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Russian oil and secondary sanctions



Just before he visited Washington last week, Foreign Min. Jan Lipavský told [CNN](#) that if China started helping Russia in any significant way, it would have severe consequences for the EU-China relationship. Lipavský was thinking ahead and was apparently hinting at secondary sanctions, which can be imposed against countries that seek to [undermine sanctions](#) or that provide support for Russia's war effort. A phased-in embargo by the EU on Russian oil by the end of this year, which the CR supports, would flood the market with easily transportable Russian petroleum. A new informal bloc of countries willing to buy it could form, potentially adding many more non-Western governments to a list of countries that could become subject to secondary EU or US sanctions. [China and India](#) are already buying Russian oil and would presumably keep doing so. Lipavský is apparently prepared to get into a trade war with them. An embargo on Russian oil could have severe secondary consequences.

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