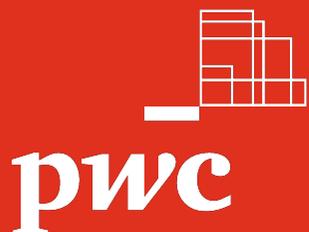


War in Ukraine

— Situational Awareness Briefing

8 November 2022



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Situational Awareness – Briefing as of 8 November 2022 (Summary)

Ukraine Crisis

The current geopolitical developments in Eastern Europe and the unprecedented attack on Ukraine are also an attack on our way of living and doing business together.

At the moment, no one can foresee all the consequences of this aggression. This is why urgent questions are now being asked in all areas of our social life. Also for companies this means far-reaching cuts and changes.

This Situation Awareness Briefing is provided for information purposes only by PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft and will be updated regularly.

The overview to the right represents a summary of points along the following five dimensions:

- Overall Geopolitical Assessment
- Industry Special
- Forecast
- People
- Operations
- Finance



Overall Geopolitical Assessment

In Ukraine the consolidation phase for both sides continues. Minor Ukrainian attacks continue in the Kherson direction. Russian forces have launched local offensives in the Donbas as well as north of Kreminna in the Luhansk Oblast. Russia seems to prepare an abandonment of Kherson in the coming weeks. Iran admitted to have sold drones to Russia but persists on the fact that the transfer occurred before the onset of war.



Forecast

G7 and Australia on November 3 agreed to set a maximum fixed price for Russian oil at the end of November, although it is unclear whether China and India will introduce a ceiling price for Russian oil. Russia and North Korea are strengthening their connections. As energy prices have increased all costs, EU green strategy is under threat.



Operations (Focus: Cyber)

The European Union's cybersecurity agency ENISA published a report indicating that the current geopolitical situation is creating a more permitting environment for cyber attacks. Media reports have revealed a previously secret program in which the UK has spent GBP 6mn to help Ukraine defend against Russian cyber attacks. The programme had started ahead of the Russian invasion. Already during the second half of 2021, Ukraine had been under continued attacks in which Russia allegedly tried to compromise Ukrainian systems and government ministries.

For questions, comments or details, please contact Joint Crisis Center team: de_ukraine-crisis@pwc.com



Industry Special: Agriculture & Food - Update

On October 29, Russia announced that it was suspending participation in the implementation of the "grain agreement", on November 2 the deal was restored. Ukraine food supply is discussed on a Bali Palm Oil Conference, because of the fact palm oil's increased market share in countries like India and China due to running out of supplies of sunflower oil from Ukraine. The "Danube Grain Route" project is being launched in Ukraine.



People

The European Commission has allocated an additional EUR 100 mn to seven member states that accept a large number of refugees from Ukraine. The European Commission unveiled an online portal for Ukrainian refugees to find "good quality jobs" and to help companies in Europe as they deal with the growing labor shortages. Russia and Belarus were removed from Irish Short-Stay Visa Program.



Finance (Focus: Sanctions)

Four Russian owners of steel and petrochemical companies have been sanctioned by UK. Switzerland joined the EU sanctions against Iran due to weapons supply. Canada imposed new sanctions against more than 35 Russian individuals.



Key takeaways

- Russian forces are preparing a withdrawal from Kherson and could leave the western shores of the Dnieper river in the next days or weeks
 - Russia could stabilize its frontlines and even capture two villages along the Soledar-Bakhmut line
 - The mobilization of new troops allowed Russia to strengthen weak spots along the frontlines. Due to the lack of training for these troops, artillery duels and drone strikes on infrastructure remain a focus for now.
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- The anti-government protests in Iran are still ongoing since a 22-year-old Kurdish woman was killed in custody of the morality police
 - The regime is attempting to quell the protests with brutality in large cities as well as ethnic minority regions
 - In an attempt to save the negotiations over a renewed nuclear deal, Western countries have abstained from imposing new sanction on the Iranian regime so far

