
EU DEMANDS ANSWERS AS FRANCE PUSHES FOR BILLIONAIRE'S RUSSIA SANCTIONS RELEASE

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Paris has joined Slovakia in calling for Alisher Usmanov to be removed from the blocs blacklist.

BRUSSELS □ France has a week to reassure fellow EU countries that its push to remove a controversial Russian-Uzbek billionaire from the blocs sanctions list wont start a free-for-all that fractures restrictions on Moscow.

Ambassadors failed to agree on Monday on whether to remove mining and metals tycoon Alisher Usmanov from the blacklist during a closed-door meeting, known as Coreper. Five diplomats and officials involved in the discussions told POLITICO its now up to Paris, which blindsided colleaguesin backing the delisting of Usmanov, to explain how doing so wouldnt set a dangerous precedent. The envoys will reconvene Sept. 22.

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