

WORKSHOP

THIRD COUNTRIES AND G7'S SANCTIONS: DECOUPLING RISKS AND STREAMLINING COMPLIANCE

Date and time: 19 February 2026, 12:00 - 14:00

Format: In person and online

Location: Geneva Graduate Institute, Room S12 and online

Language: English

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, sanctions have become a key instrument of international pressure, now covering nearly 10,000 individuals and around 50 sectors of the Russian economy. Yet as restrictions expand, so do the methods to evade them. This year, **StateWatch** analyzed sanctions circumvention through Turkey, Hong Kong, and South Korea, exposing how Russia continues to access Western technologies via third-country trade, and together with **Sanctions Finder** conducted a series of webinars for business. Drawing on this research and workshops with practitioners from Georgia, Turkey, and the Philippines, the session will share insights on how third countries interpret and implement G7 sanctions, and what this reveals about the effectiveness of the global sanctions regime.

12:00-12:10 **Opening Remarks by Professor Thomas Biersteker**

12:10-12:40 **Session 1: Schemes of Sanctions Circumvention**
Darya Kuzmina, Head of Sanctions Department, StateWatch Think Tank

This section presents StateWatch's analysis of sanctions evasion schemes involving Turkey, Hong Kong, and South Korea. It highlights common patterns and methods used to circumvent international sanctions.

12:40-13:20 **Session 2: Business and Third Countries: Sanctions Beyond G7**
Bohdan Bernatskyi, Research Fellow at VU, EUI

This session will share lessons learned from engagements with practitioners in Georgia, Turkey, and the Philippines on their approaches to G7 sanctions against Russia.

13:20-13:40 **Session 3: Open discussion and Q&A session**

13:40-14:00 **Networking, coffee and snacks**

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