Current topics

Current situation in the Russo-Ukrainian War

At the Kherson front UAF forces continued their attempt to eliminate the Russian possessions on the western bank of the Dnieper. Minor Ukrainian efforts continued this week attempting to improve its positions for a move towards Kherson. Russian pontoon bridges across the Dnieper were targeted with HIMARS as well as artillery to disrupt Russian supply lines and hamper ongoing withdrawal operations. The Russian occupation administration has announced curfews and advised the civilian population to evacuate the city. Russian efforts in Kherson concentrated on building defensive lines to shield the ongoing withdrawal. Most Russian efforts concentrate on building defensive lines across the Dnieper, indicating the possibility of abandonment of the area on the left bank of the Dnieper in the coming weeks. The withdrawal of Russian troops across the Dnieper seems well organized and does not mimic the panic and flight of the Kharkiv retreat. At the Zaporizhzhia front the frontlines remained static. In the Donbas, Russian forces launched a minor operation to encircle the city of Avdiivka west of Donetsk by attacking north and south of the city. Fighting in the area that lays along the old contact line persisted since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Russian forces also renewed their efforts to capture Vulhedar, which lays south of Avdiivka. Along the Soledar-Bakhmut line, Ukrainian and Russian forces continue to battle over suburbs in both cities accompanied by long artillery duels. Russian forces also launched a local attack along the P66 highway and captured the villages of Novovodjane and parts of Makiivka that lay between Svatove and Kreminna in an attempt to straighten the frontline and ease the pressure on Svatove. It is currently unclear if either side will launch a larger operation before the beginning of the autumn thaw. The Russian mobilization has led to a stabilization of the frontline throughout Ukraine as it has become more difficult for Ukrainian troops to identify weak spots in the Russian lines on which they can apply pressure. However, due to the lack of training personnel the quality of such reserves is mediocre mostly limiting Russia to static defence. This allows Ukraine to reorganize its forces, incorporate newly arrived Western arms transfers and prepare more successful offensive operations once the meteorological conditions permit. The static nature of warfare is currently dominated by artillery duels and extensive usage of drones for surgical attacks. Russia, in an attempt to reduce Ukrainian resilience and supply chains, continues its attacks on critical energy and water supply infrastructure.

Anti-government protests in Iran

Iran has been gripped by protests since the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in the custody of the morality police in September 2022. The ongoing protests that have been occurring since September 16 throughout Iran pose one of the boldest challenges to the clerical leadership since the 1979 revolution. In an act of solidarity with Mahsa Amini, young Iranians have joined the protests, resorted to publicly removing their hijab and demanded the dissolution of the morality police as well as regime change. Government officials, Revolutionary Guard commanders and clerics have designated the protests as a foreign plot by the United States and Zionist forces to overthrow the Iranian government and vowed to crackdown on the protests. Iran sees itself under pressure by the West for its autocratic form of governance as well as its pro-Russian and pro-Chinese foreign policy. Most Western states have refrained from direct sanctions so far and have issued statements of condemnation of government suppression of the protests as to not endanger the fragile cooperation with Tehran in negotiations for the JCPoA. Domestic pressure however is mounting in several European states calling for more and tougher sanctions against Iran for reasons of moral solidarity as well as to punish Tehran for its support of Russia with arms exports. It is likely that foreign businesses operating in Iran will face increased domestic pressure demanding a reduction or cessation of business as the regime in Tehran violently subdues protests. Paramilitary and Revolutionary Guard units are likely to deploy to rural areas with Kurdish and Baloch minorities to quell anti-government protests by force. Larger demonstrations in Tehran will be subdued with the help of riot police and government supporters in an attempt to quell opposition to the theocratic form of governance and societal role of the morality police and revolutionary guard.



