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Judgment of the General Court in Case T-141/21 | Shakutin v Council

Restrictive measures against Belarus: the General Court dismisses the action brought by Mr Aleksandr Vasilevich Shakutin against the restrictive measures imposed on him

The factual evidence produced by the Council is sufficiently concrete, precise and consistent to establish that Mr Shakutin benefits from and supports the Lukashenko regime

Following the 2020 presidential elections in Belarus, which were found, by the Council, to be inconsistent with international standards and marred by the repression of independent candidates and a brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, the Council prepared a fresh cycle of restrictive measures in respect of Belarus: it thus supplemented the list of persons prohibited from entering or transiting through the territory of the Member States and whose funds and economic resources are frozen.¹

Mr Aleksandr Vasilevich Shakutin, a Belarusian national, is among the individuals whose names were added to that list. The Council identified him, in particular, as one of the leading businessmen operating in Belarus, with business interests in the construction, machine-building and agricultural sectors, and as having benefited from privatisation during Mr Alexander Lukashenko's tenure as President. It is claimed that he is also a member or former member of the presidium of the pro-Lukashenko public association 'Belaya Rus' and of the Council for the Development of Entrepreneurship (CDE). According to the Council, Mr Shakutin benefits from and supports the Lukashenko regime.

Mr Shakutin applied to the General Court for the annulment of the restrictive measures imposed on him.

In today's judgment, **the General Court dismisses Mr Shakutin's action and therefore upholds the restrictive measures imposed on him.**

According to the General Court, **the Council has established to the requisite legal standard that Mr Shakutin was one of the leading businessmen operating in Belarus, one of the individuals who most benefited from privatisation during Lukashenko's tenure as President, and a member (or former member) of the CDE, and, as such, benefited from and supported the Lukashenko regime.**

NOTE: An action for annulment seeks the annulment of acts of the institutions of the European Union that are contrary to European Union law. The Member States, the European institutions and individuals may, under certain conditions, bring an action for annulment before the Court of Justice or the General Court. If the action is well founded, the act is annulled. The institution concerned must fill any legal vacuum created by the annulment of the act.

¹ Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/2130 of 17 December 2020 implementing Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (OJ 2020 L 426I, p. 14).

NOTE: An appeal, limited to points of law only, may be brought before the Court of Justice against the decision of the General Court within two months and ten days of notification of the decision

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The [full text](#) of the judgment is published on the CURIA website on the day of delivery.

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Pictures of the delivery of the judgment are available from "[Europe by Satellite](#)" ☎ (+32) 2 2964106

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