



## PRESS RELEASE No 56/25

Luxembourg, 30 April 2025

Judgment of the Court in Case C-246/24 | Generalstaatsanwaltschaft Frankfurt am Main (Export of cash to Russia)

### **Restrictive measures: 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**

*Only sums necessary to finance travel and subsistence expenses may be taken to that country*

During a customs inspection at Frankfurt Main Airport (Germany), 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.

The customs authorities seized that money, with the exception of a sum of approximately € 1 000 which they allowed her to keep to cover her travel expenses.

The restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine prohibit the export <sup>1</sup> of banknotes denominated in euro or in any other official currency of a Member State to Russia. That prohibition is intended to prevent the Russian economic system from enjoying access to cash denominated in such a currency in order to increase even further the cost of Russia's actions against Ukraine.

However, that prohibition does not apply to the sums necessary for the personal use of travellers or those of members of their immediate families travelling with them.

The German court hearing criminal proceedings against the passenger has asked the Court of Justice 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.**

As the European Union has not restricted the right to travel to Russia, the exception in question is solely intended to ensure that the traveller has the cash necessary for the travel and the stay. Medical treatments such as those at issue do not meet needs occasioned by the travel or the stay.

**NOTE:** A reference for a preliminary ruling allows the courts and tribunals of the Member States, in disputes which have been brought before them, to refer questions to the Court of Justice about the interpretation of EU law or the validity of an EU act. The Court of Justice does not decide the dispute itself. It is for the national court or tribunal to dispose of the case in accordance with the Court's decision, which is similarly binding on other national courts or

tribunals before which a similar issue is raised.

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the Court of Justice.

The [full text and, as the case may be, an abstract](#) of the judgment is published on the CURIA website on the day of delivery.

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Images of the delivery of the judgment are available on ['Europe by Satellite'](#) ☎ (+32) 2 2964106.

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<sup>1</sup> Or the sale, supply or transfer.