

Question for written answer E-003781/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Russian propaganda operatives residing and operating in the EU

According to recent media reports¹, the Czech authorities detained and subsequently expelled two Russian nationals linked to Russian propaganda structures. One of them, Vitaliy Chashchukhin, reportedly resides legally in Germany and works for Russian media outlets, including Izvestia and REN TV, whose broadcasting activities in the EU are subject to EU restrictive measures.

Despite being expelled from Czechia, he was reportedly able to return to Germany, from where he has been operating and travelling within the Schengen area.

1. Is the Commission aware that individuals working for Russian media outlets subject to EU restrictive measures are legally residing in and operating from Member States, including Germany?
2. How does the Commission assess the enforcement of EU sanctions in cases where individuals provide services to sanctioned Russian media while residing in the EU?
3. Does the Commission consider the current coordination and information exchange between the Member States sufficient to prevent the EU and the Schengen area from being used as a base for Russian propaganda operations?

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¹ Seznam Zprávy, <https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/domaci-kauzy-ceska-policie-vykazala-ruske-propagandisty-vyslychala-je-pry-devet-hodin-315493>.