

Incident Alert 0005. TLP CLEAR.		Date	Breakout Scale
Title	EU - Sanctioned Russian media entities and individuals accessible on TikTok	05/06/2024	2

Summary

- As of June 4th 2024, at least 29 TikTok channels of Russian media entities banned by the EU or posing as such, are accessible to EU audiences, including the official Spanish-language account of RT with 2.9 million followers.
- A network of amplifier accounts frequently or systematically repost these channels content.
- At least 1 Russian media personality on the EU sanctions list has an active account accessible to EU audiences.
- [Council Regulation No 269/2014](#) prohibits hosting content from these channels or making them available to EU audiences on video-sharing platforms, as clarified in [Commission guidance](#) updated mid-May 2024.

Incident – When, Who did what, to say what, to whom, why?

As of early June 2024, in the week before the European elections, official channels linked to Russian state media on the [EU sanctions list](#) were accessible on TikTok to EU-based audiences.

On TikTok, these channels include:

- channels verified as authentic by TikTok and labelled as Russian state-controlled media (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)),
- accounts with all the hallmarks of official channels (name, logo, only posting content produced by the entity) but without any external verification (e.g. [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)),
- accounts that repeatedly (sometimes exclusively) post content produced by those entities but which do not appear to be affiliated with them (e.g. [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)).

In addition, a number of accounts with some connection to the sanctioned entities (e.g. logo, name, state-controlled media label by TikTok) have been inactive for a few months or more (e.g. [10](#), [11](#)).

The largest account found is the official Spanish-language RT account (2.9 million followers and 105 million likes).

Beyond those accounts that are directly affiliated or strongly aligned with sanctioned Russian media entities, individual content from those channels is routinely posted by other users (e.g. [12](#), [13](#), [14](#))

In addition, accounts of individuals (either official or entirely dedicated to resharing their content) in the EU sanctions list ([Annex I of Council Regulation No 269/2014](#)) are available on the platform (e.g. [15](#), [16](#)).

The sanctions entail that broadcasting of content from these entities is forbidden in Europe. On May 14, 2024, the European Commission [further clarified](#) that the sanctions prohibit hosting content from these channels or making them available to EU audiences on video-sharing platforms.

Impact

Reach: The identified accounts have at least 8 million followers and 196 million likes on TikTok (the EU share of which cannot be inferred from public data).

Recommendations

- Action taken: reported to TikTok and EC on 06/04/2024 – pending response.
- Suggest to TikTok to:
 - 1- conduct a sweep of the platform to automatically identify videos containing the logos of the sanctioned media.
 - 2- systematically go through the list of sanctioned entities and ensure their accounts are not accessible in the EU.

Report	Topic	Evidence	Authors	Content type	Platforms
Link	EU Sanctions, Russia	See full report	Saman Nazari, A4E , Rikard Friberg von Sydow, Södertörn University. Science Feedback .	Social media channels,	TikTok posts