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By PwC Deutschland | 01 May 2025

ECJ: Ban on export of banknotes denominated in Euro even if money is used für medical treatment

In a most recent judgment, the European Court of Justice held that the ban on the export of banknotes denominated in euro or in another official currency of a Member State to Russia also applies when the money is intended to finance medical treatments.

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During a customs inspection at a German airport, it was found that an air passenger who intended to travel to Russia was in possession of almost € 15 000 in banknotes. That money was intended not only to cover that passenger's travel costs but also to finance medical treatments which she wished to receive in Russia. More specifically, the treatments in question were dental treatments, hormone therapy in a fertility clinic and follow-up treatment for breast surgery in a plastic surgery clinic.

As an exception to the ban only sums necessary to finance travel and subsistence expenses may be taken to that country. The German court responsible for criminal proceedings against the passenger has asked the ECJ to clarify whether that exception extends to medical expenses such as those at issue.

The Court responds that it does not: The export by a person travelling to Russia of euro-denominated banknotes, with a view to financing medical treatments which he or she wishes to receive in that country, does not constitute an export necessary for his or her personal use.

More details on the decision to be found **here**.

Keywords

export, transfer abroad