council of Europe; in addition,
it suspended to the Russian representatives the right to participate to the missions of observance of the
Parliamentary Meeting of the Council of Europe, until the end of the year 2014.

European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL):
- on 2 April, it restricted the air transport in Crimea;
- on 4 April, it restricted the flight in the air space of Crimea.

Group of eight (G8):
- on 18 March, it cancelled the G8 summit to be organised in July at Soci;
- on 25 March, it suspended the participation of Russia to G8.

Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering:
- on 6 May, refused to organise the plenary reunion scheduled in Moscow, despite the fact that
Russia, during the first half of the year 2014, held the Presidency of the organization;
- on 8 May, decided not to organise a common plenary session of Eurasia Group for Combating
Money Laundering and financing terrorism.
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development:
- froze the process of taking decisions related to new projects in Russia.

North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD):
- on 12 September it cancelled the common military exercises with Russia „Vigilant Eagle”, to be organised in the off-shore of Alaska.

II.2. Individual Sanctions of States applied to Russia

Australia:
- on 4 March 2014 it cancelled a range of governmental visits in Russia;
- on 19 March, it froze the assets and restricted the access on its territory of 8 Russian citizens and 4 Ukrainian citizens, „playing an important role in the threat of Russia related to suzerainty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”;
- on 21 May it extended the list of sanctions up to 38 individuals from Russia and Ukraine, as well as 11 companies;
- on 1 September, it restricted the delivery in Russia of weapons, materials and equipments for oil and gas sector, access of state banks from Russia on Australian capital market, investments in Crimea or trade in Crimea;
- on 2 September it extended the list of sanctions up to 63 natural persons and 21 companies and organisations.

Great Britain:
- on 13 March 2014 it suspended the military collaboration with Russia, stopped the supply of military equipments in Russia and cancelled the common military exercises planned;
- on 15 May refused to participate to the 14 ministerial reunion of the International Forum of Energy from Moscow;
- on 13 July, it excluded Russia from the list of the countries authorised to procure British aviation products and refused to issue visa for the members of Russia delegation, that should have represented Russia at the aviation saloon „Farnborough”;
- on 21 July, it suspended all licenses related to the delivery of weapons, parts of weapons and double use products in Russia and cancelled all visits on high level, the visits of military specialists and commanders, the visits of investment and economic delegations and froze any military collaboration with Russia;
- on 28 July, it refused to support the cultural project „Year of Russian Culture”, from the events being withdrawn all British ministers and officials.

Germany:
- on 19 March 2014 it suspended the execution of military contract with Russia in quantum of 120 million euros;
- on 21 March, it suspended the export in Russia of products in the field of defence;
- on 19 April, it refused to participate to Russian-German annual intergovernmental consultations in the „Petersburg Dialogue”;
- on 24 April, it stopped the export of military products in Russia;
- on 28 May, it refused the corvette of Baltic Fleet of Russian Federation „Boikiy” to participate to the traditional maritime festival „Kiel Week”;
- on 4 August, it withdrew to the company „Rheinmetall” the authorisation to build a centre of military training for Russian soldiers in the locality Mulino.

Israel:
- on 6 August 2014 it restricted the supply of military technology and drone in Russia.

Island:
- on 11 April 2014 it joined the EU sanctions dated 17 and 21 March;
- on 26 May, it joined the EU sanctions dated 28 April and 12 May;
- on 15 October, it joined the EU sanctions entered on 12, 26, 30 and 31 July as well as the sanctions entered on 12 September.

