



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Ursula von der Leyen
The President*

*Brussels, 02. 06. 2023
Ares (2023) 1429275*

Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you and the co-signatories for your letter concerning Russian media propaganda utilising online platforms.

Russia's continuous and concerted propaganda actions are taken very seriously by the European Union (EU). Recently, on 25 February 2023, the Council of the European Union added two Russian media outlets to the media ban under Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) No. 833/2014, which brings to 15 the total number of entities subject to the media ban.

The scope of the media ban includes the prohibition on anyone to broadcast or to enable, contribute or facilitate the broadcast of such listed media in the EU, but also in third countries if an EU company is involved.

Member States are responsible for implementing these measures, and the Commission is monitoring that this is done in a coordinated and harmonised way across the EU.

In this context, the Commission calls on Member States to exercise particular vigilance regarding the various and volatile sources listed media may use to continue broadcasting content.

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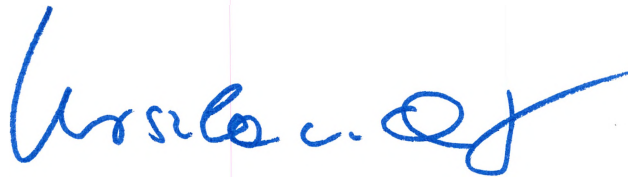
*Mr Witold Waszczykowski, MEP
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The Commission is closely working with EU regulators on the identification of websites or channels to be blocked, on the technical requirements to block them, and on the drafting of a non-exhaustive list of websites or channels that form part of the listed media and should, as a consequence, also be blocked.

The Commission thanks you for raising the point of Telegram chats, that we will look into as a potential circumvention pattern. Please be assured that, together with EU regulators, we will explore all options to tackle this issue.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ursula v. d. L.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ursula von der Leyen