

LEGISLATION NEWSLETTER

(01/03/2026 - 31/03/2026)

Content

- ▶ Amendments to the Notariate Law
- ▶ Amendments to the Civil Procedure Law
- ▶ Amendments to the Law on Submissions
- ▶ Amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing
- ▶ Amendments to the Law on the National Defence Training and the Youth Guard
- ▶ Amendments to the Youth Law
- ▶ Law on Limiting the Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

News on Sanctions

- ▶ Russian hybrid threats: four individuals added to EU sanctions list for information manipulation activities
- ▶ EU issues new FAQ guidance on the provision of payments services under the EU Russia Sanctions
- ▶ EU extends sanctions against people over Russia's war against Ukraine
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina: Council extends framework for restrictive measures until March 2027
- ▶ US Officially Removes Belaruskali from Sanctions Lists
- ▶ Russian central bank challenges asset freeze in EU court



AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTARIATE LAW

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 18 December 2025, Amendments to the Notariate Law were adopted, which entered into force on 1 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments stipulate that agreements regarding child custody, contact rights, and child maintenance must be concluded in the form of a notarial deed, with enforcement governed by the procedures set out in Section D1 of the Notariate Law.
- ▶ The agreement must also include provisions for its review. Regarding contact rights, it must specify the procedure, time, and place for exercising such rights, as well as the allocation of obligations and costs between the parties.
- ▶ Amendments to Section 107.4 of the Notariate Law provide that a notarial deed concerning contact rights may be submitted to a sworn notary for enforcement within three years from the date of execution. If the notarial deed is not submitted within this period, contact arrangements may be determined through general civil proceedings.
- ▶ Here are listed the most significant amendments from the perspective of BDO Law, which do not reflect the full scope of the amendments



AMENDMENTS TO THE CIVIL PROCEDURE LAW

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 18 December 2025, Amendments to the Civil Procedure Law were adopted, which entered into force on 1 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments clarify the procedure for enforcing agreements regarding child custody, visitation rights, and child support. As such agreements must be concluded in the form of a notarial deed in accordance with Section D1 of the Notariate Law, they are enforceable as a court judgment. Consequently, such agreements may be submitted for enforcement to a bailiff without involving the court.
- ▶ The amendments also introduce sanctions for non-compliance with such agreements. A parent may be subject to a fine of up to EUR 1,500.
- ▶ Interim relief prior to filing a claim is not permitted where the alleged infringement of rights arises from custody or visitation arrangements and an enforceable notarial deed has already been executed in accordance with Section D1 of the Notariate Law.
- ▶ Enforcement documents in cases arising from visitation rights may be submitted for enforcement within three years from the date the court or judge's decision entered into force or from the date of execution of the notarial deed (agreement).
- ▶ Here are listed the most significant amendments from the perspective of BDO Law, which do not reflect the full scope of the amendments.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON SUBMISSIONS

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 5 February 2026, Amendments to the Law on Submissions were adopted, which entered into force on 1 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments significantly shorten the deadlines within which state and local government authorities must respond to submissions from individuals. Authorities are now required to provide a substantive response no later than 10 business days from the date of receipt of the submission. At the same time, the response deadline may be extended to one month where additional information is required, cooperation with other authorities is necessary, or large-scale data processing is involved.
- ▶ The 10-business-day response deadline does not apply where other legal acts prescribe different deadlines, for example in cases involving the issuance of an administrative act.
- ▶ Authorities may provide a response in writing, orally, or in another form. A response may be provided orally or in another form if the submitter has consented to such form.
- ▶ The law stipulates that an authority may take note of submissions that do not require a substantive response and may leave a submission unexamined where it is submitted in bad faith or is unrelated to the functions of public administration. This regulation helps prevent the unnecessary use of resources.
- ▶ The amendments also clarify the referral procedure: where a submission falls outside the authority's competence, it must be referred to the competent authority within five business days, and the submitter must be informed accordingly. Submissions submitted by 28 February 2026 are subject to the previous regulation.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM AND PROLIFERATION FINANCING

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 5 February 2026, Amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing were adopted, which entered into force on 6 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments expand customer due diligence requirements for currency exchange transactions. Customer due diligence may now also be applied to transactions below EUR 1,500, based on a risk assessment. Previously, such requirements applied only where the total amount of transactions exceeded EUR 1,500.
- ▶ To ensure the availability of information necessary for the implementation of international and national sanctions, any person is entitled to immediate, unfiltered, direct, and free access to information on beneficial owners from the State Revenue Service and, in an online format, from the Enterprise Register of the Republic of Latvia.
- ▶ The amendments also clarify the obligations of state and local government institutions to provide the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) with the information necessary for the performance of its functions, including via written, online, or automated data exchange. These changes will enter into force on 10 July 2027.
- ▶ The amendments introduce the terms “crypto-asset” and “crypto-asset service provider” in line with Regulation (EU) 2023/1114.
- ▶ Here are listed the most significant amendments from the perspective of BDO Law, which do not reflect the full scope of the amendments.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON THE NATIONAL DEFENCE TRAINING AND THE YOUTH GUARD

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 26 February 2026, amendments to the Law on the National Defence Training and the Youth Guard were adopted, which entered into force on 13 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments stipulate that, as of 1 September 2026, national defence training (VAM) will also be implemented as a mandatory course in part-time and distance learning programs at the general secondary education level.
- ▶ Until now, the law stipulated that national defence training was not offered in part-time and distance learning programs; thus, the amendments expand the course's availability to all students, regardless of the form of study.

