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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: AOB for the meeting of General Affairs Council of 18 July 2025: Solidarity in unanimity files
- Information from Germany

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has brought immeasurable suffering to millions of people and has been an extraordinary test for the EU for more than three years. Never since the end of the Cold War have our freedom and security been threatened to such an extent. We must contribute to increasing pressure on Moscow to enter into serious negotiations with the aim of a just and lasting peace. To this end, the European Union and its Member States must stand together in unity and solidarity.

For as long as Russia continues to brutally attack Ukraine, there must be consequences. The European Union, alongside with its international partners, has responded by imposing comprehensive sanctions which deeply affect the Russian economy and weaken Russia's war machine.

The 18th package of sanctions is aimed in particular at further curbing Moscow's energy revenues in particular through significantly lowering the oil price cap, at banning transactions for Russia's Nord Stream gas pipelines, widening export bans and strengthen anti-circumvention measures.

To send a strong signal of EU cohesion and unity, the urgent adoption of the 18th package of sanctions against Russia is of great importance to further enhance the economic pressure. To this end, the Commission has been accommodating concerns of one Member State to the maximum. We continue to rely on EU solidarity in unanimity files and reiterate that solidarity is never a one-way street. We also recall that the credibility of the EU is at stake.
