

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001131/26
to the Commission
Jan Farský (PPE)
(18 March 2026)

Subject: Russian disinformation

According to a report it published in February 2024, the French state organisation Viginum uncovered a network of inauthentic news websites spreading pro-Kremlin narratives. These websites used domains containing the label 'pravda-' followed by country codes and published content translated into several European languages, including English, German, French, Portuguese and Spanish. At the same time, the Czech website Novarepublika.cz has been systematically publishing and republishing in Czech articles originating from the Russian portal Ukraina.ru, which belongs to the state media group Rossiya Segodnya. This media group was added to the European Union sanctions list on 25 February 2023.

Given that EU sanctions prohibit content from certain Russian state media outlets from being distributed within EU territory, the systematic translation and republication of such content may constitute a possible circumvention of EU restrictive measures.

Given this context:

1. Is the Commission aware of cases in which content from sanctioned Russian state media is being translated and published through websites operated in EU Member States?
2. Does the Commission consider the systematic translation and republication of content originating from sanctioned media outlets, such as Rossiya Segodnya or Ukraina.ru, to be a possible circumvention of EU sanctions?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)

The Commission recalls that Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency is subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) under Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 ⁽¹⁾, including an asset freeze and a prohibition on making funds or economic resources available to it, directly or indirectly.

Moreover, several outlets of Rossiya Segodnya are also subject to restrictive measures under Article 2f of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 ⁽²⁾.

These measures prohibit the broadcasting or distribution of their content in the EU, regardless of the means of transmission, dissemination or distribution, including via online means.

The restrictions on the broadcasting and dissemination of content by certain media outlets (designated entities), including those under the control of the Russian Federation in this sanctions regime, are justified by the designated outlets' essential and instrumental role in the systematic disinformation and propaganda campaigns in support of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The implementation and enforcement of restrictive measures primarily fall within the competence of the Member States. The Commission monitors the application of the EU's sanctions regime in coordination with Member States.

Actions that effectively reproduce or systematically republish the above-mentioned prohibited content may, depending on the circumstances, amount to circumvention of the restrictive measures.

Where indications of such conduct arise, it is for the competent national authorities to assess the facts and, where appropriate, take enforcement action in accordance with EU and national law.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of 17 March 2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0269>.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/879 of 3 June 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32014R0833>.