AMENDMENTS TO THE YOUTH LAW

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 19 February 2026, amendments to the Youth Law were adopted, which entered into force on 19 March 2026.
- ▶ The amendments stipulate that, going forward, a “young person” is legally defined as an individual between the ages of 13 and 30. Previously, the age limit was 25. This change allows a broader range of individuals to access support from both the state and local governments.
- ▶ Here are listed the most significant amendments from the perspective of BDO Law, which do not reflect the full scope of the amendments.



LAW ON LIMITING THE INCREASE IN PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Available [here](#):

- ▶ On 26 March 2026, the Law on Limiting the Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products was adopted, which entered into force on 28 March 2026.
- ▶ The purpose of the law is to implement measures to mitigate the impact of sharply rising petroleum product prices, caused by the global energy crisis, on the economy and the population.
- ▶ It establishes a temporary excise duty rate for petroleum products for the period from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.
- ▶ Here are listed the most significant amendments from the perspective of BDO Law, which do not reflect the full scope of the amendments.



NEWS ON SANCTIONS

RUSSIAN HYBRID THREATS: FOUR INDIVIDUALS ADDED TO EU SANCTIONS LIST FOR INFORMATION MANIPULATION ACTIVITIES

Press release:

- ▶ The EU Council has added four individuals to its sanctions list for engaging in Russian foreign information manipulation and interference. These include Sergey Klyuchnikov and Ernest Mackevičius, both accused of spreading propaganda justifying Russia's war against Ukraine. Graham Phillips and Adrien Bocquet were also listed for amplifying Kremlin narratives through media content and public appearances. With these additions, EU restrictive measures now apply to 69 individuals and 17 entities, involving asset freezes, funding prohibitions, and travel bans. The Council states that these individuals' actions directly support policies undermining democracy and security in the EU and Ukraine. The measures aim to counter ongoing hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns conducted by Russia.

EU ISSUES NEW FAQ GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF PAYMENTS SERVICES UNDER THE EU RUSSIA SANCTIONS

FAQ:

- ▶ The European Commission issued new FAQs on 13 March 2026 clarifying how Article 5b(2) of the EU Russia Sanctions applies to payment services provided to certain Russian persons. The guidance explains that only specific regulated services—crypto asset services, issuance of payment instruments, acquiring, payment initiation, and electronic money issuance—are prohibited, while services like online banking access, direct transfers, and cash withdrawals remain allowed. PSPs do not need to close existing accounts but must cease any prohibited services immediately once a customer becomes in scope, and although existing cards may continue to be used, issuing or renewing cards for affected customers is forbidden. The FAQs also clarify the applicability based on residency, the non-inclusion of non-Russian entities established outside Russia, and the relevance of circumvention rules.



EU EXTENDS SANCTIONS AGAINST PEOPLE OVER RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Press release:

- ▶ The EU has extended its sanctions for six months against individuals and entities supporting Russia's war on Ukraine after delays caused by vetoes from Hungary and Slovakia. The renewed measures, targeting those threatening Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, now run until 15 September. Two individuals—including Dutch national Niels Troost—were removed from the list, and five deceased persons were delisted. In total, around 2,600 people and entities remain subject to travel bans, asset freezes, and restrictions on financial resources. Hungary and Slovakia had pushed to remove certain Russian oligarchs from the list, while Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán also urged suspending energy related sanctions due to rising prices.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: COUNCIL EXTENDS FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRICTIVE MEASURES UNTIL MARCH 2027

Press release:

- ▶ The EU has extended its framework allowing sanctions related to Bosnia and Herzegovina until March 2027. This framework enables the EU to impose measures on individuals or groups that undermine the country's sovereignty, stability, or the Dayton/Paris peace agreement. These sanctions may include asset freezes, travel bans, and restrictions on financial support, although no one is currently targeted. The Council emphasizes it will monitor the situation closely and remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path as a single and sovereign state.



US OFFICIALLY REMOVES BELARUSKALI FROM SANCTIONS LISTS

Press release:

- ▶ The U.S. Treasury's OFAC has lifted all sanctions on BPC and Belaruskali and issued a new general license allowing transactions with Belinvestbank and several of its affiliated entities. General License No. 14 authorizes dealings with Belinvestbank and companies in which it holds a 50% or greater stake but does not unblock any previously frozen property or override other restrictions under the Belarus Sanctions Regulations. OFAC also determined that restrictions on the Belarusian Ministry of Finance and the Development Bank of Belarus under Executive Order 14038 are no longer required. As a result, General License No. 13 has been archived, and BPC, Belaruskali, and its Ukrainian subsidiary have been removed from the sanctions list. The decision follows an announcement made on March 19 after a meeting between Alyaksandr Lukashenka and U.S. presidential envoy John Coale.

RUSSIAN CENTRAL BANK CHALLENGES ASSET FREEZE IN EU COURT

Press release:

- ▶ Russia's central bank has filed a legal challenge with the EU's General Court in Luxembourg against the EU's December 2025 decision to indefinitely freeze its assets. Around \$300 billion in Russian sovereign funds remain frozen in Western jurisdictions, mostly held at Euroclear in Belgium. The bank argues that the freeze was adopted with "serious procedural violations," claiming EU law requires unanimity rather than a majority vote. A source familiar with the case said these alleged procedural flaws form the core of the complaint. Russia's central bank also claims the EU regulation unlawfully denies Russia access to justice, infringes on property rights, and violates the sovereign immunity of states and their central banks.



To find out how we can help your business, we invite you to contact our team of experts, who will develop the most suitable and effective solution for your business needs.

Contacts

Jānis Ciguzis
Head of Legal, CAMS, CGSS
janis.ciguzis@bdo.lv

This publication has been carefully prepared, but it is written in general terms and should be considered as general information material that does not apply to any specific situation. This publication should not be used or relied upon to evaluate specific situations, and you should not act on the information contained in this publication without prior professional advice.

© All copyrights belong to BDO Law. All rights reserved.

