

Strengthening European Financial Sector Capabilities to Manage Complex Sanctions Against Russia

OCTOBER 15, 2024 | BERLIN, GERMANY



DGAP

GW

CRDFGLOBAL



Agenda

9:00 AM

Registration and Welcome Coffee

9:20 AM

Welcome and Introduction

Levita Ferrer-Brezovic
Marta Kosmyna

9:30 AM

**Session I:
Overview over the current
sanctions regime and its
political implications**

Shahin Vallée
Maria Shagina
Robin Brooks
Benjamin Hilgenstock

11:00 AM

Coffee Break

11:30 AM

**Session II a):
EU and German perspective on
Russia and Belarus Sanctions**

• Marika Romani – EU law
perspective and regulations

• Dr. Gerd Schwendinger & Tanja
Galander – The German perspective

12:30 PM

Lunch Break

1:30 PM

**Session II b):
EU and German
perspective on Russia
and Belarus Sanctions**

• Interactive exercises,
Q&A session

2:30 PM

Coffee Break

3:00 PM

**Session III:
US perspective on Russia
and Belarus Sanctions**

• Matthew A. Bock –
U.S. Economic Sanctions

• Interactive exercises,
Q&A session

4:30 PM

**Final remarks and
certificate ceremony**

5:00 PM

End of Event

About the Speakers



Levita Ferrer-Brezovic,
Cooperative Threat
Reduction Office, US
Department of State,
Washington, DC

Levita Ferrer-Brezovic is the new Program Manager and Budget Analyst for the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. She has been in the Department of State since 2015 and served as Program Manager for the Local Guard Program for all U.S. embassies around the globe from 2015-2018 and as Budget Officer for the Office of the Chief of Protocol from 2018-2024.

Levita Ferrer-Brezovic was a decorated military veteran with 26 years of service in the United States Navy. Her personal awards included the Defense Service Meritorious Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Joint Service Achievement Medal (three awards), a Naval Commendation Medal, and the Naval Achievement Medal (six awards) with various unit and campaign awards. She retired from the US Navy in 2015 and joined the Department of State.



Marta Kosmyna,
Project Lead, CRDF
Global, Arlington

Marta Kosmyna is a Project Lead at CRDF Global, where she implements international programming on emerging technologies, sanctions compliance, and arms control on behalf of the US Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. Marta previously conducted investigations for the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch on civilian casualties from landmines, incendiary weapons, and cluster munitions; and at Armament Research Services documenting International Humanitarian Law violations during the Russian air campaign in Syria.

Marta served as Silicon Valley Lead for the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, an international coalition of 200+ NGOs seeking to secure new international law on fully autonomous weapons. She developed partnerships with engineers, roboticists, and technologists to raise awareness around ethics in AI and the unintended consequences of emerging technologies used in warfare and by law enforcement. She also served as a Research Consultant at the Institute for the Study of War where she analyzed news events in Ukraine and Russia to inform policymakers and expand public understanding of political affairs and security issues in the region.

About the Speakers



Shahin Vallée, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology, DGAP, Paris

Shahin Vallée is a senior research fellow in DGAP's Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology. Prior to that, he was a senior fellow in DGAP's Alfred von Oppenheim Center for the Future of Europe.

Until June 2018, Vallée was a senior economist for Soros Fund Management, where he worked on a wide range of political and economic issues. He also served as a personal advisor to George Soros. Prior to that, he was the economic advisor to Emmanuel Macron at the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance, where he focused on European economic affairs. Between 2012 and 2014, Vallée was the economic advisor to President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy. This experience has put him at the heart of European economic policy discussions since 2012, in particular on issues related to the euro area and international policy coordination (IMF, G20). Having started his career working for social investment vehicles and entrepreneurship in Africa, he has also worked as a visiting fellow at Bruegel, a Brussels-based economic think tank, and as an economist for a global investment bank in London.

Vallée is currently completing a PhD in political economy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He holds a master's degree from Columbia University in New York, a degree in public affairs from Sciences Po in Paris, and an undergraduate degree in econometrics from the Sorbonne.



Maria Shagina, Senior Fellow, Diamond-Brown Economic Sanctions, Standards and Strategy, International Institute for Strategic Studies

Prior to joining the IISS, Maria was a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Center on US Politics and Power at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. From 2017 and 2021, she worked as research fellow at the Center for Eastern European Studies at the University of Zurich, as senior political analyst at Global Risk Insights, and as executive assistant at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. Maria has held numerous prestigious fellowships, including from the Swiss Government, Swiss National Science Foundation, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Open Society Institute and DAAD. In 2020, she was selected as a GLOBSEC Young Leader and as a member of the European Leadership Network.

She has written extensively on Western sanctions against Russia, energy security in Eurasia and Russia's political economy and foreign policy. Maria's research has been cited in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Financial Times, BBC, CNN, Bloomberg, Foreign Policy and The Guardian.

Maria holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Lucerne (Switzerland).

About the Speakers



Robin Brooks, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

Robin Brooks is a senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution. His research focuses on global growth and inflation dynamics, capital flows to emerging and frontier markets, as well as Western sanctions policy and the G7 oil price cap on Russia. He is frequently cited in popular media such as the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, and New York Times among others. He appears regularly on CNBC and Bloomberg broadcasts.

