

## **EU Regulation concerning broadcasting prohibition** in view of Russia's actions in Ukraine

## **Information Notice**

Reference: ComReg 23/62

Version: Final

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## **Extension of Prohibition to Five Additional Russian Media Outlets**

 On 1 March 2022, the European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EU) 2022/350 of 1 March 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in the Ukraine. That Regulation came into effect on 2 March and is available here: Publications Office (europa.eu).

- 2. ComReg informed industry of the Regulation in ComReg 22/18 dated 4 March 2022.
- 3. According to Art. 1(3) of that Regulation:

"It shall be prohibited for operators to broadcast or to enable, facilitate or otherwise contribute to broadcast, any content by the legal persons, entities or bodies listed in Annex XV, including through transmission or distribution by any means such as cable, satellite, IP-TV, internet service providers, internet video-sharing platforms or applications, whether new or pre-installed."

- Annex XV includes RT- Russia Today English, RT- Russia Today UK, RT Russia Today Germany, RT - Russia Today France, RT- Russia Today Spanish and Sputnik.
- 5. While this Regulation is directly effective throughout the EU, full effect is given to this Regulation in Ireland by S.I. No. 298 of 2023, the European Union (Restrictive Measures Concerning Ukraine) (No. 9) Regulations 2023.
- 6. By Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1217 of 23 June 2023 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine <u>Link</u>, the EU has extended the prohibition to broadcast content to five further Russian media outlets: RT Balkan, Oriental Review, Tsargrad, New Eastern Outlook, Katehon.
- 7. Article 3(3)(a) of the Open Internet Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 25 November 2015 allows for exceptions to be made to the principle of Open Internet in order to: "comply with Union legislative acts, or national legislation that complies with Union law, to which the provider of internet access services is subject, or with measures that comply with Union law giving effect to such Union legislative acts or national legislation, including with orders by courts or public authorities vested with relevant powers law (...)"

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8. ComReg expects all ISPs to comply with Regulation(EU) 2022/350 and proceed to block access to the relevant sites.

9. For further information in relation to the above, see <u>Link</u>.