Canada:
- on 5 March 2014 it stopped the military collaboration in Russia;
- on 7 March it expelled from its territory all Russian militaries;
on 17 March it restricted the entry in the country and froze the assets of 7 Russian officials and 3 officials from Crimea;
- on 22 March, it imposed sanctions against „Rossiya Bank” and added on its list of sanctions other 14 Russian officials;
- on 8 April it expelled from the country the deputy of military attaché of Russian Embassy;
- on 13 April it imposed sanctions against the president of Electoral Commission of Sevastopol – Valery Medvedev, president of electoral commission from Crimea – Mihail Malyshev and against the company „Chernomorneftegaz”;
- on 16 April, as state holding the presidency of Arctic Council, it refused to participate to the work sessions, in Moscow;
- on 26 April, it refused to launch the micro satellite „M3Msat” for which it was necessary the use of a Russian rocket from Baikonur cosmodrome;
- on 28 April it imposed additional economic sanctions against 9 Russian officials, as well as „Expobank” and „ROSENERGOBANK” banks;
- on 4 May, it extended list of sanctions for 16 Russian banks and companies;
- on 13 April it imposed sanctions against other 6 Russian officials and 6 leaders of separatist groups in the east of Ukraine;
- on 15 May, the Canadian province Alberta refused to participate to the World Congress of Oil of Moscow;
- on 21 May, it extended the list of sanctions by other 11 Russian and Ukrainian citizens;
- on 14 June it extended the list of sanctions by 14 members of separatist movements in the southeast of Ukraine;
- on 25 July it extended the list of sanctions by 190 Russian companies, among which „Gazprombank”, „Vnesheconombank”, „Novatek”, Concernul „Kalashnikov” and „Almaz-Antey”, refusing to support the projects of World Bank of Russia;
- on 6 August it extended the list of sanctions, to become closed to the lists of sanctions of United States and EU, by another 19 citizens from Russia and Ukraine, as well as 22 organisation and companies, including: „VTB Bank”, „Bank of Moscow”, „Russian Agricultural Bank”, companies holding commercial port installation in Kerch and Sevastopol, manufacturers of wine from Crimea „New World” and „Massandra”, „Federal State Novorossia” and other armed groups operating in the east of Ukraine;
- on 16 September it entered sanctions against other organisations and concerns, as well as Russian military heading: deputy ministers of defence of Russian Federation – Dmitri Bulgakov and Yuri Sadovenko, first deputy head of General Major State of Armed Forces of Russian Federation – Nikolai Bogdanov, commander of Terrestrial Forces of Armed Forces of Russian Federation – Oleg Salyukov;
- on 19 December it entered on the list of sanctions other 20 Russian and Ukrainian citizens and announced, as well, the entering of new restrictions related to the export of technology used in Russia for exploration of oil and mine industry, as well as new sanctions in the financial field.

Latvia:
- on 20 March 2014 it suspended the military collaboration with Russia;
- on 8 April it suspended the broadcasting of TV channel „Rossiya”;
- on 11 July it restricted the entry on its territory of 16 Russian citizens;
- on 21 July, it restricted the entry on its territory of several actors and singers who „by their action, they contribute to impairing the territorial integrity and suzerainty of Ukraine”.

Moldova:
- on 21 March 2014 it joined the EU sanctions applied to Russia on 17 March;
- on 4 July it suspended the broadcasting on its territory of the television channel „Rossia-24” and sanctioned the television channels „RTR-Moldova” and „RenTV-Moldova”;
- on 7 October it sanctioned the television channels „Prime”, „RTR-Moldova”, „RenTV-Moldova” and „TV7” and restricted the advertising on the television channel „RenTV-Moldova” for a period of 72 hours.

Netherlands:
- on 11 April 2014 it suspended the military collaboration with Russia.

Norway:
- on 18 March 2014 it suspended the participation to negotiation of an area of free exchange between European Association of Free Exchange and Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan;
- on 25 March, it suspended the military collaboration with Russia until the end of May 2014;
- on 11 April it joined the EU sanctions entered on 17 and 21 March;
- on 26 May it joined the EU sanctions entered on 28 April and 12 May;
- on 28 May it suspended the collaboration with Russia in the military field until the end of the year 2014;
- on 11 August it joined the EU sanctions entered on 12, 26, 30 and 31 July;
- on 10 October it joined the EU sanctions entered on 12 September;
- on 21 November it announced the suspension of all political contacts with Russia, as well as the withdrawal of military experts working in Russia related to the measures of consolidation of trust and cancelled the common exercises planned;
- on 12 December it suspended the collaboration with Russia in the military field up to the end of 2015.