Key takeaways

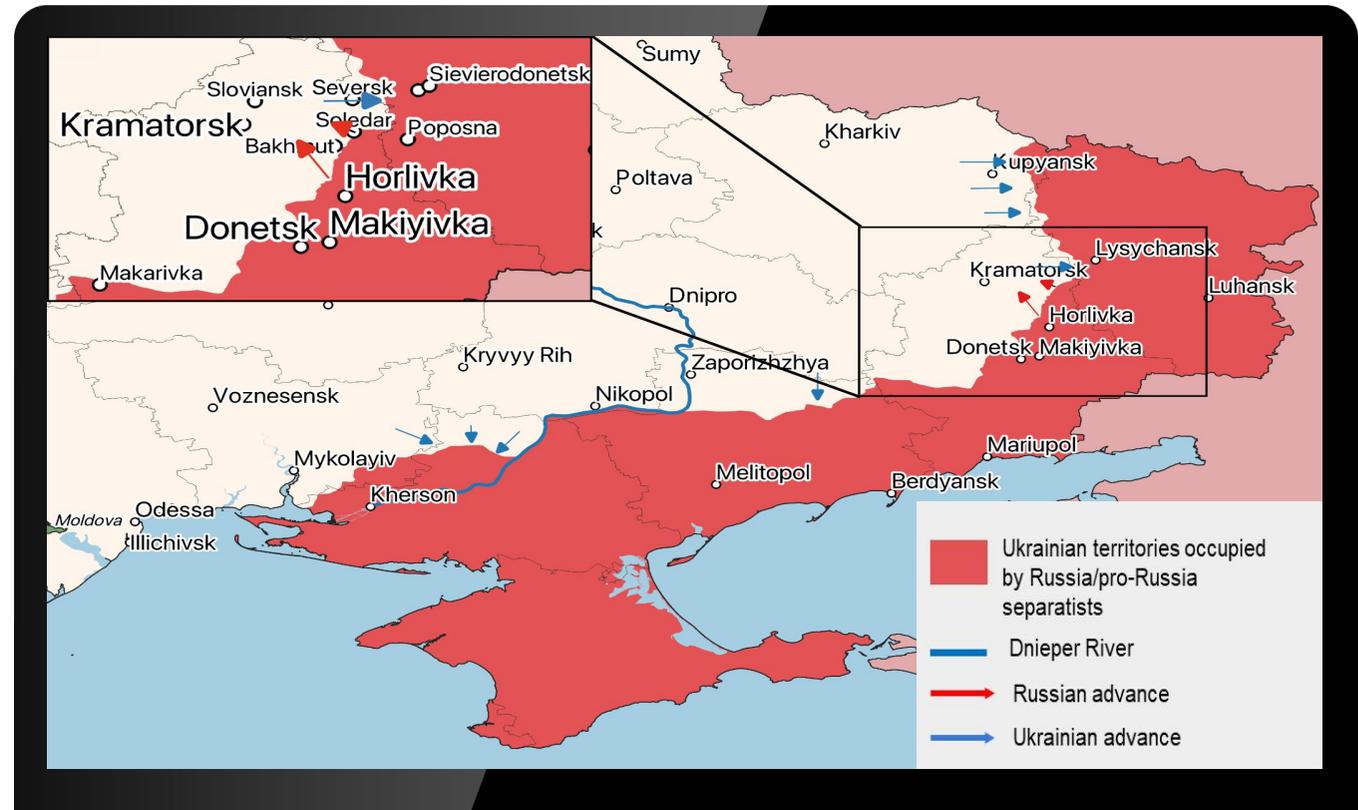
- Ukrainian success in the Izyum salient represents a strategic reversal of the first order. Russia, however, continues to slowly advance in the Donbas.

Selected upcoming events

- **November 8:** US Midterm elections
- **November 8-13 :** ASEAN regional summit
- **November 15-16 :** G20 leaders' summit
- December 12: US Federal Reserve Meeting
- December 13-15: US-Africa Leaders' Summit

Current Military Situation in Ukraine

(arrows indicate potential future Russian operations in the coming weeks)





General context

The war in Ukraine has aggravated existing tensions on the agricultural commodities market. This has above all affected import-dependent countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and sub-Saharan Africa, which rely heavily on Russian and Ukrainian wheat. Disruptions to exports from the Black Sea region and high prices are further destabilising food security in these regions. However, global demand for wheat is expected to be met in the current marketing year since countries such as Australia, Brazil and the US will increase exports to fill the gap left by Russia and Ukraine. In July 2022, a grain deal was brokered by the UN and Turkey, bringing to an end a five-month Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports that trapped millions of tonnes of grain and sunflower oil and sent food prices soaring. Under the agreement, ships are allowed to sail through a safe corridor before being inspected by a special coordination team in Turkey and then heading on through the Bosphorous Strait.

