



An Coimisiún um  
**Rialáil Cumarsáide**  
Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

## Information Notice

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

### Information Notice

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**Commission for Communications Regulation**

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1. On 1 March 2022 the European Union 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. 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.”*
3. 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.
4. While this Regulation is directly effective throughout the EU, full effect is given to this Regulation in Ireland by S.I. No. 94 of 2022, the European Union (Restrictive Measures Concerning Ukraine) (No. 5) Regulations 2022: [pdf \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#)
5. Regulation 3 of the Irish Regulations provides that a person who contravenes a provision of the EU Regulation shall be guilty of an offence.
6. Regulation 4 of the Irish Regulations provides that a person who is guilty of the offence of contravening a provision of the EU Regulation shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both or, on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or both.
7. Regulation 5 of the Irish Regulations provides that a competent authority in Ireland may give such directions to a person as it sees fit for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of the EU Regulation.
8. Regulation 6 of the Irish Regulations makes it an offence to fail to comply with a direction given under Regulation 5 within the time specified, and a person guilty of this offence shall be liable on summary conviction to a class A fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both.
9. 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 (...)*"

10. ComReg would therefore expect that all ISPs should comply with Regulation (EU) 2022/350 and proceed to block access to those sites as listed in the annexes.
11. We are aware that the issue is the subject of ongoing discussion at the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications ("BEREC") and see in this regard: [BEREC: Open Internet Regulation is not an obstacle in implementing EU sanctions to block RT and Sputnik \(europa.eu\)](#)
12. For further information in relation to the above, see: [February - Information on sanctions in respect of the situation in Ukraine - Department of Foreign Affairs \(dfa.ie\)](#)