New Zealand:
- on 3 March 2014 it suspended the negotiations with the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan in order to determine an area of free exchange;
- on 23 March it introduced sanctions against those „deemed responsible for annexation of Crimea to Russia”, forbidding their access on its territory.

Poland:
- on 26 March 2014 it cancelled the „Forum of regions” with Russia;
- on 3 April „Poczta Polska” it stopped the delivery of letters and packs for the population of Crimea;
- on 24 July it cancelled all activities of the „Polish Year in Russia”, planned for 2015.

USA:
- on 4 March 2014 they froze all investments and military collaboration with Russia; also, the bilateral negotiations and planning of conferences were cancelled;
- on 17 March, the American president Barack Obama announced the signing of executive order, entering sanctions against several Russian officials in the form of freezing bank accounts, seizure of goods and refusal to issue visa. These officials are: Elena B. Mizzulina – president of the Committee of State Duma for family, women and children; L. E. Slutsky – president of the Committee of State Duma for the Community of Independent States; A. A. Klishas – president of the Council of Federation for Constitutional Ruling; V. Matvienko – president of the Council of Russian Federation; D. O. Rogozin – viceprime-minister of Russian Federation; V. Y. Surkov – assistant of the president of Russian Federation; S.Y. Glazyev – advisor of Russian president;
- on 20 March, USA extended the list of officials of high rank in Russia sanctioned, imposing sanctions against several Russian officials in the form of freezing bank accounts, seizure of goods and refusal to issue visa. These officials are: Elena B. Mizzulina – president of the Committee of State Duma for family, women and children; L. E. Slutsky – president of the Committee of State Duma for the Community of Independent States; A. A. Klishas – president of the Council of Federation for Constitutional Ruling; V. Matvienko – president of the Council of Russian Federation; D. O. Rogozin – viceprime-minister of Russian Federation; V. Y. Surkov – assistant of the president of Russian Federation; S.Y. Glazyev – advisor of Russian president;
- on 27 March, they suspended the collaboration with Russia in the fight against drugs and suspended the licenses of American companies for the export in Russia of „potentially dangerous products”;
- on 28 March, they stopped to issue licenses for the export to Russia of goods and services for defence;
- on 30 March it was stopped the operation of Russian-American presidential Commission;
- on 2 April they suspended a range of projects with Russia within the bilateral presidential commission, as well as some projects of cooperation between the agencies of enforcement of law, and the financing of such projects was redirected towards Ukraine;
- on 3 April the consultations with Russia related to anti-rocket defence were suspended as well as the cooperation in the space sector, except for the project of „ International Space Station” and a range of projects in the field of peaceful nuclear energy;
- on 7 April they ceased the collaboration with Russia in the program „Nunn-Lugar” and they restricted the access of Russian citizens to the objectives of the Ministry of Energy, including „Brookhaven National Laboratory” and „Fermilab”;
- on 11 April, they imposed sanctions against 7 representatives of high rank from Crimea and the company „Chernomorneftegaz”;