Current topics

Halt of the grain corridor from Ukraine

On October 29, Russia announced that it was suspending participation in the implementation of the "grain agreement" allegedly because of the "terrorist attack" in the Sevastopol Bay.

Russia's withdrawal from a UN-mediated agreement to export grains from the Black Sea was expected to affect shipments to import-dependent nations, escalating the world food crisis and driving up prices. Following Russia's departure, about 2mn tons of grain on 176 ships scheduled for delivery to Africa and the Middle East were at danger, while Ukrainian corn shipments to Europe would decrease, according to two Singapore-based merchants.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said that Russian participation in a UN-brokered Ukrainian grain export deal was to resume on November 2. Shortly after Erdogan's announcement, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation published a message that Russia is resuming participation in the Black Sea grain initiative. The deal ends on November 19 and those involved still have to agree extending it.

Ukraine food supply is discussed at Bali Palm Oil Conference

Before the war, Ukraine exported nearly half of all sunflower oil produced worldwide. The war stifled that supply and contributed to an increase in the price of palm oil, the most widely used edible oil.

Grain and oilseed trades throughout the world have already been affected negatively by the war in Ukraine, increasing longer-term concerns about the availability of supplies from the Black Sea. As reported by Bloomberg, Anilkumar Bagani, head of research at Mumbai-based Sunvin Group, predicts that a prolonged conflict would likely make those changes permanent, allowing palm oil to increase market share in countries like India and China where supplies of sunflower oil from Ukraine have run out.

The "Danube Grain Route" project is being launched in Ukraine

The Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company is launching the "Danube Grain Route" project after Russia's statements regarding the "grain initiative". This was announced by the General Director of the UDP. It is noted that UDP invested in the creation of its own grain transshipment facility, and also agreed with the Romanian company TTS transshipment scheme at the port of Constanța. UDP added that the "Danube grain route" is already starting to work.

Preliminary Assessment

- Volodymyr Zelensky said that the grain shipping corridor to get food out of Ukraine as part of an agreement which Russia has suspended, needs reliable, long-term protection.
- The United States reacted to Russia's withdrawal from the initiative to export grain from Ukrainian ports, calling on the Kremlin to return to the agreement.



General context

Considerations on implications for businesses along the PESTEL framework

P Political	Russia and North Korea forge closer ties.
E Economic	Ceiling price for Russian oil is agreed upon.
S Social	Social related implications: e.g. refugee streams, labour market developments
T Techno-logical	Technology related implication: e.g. cyber threats and disinformation, IT infrastructure disruptions
E Environ-mental	Threat to EU green strategy.
L Legal	Legal implications: Compliance with changing regulations, contractual obligations, etc.

Current topics

The G7 and Australia agreed on a ceiling price for Russian oil

The G7 and Australia agreed to set a maximum fixed price for Russian oil at the end of November. According to a Reuters source "the Coalition has agreed the price cap will be a fixed price that will be reviewed regularly rather than a discount to an index." The initial limit price for Russian oil will be set in the coming weeks. A regular review mechanism will stabilize the market if necessary and prevent the Russia from manipulating prices. The restrictions will apply to oil and oil products delivered by sea. If oil is purchased above the ceiling price, the service of its sea transportation will be prohibited. It is unclear, however, whether large buyers like China and India will support the G7 price cap.

Russia and North Korea are strengthening their connections

The US revealed that it had evidence showing North Korea is secretly supplying Russia with a "significant" quantity of artillery rounds, a further indication of the "deepening ties between the two pariah states". The great majority of North Korea's commerce is conducted via China, but analysts believe Russia might be a key partner as well, notably in terms of oil supply. Moscow has repeatedly been accused of violating UN sanctions against North Korea by exceeding the export limit of oil and by employing North Korean laborers. Russian officials have even publicly discussed hiring 20,000 to 50,000 North Korean laborers. Administrators in annexed Ukrainian regions have reportedly even explored the potential of bringing in North Korean laborers to assist in the restoration of war-torn districts.

