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Obama, Cameron Agree on Continuing Russia Sanctions

Posted By Jason Ditz

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President Obama told a press conference today that he and British Premier David Cameron agreed on the need to continue sanctioning Russia over its “aggression” against neighboring Ukraine.

The announcement isn’t necessarily surprising, as Cameron is one of the most outspoken EU leaders on sanctions, and the US has little trade with Russia, and sees little risk in continuing the sanctions for their own sake.

The sanctions risk setting up a battle in the EU, however, as both Germany and France have recently come out in favor of ending the sanctions, and Germany's vice-chancellor called out the pro-sanction wing for wanting sanctions for no good reason.

For EU-wide sanctions, a vote has to be unanimous, and as the sanctions threaten more EU nations' economic ties with Russia, it will be virtually impossible to get those unanimous votes.