



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement under the Current issue
“Responding to Kremlin-Supported Media Organizations’ Covert Activities”**

As for delivery by the Delegation of Ukraine
to the 1489th meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Madame Chairperson,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the United States of America for the practical steps on countering the Russian disinformation and propaganda in all their forms. We are also grateful for raising this important current issue within today’s PC agenda.

Commenting on new sanctions against the Russian state media outlet “Russia Today”, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has accused it of being a “de facto arm of Russia’s intelligence apparatus”.

The infamous RT is well-known for its long-term toxic disinformation and propaganda activities throughout the world as well as for the promotion and justification of the Russian war of aggression.

Trying to hide behind the umbrella of the international principles and commitments, safeguarding the freedom of media in the civilised world, Russia has been abusing these norms in extremely large scale, having made out of almost all Russian media a weapon of its aggressive policy as well as neo-nazi and fascist ideology – the “russism”.

Relevant measures used to be taken regarding RT by France, Germany and other European states even before the full-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine, due to the illegal activities of this so-called “media outlet”.

Back in 2022 during the joint Ukrainian-Lithuanian ASRC side-event “How Russia creates CBRN-related myths as a false pretext for its war of aggression against Ukraine” the experts explained in detail the role of Russian media in spreading the most unbelievable narratives of the Russian disinformation. Everyone remembers Russian statements and media publications on the so-called “Ukrainian combat mosquitos, birds, transporting biological weapons to Russia, dirty bombs” and so on and so forth.

But are these only the Russian media, whose so called journalists are in fact serving as soldiers of the Russian special information forces?

Boris Bondarev, the Russian diplomat who resigned in 2022 in protest over the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in his recent article “Between Paranoia and Apathy: Russian Diplomats, Conspiracy Theories, and Ukraine”, published by the French newsletter and website “Desk Russie”, reveals the facts about the role of the Russian diplomatic service in spreading propaganda and disinformation.

I hereby provide several quotations from this article. I quote: “Conspiracy theories in the MFA are a phenomenon borrowed and adopted from intelligence officers with whom diplomats work closely, and especially from the higher echelons of power filled with former KGB officers professing the most backward concepts of the world order. The Foreign Ministry simply goes along with it, unwilling to quarrel and afraid to defend its point of view.” End of quote.

Another one: “In the third year of the so-called “Special Military Operation”, the Russian MFA is an inherent element of the Russian propaganda machine; it lacks any subjectivity and is perceived by the Kremlin as a purely technical secretariat. Key foreign policy decisions appear to be made – without any challenge – by President Putin himself”. End of quote.

Numerous confirmations to these claims are regularly witnessed by all of us in this hall during Russian statements to the PC, which are traditionally full of disinformation and manipulations.

Dear Colleagues,

The Russian war brought a huge tragedy to Ukraine. Devastation and hundreds of thousands of Russian war crimes became a painful part of today’s reality of the Ukrainian people.

While Ukraine, together with partners, keep tirelessly working on the accountability for the Russian war criminals, the Russian propagandists and soldiers of disinformation warfare, be them so-called journalists or so-called diplomats, must remember that the time for their responsibility will also come. And this will happen inevitably.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.