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Answer given by Mr Breton
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.8.2022)

The NIS Directive\(^1\) requires Member States to develop national cybersecurity strategies and to ensure that key economic operators take cybersecurity measures and report incidents, however it does not contain any specific provisions on the blocking of websites for cybersecurity or other purposes.

The Commission is not able to comment on the substance of the Slovakian Act n 55/2022\(^2\), however the Commission recalls that the EU works constantly to support media freedom and pluralism. Free access to information is a fundamental right protected under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Concerning the measures and sanctions taken by the EU on the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, these aim to target the core of the Kremlin’s disinformation and war propaganda machine in the EU. The measures include an immediate suspension of transmission and distribution of Sputnik, Russia Today, as well as Rossiya RTR/RTR Planeta, Rossiya 24/Russia 24, and TV Centre International, in or directed at the EU – such as via cable, satellite, IPTV, platforms, websites and apps. Online platforms have suspended the transmission of those channels in the EU in line with the adopted measures, and have taken further action to limit the spread of disinformation related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Commission and the European External Action Service continue to be in close contact with the main platform signatories of the Code of Practice on Disinformation. The current extraordinary situation demands extraordinary, swift and strong actions, and this also shows the need to quickly implement the revised Code of Practice on Disinformation, presented on 16 June 2022.

\(^1\) [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/1148/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/1148/oj)