Energy market threatens EU's green energy strategy

As energy prices have increased all costs, including the materials required for renewable infrastructure, casting doubt on investment models based on cheap pricing for renewable electricity. The challenge to European projects has also grown since the USD 430 bn US Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law in August, providing state aid to factories that manufacture renewable energy components - which EU officials fear will stymie efforts to expand Europe's domestic industry. In addition, the official added that the US is aware that some ships are changing their country of origin and trading businesses are moving outside the G7 to evade the plan.

Democrats could lose their majority in the US midterm elections

On October 8, midterm elections are taking place in the US. With an approval rate of only 39%, a recent poll showed President Biden's ratings at the lowest point of his presidency. The Democrats could lose their majority in both houses of Congress, making it increasingly challenging for the administration to pursue its agenda in the coming two years.

Preliminary Assessment

- G7 leaders agreed on the principle of price capping at their June summit, but since then negotiations have continued on the details of implementing such a scheme. In October, the oil price cap was included in the European Union's sanctions package.
- Earlier Russia declared that it would not supply oil and oil products to countries that would support the idea of a price limit on the products.
- Putin might benefit from a floating pricing system since the price of Russian oil would rise if Brent rose owing to a drop in oil production from Russia. The disadvantage of the agreed-upon fixed-price method is that it would necessitate additional coalition and bureaucracy meetings to evaluate it on a regular basis, according to Reuters.
- After the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, North Korea responded with vocal support for Moscow. It was one of the few nations to recognize the independence of occupied Ukrainian regions.
- The cost of building wind farms has risen by as much as 15% in some parts of the world over the last year, developers say.
- Europe's electricity industry body Eurelectric, said the combination of market reform, inflation and soaring margin calls would deter much-needed investment.



Key Considerations

Response measures may include the following:

- Scenario planning sessions to explore how the escalating situation could impact the organization and identify the risks and mitigating actions.
- “Table-top exercising” can be used to validate response structures if they are not already in operation.
- Ensuring that playbooks are in place for extreme but plausible scenarios such as loss of IT for an extended period and disruption to critical suppliers.
- Ensuring the ability to locate all personnel based in, or travelling to, regions of conflict and ensure appropriate steps are taken for their protection.

Current topics

EUR 100mn for countries that accept Ukrainian refugees

The European Commission has allocated an additional EUR 100mn to seven member states that accept a large number of refugees from Ukraine. This second tranche of emergency aid from the Home Affairs Fund will support Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Member States can use these funds to continue providing immediate assistance to refugees, such as food, transport and temporary housing. These funds can also be used to support their capacity to integrate refugees, including vulnerable persons such as unaccompanied minors.

“Talent pool” for Ukrainians in the EU

The European Commission unveiled an online portal to make it easier for Ukrainian refugees to find “good quality jobs” on the EU labor market. Through the EURES website, the platform, created by the EU Commission and the European Labour Authority, seeks to link refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine with available positions throughout member states. Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights said that it is a “concrete step” in the integration of Ukrainian refugees in the EU. He claims that the platform might be a vital resource for companies in Europe as they deal with the growing labor shortages that are across the block. However, he emphasized the necessity of providing “good quality jobs” for Ukrainians. The pilot initiative has so far attracted the participation of five EU nations, including Poland, which has taken in the great majority of Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war.

Russia and Belarus are removed from Irish Short-Stay Visa Program

Ireland has joined a number of other European nations in suspending or limiting some visas and permits for citizens of Russia and Belarus. The Irish government has announced that the country has decided to remove Russia and Belarus from the Irish government’s short-stay visa waiver program. Through the Short-Stay Visa Waiver Program, citizens of a select group of nations can visit Ireland without acquiring an Irish visa if they have a short-stay visa for the United Kingdom. Previously granted U.K. short-stay visas aren’t valid for entry into Ireland by citizens of Russia and Belarus. However, Russian nationals’ visa applications are still being evaluated on a case-by-case basis by Irish officials.