- on 28 April they applied sanctions against 7 governmental officials of Russian Federation and 17 Russian companies. Also, it was forbidden the sale to Russia of high-tech technology, which may increase the fight capacity of Russian army and cancelled the licenses previously issued for the supply thereof;
- in May, the law project ”on prevention of Russian aggression” entered the US Senate, which proposed in addition to assigning annual funds the supply of American weapons to Ukraine, as well as the
imposing of sanctions for „Sberbank”, „VTB Bank”, „Vnesheconombank”, „Gazprombank”, „Gazprom”, „Novatek”, „Rosneft” and „Rosoboronexport”;
- on 7 May, they excluded Russia from the trading program, that allowed the countries with economies in transition exemptions of customs fee related to the import in United States of America, for certain kinds of goods;
- on 18 June, they toughened the export for five companies from Russia;
- on 21 June, they imposed sanctions against 7 separatist leaders and Russian officials;
- on 16 July, they presented the first sanctions on key sectors of Russian economy. The following were sanctioned: „Rosneft”, the gas company „Novatek”, the state banks „Vnesheconombank” and „Gazprombank”, as well as the military industrial enterprises: the concern „Almaz-Antey”, „Izhmash”, the concern „Kalashnikov” „Bazalt”, „Uralvagonzavod”. Also, sanctions were applied to several Russian politicians and militaries, as well as representatives of anti-governmental forces from Ukraine;
- on 25 July they refused to support the projects of World Bank of Russia;
- on 29 July, they imposed sanctions against the banks: „Bank of Moscow”, „VTB Bank” and „Russian Agricultural Bank”, and the American citizens and American companies were forbidden to buy debt titles of such banks or affiliated entities. Also, sanctions were entered against „United Shipbuilding Corporation of Russian Federation”;
- on 6 August they restricted the delivery of equipment to Russia for underground mining (over 152 metres), the exploration of arctic platform and of the reserves of oil and schist gas, supply of basic non-traditional technologies of production of energy: drilling platforms, horizontal drilling components, submarine devices, marine equipments able to operate under arctic conditions, software for hydraulic fracturing, subaquatic vehicles remote operated, high pressure pumps and they entered obligatory verification of final destination of non-traditional basic technologies of energy production, with the possibility to refuse the issue of licenses;
- on 12 September they imposed new sanctions against the corporation : „Gazprom”, „Lukoil”, „Transneft”, „Gazprom Neft”, „Surgutneftegaz”, „Novatek”, „Rosneft”. Such sanctions impaired more than 90% of Russian oil sector and almost the entire gas production in Russia. The corporations „Gazprom Neft” and „Transneft”, were also forbidden to borrow and enter value titles on the American market for more than 90 days. They imposed new sanctions against the banks: „Sberbank”, „Bank of Moscow”, „Gazprombank”, „Russian Agricultural Bank”, „Vnesheconombank”, „VTB Bank”. The American citizens and American companies were forbidden to buy bonds of the banks enumerated above with due dates longer than 30 days, and to provide loans to them. They imposed new sanctions as well to industrial-military enterprises, such as: „Rostec”, „Almaz-Antey”;
- on 19 December, they imposed new sanctions against 17 individuals from Russia and Crimea, as well as separate sanctions to Crimea.

