# EU Council Suspends Broadcasting of Russia-Linked Media Outlets for Spreading Kremlin Propaganda



In May 2023, the Council of the EU suspended broadcasting operations within the EU for four Russia-linked media outlets: Voice of Europe, RIA Novosti, Izvestia, and Rossiyskaya Gazeta. The Council accused these outlets of spreading Kremlin propaganda supporting Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The banned media are described as being under the direct or indirect control of the Russian leadership and instrumental in backing Russia's war efforts and destabilizing neighboring countries. Additionally, Voice of Europe and individuals Viktor Medvedchuk and Artem Marchevskyi faced sanctions from the Czech Republic in March 2023 for allegedly engaging in a pro-Russian influence operation targeting the EU’s June elections.

In response, the Kremlin announced it had blocked access for 81 European news outlets within Russia, including France's AFP, Germany's Der Spiegel and FAZ, and Italian and Spanish public broadcasters Rai and RTVE. This move was characterized as a reciprocal measure against the EU's bans. Moscow stated it could reconsider these sanctions if the EU lifted its restrictions on Russian media.

This recent EU action follows a previous ban in March 2022 on Kremlin-backed outlets RT and Sputnik, aimed at countering Russian disinformation during the Ukraine conflict.