Preliminary Assessment

- The first tranche of EUR 248mn as emergency aid was allocated to five member states neighboring Ukraine in May. The remaining EUR 52mn of the EU Commission help will be directed at a later stage to new needs, such as accommodation projects, provision of quality psychological first aid, mental health care and psychosocial support to persons fleeing Ukraine.
- Under the temporary protection directive, which is anticipated to be extended until March 2024, around 4.2mn Ukrainians presently enjoy access to housing, healthcare, education, and work in the EU. Among them, almost 600,000 Ukrainians have since February 2022 joined the labor force in the EU.
- According to the Irish Minister of Justice, when issuing visas or for crossing the border, Irish authorities also will not accept Russian passports issued in occupied foreign territories, including Ukraine and Georgia. However, those who have Russian passports issued in restricted areas are still eligible for Temporary Protected Status and can submit an application for asylum.



NSA Cybersecurity director shares his takeaways on the Ukraine War

In a keynote speech on October 18, the director of cybersecurity at the US National Security Agency, Rob Joyce, shared his views on how nations can protect their organizations in view of the war.

According to Joyce, since the beginning of the war, seven new families of so called “wipers” have been deployed which were programmed to wipe out data from government servers. Cyber attacks also spilled over into Ukraine’s neighboring countries and threatened infrastructure there.

Nevertheless, good preparation and cooperation with partners helped Ukraine to withstand numerous cyber attacks. Ukraine was well-prepared for cyber attacks ahead of the war and had already put in place a robust network architecture with backups and restoration capabilities.

Cooperation with outside partners proved to be a real asset. When servers were threatened to be cut off from the electricity network or could have fallen into the hands of occupying forces, for example, crucial data were brought off Ukrainian soil and moved up into the cloud, often based on US servers.

Current topics

EU agency sees geopolitics as a driver for increased cyber attacks

Beginning of October the European Union’s cybersecurity agency ENISA published a report indicating that the current geopolitical situation is creating a more permitting environment for cyber attacks. Reviewing the time span from July 2021 to July 2022, the study finds that along with governments and companies, the threat profile is especially high for strategically important sectors like energy, transport, banking, and digital infrastructure. With over 10 terabytes of data stolen monthly, ransomware attacks top the list of threats, followed by DDoS attacks. While these threats have existed for a long time, the report finds that recently, AI-enabled disinformation and deepfakes are becoming more prominent. The volatile geopolitical environment also sees an increase in state-sponsored attacks as well as a proliferation of hackers for hire.

The UK spent GBP 6mn to help Ukraine defend against Russian cyber attacks

Media reports have revealed a previously secret program in which the UK has spent GBP 6mn to help Ukraine defend against Russian cyber attacks. The programme had started ahead of the Russian invasion. Already during the second half of 2021, Ukraine had been under continued attacks in which Russia allegedly tried to compromise Ukrainian systems and government ministries. Ahead of the Russian invasion, such attacks intensified, with several attempts to knock ministries and infrastructure offline as well as attempts to target satellite communications in order to get inside sensitive networks. Russia is also believed to have relied on agents on the ground to provide access to systems. In addition to hardware and defensive systems, the UK provided expertise and training to build up forensic capabilities to detect cyber attacks.

The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre launches a scheme to detect vulnerabilities

The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre, a branch of the British signals intelligence agency GCHQ, has launched a scheme to detect vulnerabilities in order to enhance the country’s resilience. All internet-accessible systems in the country are to be scanned for known vulnerabilities. This will allow the agency to get an overall picture of the nation’s weaknesses in the cyber domain. When such weaknesses are detected, the agency plans to advise the system owners to enhance their security and increase resilience. Though the agency sets out to scan all systems active in the country, companies and private persons can opt out of the scan by providing the IP addresses that they wish to exempt from the screening.