Ukraine:
- on 11 March 2014 it suspended, on its territory, the broadcasting of Russian television channels: „News”, „Russia 24”, „First Channel. Network World”, „RTR Planet” and „NTV Mir”;
- on 29 March, it froze the delivery of military weapons and equipments in Russia;
- on 7 April it reduced the term of legal seating on its territory of Russian citizens up to 90 days;
- on 11 April it joined the EU sanctions entered on 17 and 21 March and restricted the access on its territory of more than 100 Russian officials, that supported the annexation of Crimea to Russia;
- on 17 April it consolidated significantly the border control for those coming from Russia and Crimea. Thus, it was restricted the entry for the citizens of Russian Federation, men aged between 16-60 years, travelling alone, except for trips to relatives, funeral, based on an original invitation or an authorisation issued by the State Border Service; it was restricted the entry of male Ukrainian citizens aged between 16-60 years, with the residence permit from Crimea, travelling alone, except for trips to relatives, hospitalisation, funeral, holding a ticket for the planes leaving Ukraine or trip tickets for other states; verification of women aged between 20-35 years registered in Crimea. Such restrictions of circulation are not applied to Russians and Ukrainians from Crimea coming with their families, with children.

Also, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine stopped the cooperation with the Constitutional Court of Russian Federation;
- on 13 May it blocked the water flow on Crimea peninsula, by North Channel of Crimea;
- on 16 May, it terminated all contracts with electric stations based on renewable energy sources from Crimea peninsula;
- on 16 June it suspended the cooperation with Russia in the military field;

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- on 4 July it closed officially the ports from Crimea;
- on 28 July it compelled the Commission of experts for the distribution and projections of movies to check all movies made in Russian Federation, if they observe the Ukrainian legislation. Therefore, few movies were rejected, among which the Russian movie „White Squad”;
- on 14 August it entered for the air companies „Transaero” and „Aeroflot” a special regime of execution of transit flights by its air space. The planes of such companies may cross the air space of Ukraine only if they obtained the approval of the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine, separated for every flight;
- on 20 August it restricted the broadcasting of Russian TV: „First Channel. Network World”, „RTR-Planet”, „Russia-24”, „NTV Mir ”, „TV Centre”, „Russia-1”, „NTV ”, „TNT”, „Petersburg 5”, „Star”, „REN TV”, „Life News”, „Russia Today”; „RBC-TV”;
- on 26 August it refused to collaborate with Russia in the construction of the third and fourth unit from the nuclear station Khmelnitsky;
- on 4 September it restricted the broadcasting of „History” TV channel;
- on 11 September it restricted the access on its territory of 35 employees of mass-media from Russia for periods of 3 - 5 years;
- on 16 September and 30 September it restricted the broadcasting of television, as well as the sale of several Russian companies;
- on 15 October it joined the EU sanctions entered on 28 April, 12 May, 12, 26, 30 and 31 July, as well as those introduced on 12 September. In addition, it waived the Russian television channel „365 days TV” and the television channel from Belarus – „Belarus 24”;
- on 28 October it restricted the entry on its territory of 14 Russian cultural personalities;
- on 6 November it restricted the credit and deposit operations in Russian roubles on its continental territory and crossing the border with Crimea with cash in Russian roubles in equivalent amount exceeding 10 thousands grivne and forbade the residents to invest in Crimea;
- on 17 December, it imposed sanctions for Russian air companies with an overall value of around 300 million grivne, for enforcement of flights in Crimea.

France:
- on 22 March 2014 suspended, to the greatest extent, the military collaboration with Russia, including the exchange of visits and common exercises;
- on 3 September it suspended the delivery to Russia of the first port helicopter from the class „Mistral”, our of the two previously ordered – vessel „Vladivostok”.

Switzerland:
- on 19 March 2014 it stopped the process of creating an area of free exchange with the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan:
- on 26 March it took notice of the sanctions applied to Russia by EU and the United States of America and decided to take all measures necessary for the Swiss territory is not used for those to whom such sanctions are enforced withdraw from it. It confirmed as well the fact that the restrictions imposed to Russia on the circulation of EU territory are applied on its territory as well, in conformity to Schengen Agreement;
- on 27 March, it froze the military collaboration with Russia;
- on 2 April it imposed restrictions on financial transactions for 33 officials from Russia, for whom the European Union previously applied sanctions;
- on 3 May it extended its list of sanctions for another 15 individuals, out of which 10 citizens of Russia and 5 representatives from south-east Ukraine. Such individuals were applied restrictions to financial transactions, as well as the forbidding of access on its territory;
- on 19 May it extended the list of sanctions with 13 individuals, including 7 citizens of Russia and 6 citizens of Ukraine;
- on 5 August it extended the list of sanctions with 26 individuals and 10 organisations and companies;
- on 12 August it refused to participate to aviation show „AIR14 Payerne” of Russian representatives;
- on 13 August it took notice of the new sectorial sanctions applied by EU and decided to complete the sanctions already in force, so the Swiss territory to be used to avoid sanctions. It extended as well the list of military products the supply of which to Russia is forbidden;
- on 27 August it included on the list of sanctions other 11 individuals, and Russian banks: „Sberbank”, „VTB Bank”, „Gazprombank”, „Vnesheconombank” and „Russian Agricultural Bank”. It has
imposed an interdiction on import and export of certain key goods, used in the oil and gas production, an interdiction on the import of military materials from Russia and export of equipments for oil industry, as well as restrictions on investments in Crimea and Sevastopol;
- on 12 November it adopted additional measures in order to prevent the elusion of international sanctions and added another 24 natural and legal persons on the list of sanctions, and the financial intermediaries were forbidden to sign new agreements with such individuals, whereas the already existent agreements must obligatorily be notified to Swiss authorities;
- on 16 December it extended the list of sanctions by another 13 individuals and 5 organisations: „Donetsk Republic”, „World of Luhansk”, „Donbass Free”, „Union of People” and „Economic Union of Luhansk”.

