

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001552/26
to the Commission**

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(15 April 2026)

Subject: Application of EU sanctions against a Russian propaganda event in a Member State

On 11-12 April 2026, a festival organised by an Italian association linked to RT, formerly known as Russia Today, was held in Bologna, Italy.

According to press reports, the festival programme included the screening of contributions from and documentaries produced by RT, (an organisation subject to European sanctions and whose operations are banned on EU territory), which faithfully reproduced the Kremlin's narrative, in particular regarding the conflict in Ukraine and the role of the West.

The festival was also praised by Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of RT and one of the key figures in the Kremlin's propaganda apparatus.

Having regard to Council Regulations (EU) 2022/350 and (EU) 833/2014 and their subsequent amendments, can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether it was aware of the organisation of such an event in a Member State's territory?
2. Whether the event and its programme constitute a violation of the European sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and certain of its media outlets operating in the EU?
3. What actions it can take to prevent events of this nature from continuing to take place in a Member State where, at present, there are no legislative measures in force implementing the EU's sanctions?

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**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(15 June 2026)**

The Commission monitors the implementation of EU restrictive measures (sanctions) across Member States. This includes the implementation of sanctions on the activities of Russian media outlets, namely the ban on the broadcasting in the EU of content of certain outlets which disseminate propaganda aligned with Kremlin narratives. RT (formerly Russia Today) is subject to a broadcasting ban in the EU and its broadcasting license(s) in the EU are suspended ⁽¹⁾.

The broadcasting ban prohibits dissemination of RT's content via any format, including television and online media. In addition, a number of individuals linked to RT are subject to individual restrictive measures ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is aware of reports of the organisation of an event at which content of a sanctioned media outlet may have been broadcast.

The Commission is in contact with the authorities of the relevant Member State on this issue, as the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions is, first and foremost, a competence of the Member States.

Member States' national competent authorities must ensure the full and effective implementation of EU sanctions. Where a violation of sanctions is established, Member States' enforcement authorities must also apply appropriate and effective penalties ⁽³⁾.

The Commission rejects efforts by Kremlin-linked media outlets to defend Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine in the EU and any actions taken to circumvent EU sanctions and thereby undermine EU values and security. The Commission cannot comment further on national enforcement actions, if any, at this stage.

⁽¹⁾ Article 2(f) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/833/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Annex I of Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/269/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1226 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1226/oj/eng>.