Preliminary Assessment

- The EU cybersecurity agency has observed that cyber operations have become a priority for governments. All over the globe governments have begun publicly identifying and attributing cyberattacks to adversary groups and taking legal action against them. The agency expects to see even more efforts in the public attribution of cyber campaigns, the disruption of the infrastructure of adversaries, and indictments to 'name and shame' operators.
- The UK had long worked with Ukraine on cyber defence but shifted to providing direct help after the invasion.
- The US military's Cyber Command also recently revealed to the press the way in which it helped hunt Russians inside Ukrainian systems, although their team had withdrawn by the time of the February invasion.
- In a blog post, Ian Levy, the NCSC's departing Technical Director, wrote that the scans are similar to ones conducted by private cyber security firms. He also said to expect scans to increase in complexity over time and that the agency will have more to report in April during the CYBERUK conference.



Key Considerations

Sanctions Screening Activities

- Screening solutions generate increasing number of alerts (especially banks must deal with the increased workload)
- Appropriateness and effectiveness of sanctions screening measures in identifying sanctioned parties and activities must be ensured. Complex ownership structures complicate the proper identification of involved parties (OFAC 50% rule)
- Trade transactions with Russia and Belarus must be reviewed

Sanctions Compliance Governance

- Sanctions Compliance Governance as a key requirement increasingly in the focus of regulatory authorities
- Robustness of Sanctions Compliance Management System and sanctions controls to counter the current and new sanctions regulations
- Adequateness of internal safeguards to prevent sanctions circumvention activities

Current topics

UK sanctions Russian steel magnates

Four Russian owners of steel and petrochemical companies have been sanctioned by Britain. Alexander Abramov and Alexander Frolov, who Britain identified as well-known allies of tycoon Roman Abramovich, are among those sanctioned. They were chosen because they worked in the transportation, construction, and extractive industries, the statement said. According to the government, Airat Shaimiev and Albert Shigabutdinov have also been sanctioned. About 96% of the chemical and petrochemical processing, including crude oil production, was under Shigabutdinov's control in the Tatarstan area of Russia. Frolov served as the former CEO of Evraz, which the British government also sanctioned for conducting business in areas that have "strategic significance to the government of Russia." According to the Foreign Office, travel restrictions, asset freezes, and transportation restrictions are among the measures in place.

German authorities search banks in connection with Russian oligarch

Swiss bank UBS confirmed that its branches in Frankfurt and Munich were searched by German authorities. The German magazine Der Spiegel reported that the raids were in connection with Russian oligarch Alisher Usmanov. Billionaire Usmanov is currently being investigated in Germany for alleged tax evasion and money laundering. In September, his USD 500mn motor yacht "Dilbar" was seized and several properties were searched.

Switzerland joins the EU sanctions against Iran

The Swiss Ministries of Economy and Energy and Foreign Affairs decided to join the EU sanctions against Iran due to its supply of drones to Russia. The Swiss Federal Council emphasizes that it has already introduced far-reaching sanctions against Iran, including financial, tourism and commodity sanctions. As of November 1, Swiss authorities subject three individuals connected to the delivery of drones to Russia as well as the company that produces these drones to an economic and asset freeze.

Canada is to impose new sanctions against Russian individuals

On October 28, the Canadian Prime Minister stated that the country is imposing new sanctions on more than 35 Russians, including leaders of the Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom and six energy sector entities, which are Infrastructure Molzhaninovo LLC, Sibuglemet Group LLC, Transoil LLC, Lukoil PJSC, NNK JSC, Gas Industry Insurance Company SOGAZ.

Preliminary Assessment

- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak assured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in a phone call shortly after taking office that the nation's support for Ukraine will be unwavering and "as strong as ever under his premiership."
- An estimated USD 5bn worth of Russian assets have already been frozen. Some German politicians have demanded that frozen Russian assets be used toward the reconstruction of Ukraine, but the government so far has voiced legal concerns.
- European Union sanctions were imposed on October 20 and concerned three Iranian individuals and one legal entity involved in the development and supply of drones that Russia uses in the war in Ukraine.
- Canada has also introduced the five-year Ukraine Sovereignty Bonds that individuals can buy to support the Ukrainian government. They will be made available to investors through Canadian banks, with the proceeds going straight to Ukraine via the International Monetary Fund to support basic functions such as paying pensions and utility costs.

General remarks



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