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## SIDE NOTE

A preliminary ruling issued by the Court of Justice of the European Union is binding on the national court that requested it and on other national courts dealing with similar issues, ensuring uniform interpretation of EU law across Member States.

### **RESTRICTIVE MEASURES: THE BAN ON THE EXPORT OF BANKNOTES DENOMINATED IN EURO OR IN ANOTHER OFFICIAL CURRENCY OF A MEMBER STATE TO RUSSIA ALSO APPLIES WHEN THE MONEY IS INTENDED TO FINANCE MEDICAL TREATMENTS**

Customs officials at Frankfurt Main Airport confiscated nearly €15,000 from a passenger heading to Russia but permitted her to keep €1,000 for travel expenses. The money was intended not just for her trip but also for medical treatments in Russia, including dental work and hormone therapy.

The seizure was carried out in accordance with EU regulations that restrict exporting euro banknotes to Russia, which aims to restrict cash flow into the Russian economy due to its military actions against Ukraine. Nonetheless, there is an exception for amounts deemed necessary for personal use.

The German court asked the Court of Justice to clarify whether medical expenses fall under this exception. The Court ruled that they do not, stating that funds designated for medical treatments are not regarded as necessary for personal use in relation to travel. The exception is limited solely to cash needed for the journey and associated stay.

**The act of exporting euro-denominated banknotes by an individual traveling to Russia, with the purpose of funding medical treatments they wish to undergo there, is not considered an export required for personal use.**