Sweden:
- on 9 April 2014 it stopped the military collaboration with Russia.

Montenegro:
- on 11 April 2014 it joined the EU sanctions entered on 17 and 21 March;
- on 26 May it joined the EU sanctions entered on 28 April and 12 May;
- on 15 October it joined the EU sanctions entered on 12, 26, 30, 31 July and 12 September.

Czech:
- on 2 April 2014 „Česká pošta” stopped the delivery of letters and packs for the population of Crimea;
- on 14 September it announced officially the termination of contracts with Russia on the level of the government members and the restriction of contacts on the level of their deputies.

Japan:
- on 18 March 2014 it stopped the negotiations on liberalisation of visa regime for the citizens from Russia and suspended the discussions related to signing the treaties of investment, those of preventing the dangerous military activities and cooperation in astronomic field with Russia;
- on 29 April it annulled and stopped the issue of visa for 23 employees of state structures of Russia;
- on 10 May it suspended the consultations with Russia related to the islands in dispute;
- on 5 August it imposed additional sanctions against 40 natural persons and companies from Crimea „Chernomorneftegaz” and „Feodosia”;
- on 24 September it imposed sanctions against Russian banks: „Sberbank”, „Gazprombank”, „Vnesheconombank”, „Russian Agricultural Bank” and „VTB Bank”. These banks were forbidden to issue securities in Japan. Also, it was increased the number of controls to prevent the deliveries of weapons in Russia;
- on 9 December it entered in the list of sanctions other 26 individuals and 14 organisations which are directly related to the annexation of Crimea and destabilisation of the East of Ukraine”. The goods of the individuals and organisations mentioned in the list of sanctions will be frozen if discovered on the territory of Japan, being restricted as well the access on the territory of Japan.

Conclusions

Usually, the norms of international law are voluntarily observed and only on need by coercion, sanctioning, individually or collectively or by international organisation, the state that breached the norms of international law. Practically, the international sanctions are the means used to restore the normative international order, breached pursuant to the conduct of some states. Their objective is to determine the state committing the breach to change conduct.

The international sanctions may use or may not use armed forces, and the latter may be of several kinds:
- economic sanctions: partial or total embargo, the latter entails complete interruption of exports, imports, financial transactions and trips; freezing of financial assets, entailing the blocking and freeze of financial assets of a foreign state, mainly of bank deposits; control of imports; control of exports; termination of technical cooperation;
- sanctions on circulation: interdiction of travelling on its territory for certain individuals or groups from the state subject to sanction; the interdiction on circulation of all kinds of transport (mainly air transport);
- diplomatic sanctions: total or partial withdrawal of the members of diplomatic missions of the state subject to sanctions; cancellation of diplomatic visa;
- *sports and cultural sanctions*: restriction of participation to sport events of individuals or groups representing the state subject to sanction; termination of scientific, technical and cultural collaboration, if organised in the presence of individuals or groups representing the state subject to sanction;

- *procedural sanctions*: suspension or loss of voting right; depriving from right of representation in the selected bodies of an international organisation; rejection or exclusion from an international organisation.

We outline that such international sanction without the use of armed force must be exceptionally used and only pursuant to exhausting the peaceful means of settling the disputes.

As for Russia, it was sanctioned in 2014 by the international community due to the actions that impaired or threatened the territorial integrity, suzerainty and independence of Ukraine. Pursuant to such international sanctions, the economy of Russia was seriously affected, and the national currency, the rouble, reached a historical minimum. Practically, Russia entered in recession all fields being affected: industrial, economic, IT-business, tourism, cinema etc. It shall be seen if such consequences of international sanctions applied will determine Russia to amend the conduct and to terminate the breach of international law, or if it is necessary a new round of international sanctions much tougher.

**References**


