

**Question for written answer E-001234/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Companies operating in the EU that are owned or managed by sanctioned Russians oligarchs

In the last round of EU sanctions against the Russian government, several CEOs of businesses operating in the European Union were sanctioned (Annex to Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP), including the CEOs of various information companies such as Yandex. Another example is the CEO of MLU B.V, Tigran Khudaverdyan, who according to the aforementioned Decision is a 'key element in hiding information from Russians about the war in Ukraine' and whose company 'has been warning Russian users looking for news about Ukraine on its search engine of unreliable information on the internet, after the Russian Government threatened Russian media over what they publish'.

Given that this company and others referred to in the justifications for individual sanctions against CEOs are still operating in the EU market:

1. Will the Commission withdraw licences from information companies operating in the EU that are owned or managed by sanctioned Russians?
2. Can the Commission confirm that companies such as Yandex will be added to Annex XV of Regulation 833/2014 on the grounds that EU legislation now deems them agents of the Russian Federation?
3. Does the Commission recognise that failure to do so now would leave the original personal sanctions open to challenge by those sanctioned?