

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear President Costa,

With this letter, we wish to shed light on the case of a known Russian propagandist operating openly from within the EU and call for immediate EU action in the form of individual sanctions. Xenia Fedorova is best-known as the founder, president and news director of Russia Today France throughout its existence from 2017 to 2022, when RT European outlets were rightly targeted by the EU's very first sanctions package against Russia in the wake of its full-fledged invasion of Ukraine, and saw their broadcasting activities suspended urgently as a result.

Since then, Xenia Fedorova has turned to working as a commentator on several French media outlets, remaining perfectly consistent in her pro-Kremlin stance and in line with her known links to EU-sanctioned Russian state propagandist Margarita Simonyan, who had personally entrusted her to establish herself in France as a Kremlin mouthpiece.

Therefore, it is only logical that the grounds on which RT France was sanctioned should also serve as a basis for imposing personal sanctions on Ms. Fedorova as an individual responsible for disseminating propagandist and bluntly manipulative narratives on the war in Ukraine and towards the EU - examples, among many, include the characterisation of the Euromaidan protests as a "*coup*", or of the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia as "*rescue operations from warzones*".

The EU's sanction legal framework explicitly provides for this, as the Council CFSP Decision 2024/2643 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's destabilising activities and the accompanying Council Regulation 2024/2642 adopted in October 2024 explicitly allow the EU to impose sanctions on entities or individuals who are "*responsible for, implementing, supporting, or benefitting from actions or policies by the Government of the Russian Federation which undermine or threaten democracy, the rule of law, stability or security in the Union or in one or several of its Member States*" such as "*planning, directing, engaging in, directly or indirectly, supporting or otherwise facilitating the use of coordinated information manipulation and interference*".

We trust this suggestion will be taken on board as part of a forthcoming sanctions package and hope to be kept informed of further developments to that extent.

With sincere regards,

Nathalie Loiseau MEP, Renew Europe

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