Prior to Brookings, he was managing director and chief economist at the Institute of International Finance. In that role, he oversaw macroeconomic analysis and served as part of the senior management team. Prior to that, he was the chief FX strategist at Goldman Sachs based in New York, where he was responsible for the firm's foreign exchange forecasts and publishing international macro research. Prior to Goldman Sachs, he was the FX strategist at Brevan Howard. Before joining the private sector, Brooks spent eight years as an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he worked on the IMF's fair value models for FX, published academic research, and participated in missions to IMF program countries.

Brooks earned his doctoral degree in economics from Yale University in 1998. He earned a Bachelor of Science in monetary economics from the London School of Economics in 1993.



Benjamin Hilgenstock, Senior Economist, KSE Institute, Kyiv School of Economics, Frankfurt a.M.

Benjamin Hilgenstock has been an associate fellow in DGAP's Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology since July 2023. He is currently a senior economist at the KSE Institute of the Kyiv School of Economics where he focuses on the international regime of sanctions against Russia, particularly in the areas of energy, finance, and export controls. He is also a member of the International Working Group on Russian Sanctions.

From 2018 to 2022, Hilgenstock worked for the Institute of International Finance (IIF) in Washington, DC on the macroeconomic analysis of developing and emerging market economies, including those in Central and Eastern Europe. He worked at the International Monetary Fund from 2016 to 2018 and contributed to the World Economic Outlook.

Hilgenstock earned a master's degree in political science, economics, and public law from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) in 2008 and spent time abroad at American University in Washington, DC and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

About the Speakers



Marika Romani, Junior Partner, Lawtelier Avvocati Associati, Milan

Marika practices in international commercial law, domestic and international commercial litigation, personal data protection and corporate transactions. She has also developed a specific expertise in export control law and international economic sanctions.

Frequently she collaborates with foreign lawyers in assisting Italian companies in international litigation, particularly in French speaking countries.

Marika regularly lectures in Italy and abroad on international commercial law and also wrote articles on international law topics that have been published in Italy.

From September 2010 to January 2011, through an Erasmus scholarship, Marika attended a semester at the Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne, where she focused on international and European law.

Marika took the Laurea in Giurisprudenza at the Università degli Studi di Milano in 2012 and she has been admitted to practice law in Italy in 2018.



Matthew A. Bock, Esq. Of Counsel, Lawtelier LLP, New York

Matthew's practice is dedicated to international trade law, focusing on customs, export controls and international economic sanctions.

Matthew's experience includes conducting audits and risk assessments and developing and implementing internal compliance programs on export controls and international economic sanctions, conducting import and export classification, and determining eligibility for free trade and tariff agreements.

In addition, Matthew's experience includes export controls and sanctions compliance due diligence in the context of mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions, as well as guidance and assistance on export license applications and management. He also represents clients in front of the federal agencies that regulate international trade in the United States, including the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), by, for example, preparing and filing voluntary disclosures and providing assistance in delisting procedures.

Matthew received a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School (Los Angeles) and a LL.M. from the University of London, SOAS. He is a licensed customs broker and has been admitted to practice law in Massachusetts and in New York. He also has been admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of International Trade.

About the Speakers



Dr. Gerd Schwendinger, Partner, GvW Graf von Westphalen, Hamburg

Dr. Gerd Schwendinger is head of the customs & foreign trade practice group and heads the firm's state aid and subsidy law department. He has been advising companies and authorities comprehensively in these areas of law for many years. As a lawyer and former judge, Dr. Schwendinger has extensive forensic experience and represents clients in proceedings before German and European courts as well as before the European Commission. He is co-head of the USA Desk and head of the firm's Diversity Committee.



Tanja Galander, Local Partner, GvW Graf von Westfalen, Berlin

Tanja Galander has been advising German-speaking investors on their engagement in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and neighbouring countries as well as investors from these countries in Germany in all related commercial law matters. Since 2014, she has also specialised in sanctions advice. Tanja Galander is co-editor and editor of the Journal of Foreign Trade, Sanctions and Foreign Investment Law (ZASA), published monthly by C.H. Beck.

Protect Yourself – Avoid Sanctions & Reputational Risk

CRDF Global, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, Lawtowler and the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), and our experts are pleased to host an in-person conference on the topic of sanctions awareness.

The workshop will be opened with inputs and a panel discussion of experts working on the geopolitics of sanctions. They will give an overview over the current sanction's regime against Russia and Belarus and discuss its political implications as well as the effects and efficacy of the sanctions.

In the second part of the workshop, sanctions compliance experts will provide tailored guidance on identifying sanctions evasions techniques and mitigating associated risks. Discussions will cover the current sanctions environment and help participants identify the sanctions and reputational risks associated with doing business with prohibited Russian and Belarussian firms, strengthen current Russian and Belarussian sanctions implementation activities, and enhance information sharing between public and private sector actors to rapidly identify and prevent Russian and Belarussian sanctions evasion activity in partner countries.