

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002651/25
to the Commission
Pina Picerno (S&D)
(1 July 2025)**

Subject: RT advertising campaign in EU territory

Billboards have recently popped up in a number of major Italian cities — namely Rome, Milan and Bologna — promoting documentaries by RT, formerly Russia Today, and encouraging people to watch them.

The billboards have been put up in highly visible and busy parts of the cities, and use an extremely provocative slogan: ‘They ban the truth, we show it. Find RT docs in your city’.

This Russian TV campaign clearly violates the EU sanctions against Kremlin propaganda on European soil, threatening our shared democratic values.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this dangerous and destabilising action to circumvent the EU sanctions against Russia?
2. What steps will it take to prevent and tackle the dissemination of Russian propaganda in Italy, and to ensure effective application of the sanctions against those who are acting as avenues of influence for Putin’s regime?

Submitted: 1.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2025)**

The EU has detected and exposed several foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) operations from the Russian state or pro-Kremlin actors. The EU is aware of ongoing campaigns and the *modus operandi* of the Russian government.

In response to Russia’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has taken steps to combat Russian FIMI operations in the territory of the EU.

The EU has restricted the broadcasting of content from outlets, including RT, engaging in continuous and concerted propaganda actions supporting the war ⁽¹⁾. The EU has also prohibited providing advertising services to the Russian government or Russian legal persons ⁽²⁾.

EU non-government organisations and media service providers are also prohibited from accepting Russian financing, in order to counter Russian efforts to interfere with EU democratic processes ⁽³⁾.

Member States must ensure that violations of these prohibitions are criminalised ⁽⁴⁾. Russian FIMI campaigns are analysed and findings are published in the European External Action Service’s FIMI Threat report ⁽⁵⁾ and on the EUvsDisinfo platform ⁽⁶⁾.

Investigations of activities potentially violating EU restrictive measures (sanctions) fall within the competence of the Member States. Sanctions against broadcasting outlets and other actors are implemented and enforced by their authorities.

In addition, the European Media Freedom Act ⁽⁷⁾ provides a regulatory coordination mechanism on media services from outside the EU that prejudice public security. The Commission closely monitors the transposition of Directive 2024/1226 to ensure the effective application of sanctions.

⁽¹⁾ Article 2f of Council Regulation (EU) 833/2014, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014R0833-20241029>.

⁽²⁾ Article 5n of Council Regulation (EU) 833/2014.

⁽³⁾ Article 5t of Council Regulation (EU) 833/2014.

⁽⁴⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures and amending Directive (EU) 2018/1673, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1226/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ The 3rd FIMI Threat Report can be found here: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/3rd-eeas-report-foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-threats-0_en.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/>.

⁽⁷⁾ Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1083/oj/eng>.

It also works with Member States to prepare for the application of Regulation 2024/900, which sets out common transparency and accountability standards for political advertising ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj/eng>.