

RUSSIAN MEDIA UPDATES

Erdogan announces talks with Putin

02.05.2022 | Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan plans to hold telephone talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin this week, he said, according to CNN Turk. "Our desire is to bring the presidents of Russia and Ukraine together in Istanbul or Ankara. Turkey will be the place where decisions regarding eastern Ukraine will be made. It will happen in Istanbul or Ankara," he said.

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Borrell announced new disconnections of Russian banks from SWIFT

03.05.2022 | The European Union will expand the list of Russian banks to be disconnected from the SWIFT system with the sixth sanctions package, said Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He did not specify which organizations would be subject to the restrictions.

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Hungary denied reports on support of the embargo on Russian oil

02.05.2022 | Hungarian government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said Budapest does not support sanctions against gas and oil from Russia. ZDF television reported today that Hungary, Austria and Slovakia allegedly intend to support an embargo on Russian oil.

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Estonia to consider withdrawing its signature on the border treaty with Russia

03.05.2022 | Today, the Estonian Parliament will consider the proposal of the Conservative People's Party to revoke the signature on the land and sea border treaty with the Russian Federation, signed on February 18, 2014, [reports Delfi](#). There is no legally formalized border between Estonia and Russia. Originally, the border treaty was signed in 2005 in Moscow. However, during its ratification, the Estonian side included in the preamble a reference to the validity of the Tartu Peace Treaty, on the basis of which the prewar border was drawn. Moscow regarded this step as an attempt by Tallinn to reserve the right for territorial claims in the future and withdrew its signature. The Treaty of Tartu was signed on February 2, 1920. The agreement stipulated the line of the state border between the two countries. According to it a part of Pskov province (today's Pechora district of Pskov Oblast of Russia) and the territories on the right bank of the river Narova (today's territories in Leningrad Oblast) were ceded to Estonia. In 1944 these territories returned to the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

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The richest Russians have lost 45.5 billion dollars since the beginning of the year

02.05.2022 | The combined wealth of Russia's richest entrepreneurs has fallen by \$45.484 billion since the beginning of the year, RIA Novosti reported on the basis of the [Bloomberg Billionaires Index \(BBI\)](#). A total of BBI represents the 500 richest people in the world, including 23 Russians. As of today, they own \$328.04 billion.

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A four-day workweek may be introduced in the near future, according to the State Duma

03.05.2022 | Yaroslav Nilov, chairman of the State Duma committee on labor, social policy and veterans affairs, thinks that the transition to a four-day workweek is a matter of the near future, he told RIA Novosti.

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German Foreign Minister Berbock named conditions for lifting sanctions against Russia

01.05.2022 | German Foreign Minister Annalena Berbock said that a condition for lifting sanctions against Russia would be a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Ukraine. The Minister said this in an interview with the [newspaper Bild am Sonntag](#).

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Hungary and nine other countries have opened accounts in rubles to pay for Russian gas

01.05.2022 | Hungary, along with nine other countries has already opened an account in a Russian bank to pay for gas according to the rules proposed by Moscow. This was announced on Sunday, May 1, by Hungarian Prime Minister Gergely Gúyas on air of Rádió Kossuth. He also reminded that the European Union had not adopted any sanctions, making it impossible to pay for Russian gas in rubles, and this issue is regulated only by a civil law contract between states and companies.

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REGULATORY UPDATES

Amendments to the Law on Export Control will come into force on May 26

02.05.2022 | Since May 26, the list of goods and technologies under export control will be approved by the Russian government. The government will also establish foreign trade restrictions in order to comply with Russia's international export control obligations.

Related document:

http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_412690/

Vladimir Putin approved amendments to simplify registration of foreign companies in Russia

01.05.2022 | Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law on amendments to the Tax Code, which simplify the opening of accounts in Russian banks and their tax registration by foreign legal entities. A foreign company will be able to register with the tax authority after the Russian bank opening its account submits the corresponding application. The new law was adopted to implement Putin's decree on the transfer of payments for Russian pipeline gas supplies to unfriendly countries from foreign currencies to rubles.

Related document:

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202205010006?index=0&rangeSize=1>

Vladimir Putin signed the law abolishing visa preferences for EU citizens

01.05.2022 | President Vladimir Putin has signed a law suspending simplified visas for several categories of citizens of the EU, Denmark, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, including officials and journalists. The document cancels the simplified procedure for submission of documents and issuance of multiple entry visas for one year for official delegations and journalists, multiple entry visas for five years for members of national and regional governments, parliaments and courts. The law also eliminates visa fee exemption for official delegations and members of governments and parliaments and visa-free entry to Russia for holders of diplomatic passports. The conclusion of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs states that the imposed restrictions are countermeasures, "which is consistent with international law as well as the principle of reciprocity.

Related document:

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202205010010?index=1&rangeSize=1>

Vladimir Putin signed a decree on additional measures for cybersecurity of Russia

01.05.2022 | Thus, deputy heads of federal executive bodies, the highest executive bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, state funds, state corporations and other organizations are entrusted with the authority to ensure information security of relevant organizations, including the detection, prevention and elimination of consequences of computer attacks, response to computer incidents. Besides, starting from January 1, 2025 in Russia the above authorities are forbidden to use information protection means from 'unfriendly' countries.

Related document:

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202205010023>

BUSINESS UPDATES

The information below is compiled by mass media and should not be considered as an official statement or professional advice. Please kindly refer to the disclaimer below.

Interros bought the processing company United Card Services.

02.05.2022 | United Card Services has been operating on the Russian market since 1992, specializing in products and services in the field of payment technology. The company also has its own processing center and accepts bank cards of the main payment systems Mir, Visa, Mastercard, JCB, UnionPay, American Express. In April, Interros, whose owner and president is businessman Vladimir Potanin, made several major deals. Thus, on April 11 the holding announced that it had agreed to buy out Societe Generale's stake of 99.4% in Rosbank. The deal is planned to be closed "in several weeks". On April 28 it became known about the purchase of 35% of Tinkoff Group (TCS Group), which owns Tinkoff Bank and Tinkoff Insurance.

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Investors are looking at M.Video

30.04.2022 | M.Video-Eldorado Group, a large Russian seller of home appliances and electronics, is preparing for a change of shareholders. Said Gutseriev, who controls more than 60% of the company, may sell his stake by the end of the year to unnamed Russian investors. The stake is worth over 24.5 billion rubles at the stock exchange. The deal might be necessary to protect M.Video-Eldorado from possible sanctions, and it may result in the German holding Media Saturn leaving the group's shareholders, experts believe.

[Read more](#)

A list of companies that have announced to either fully or to some extent stop or suspend their operations in Russia is available here:

- <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/5240137>
- <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/06/03/2022/6224979c9a79476ac7db031f?from=newsfeed>

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA UPDATES

EU Plans to Court Africa to Help Replace Russian Gas Imports

03.05.2022 | The European Union will seek to step up cooperation with African countries to help replace imports of Russian natural gas and reduce dependence on Moscow by almost two-thirds this year.

[Read more](#)

Goldman Sachs slashes credit exposure to Russia

02.05.2022 | Goldman Sachs Group Inc reduced its total credit exposure to Russia to \$260 million in March from \$650 million at the end of 2021, the bank said in a regulatory filing on Monday. The bank said market exposure tied to Russia and total exposure to Ukraine were not material. In March, Goldman Sachs became the first major U.S. bank to announce it was retreating from Russia after the country started its military operation in Ukraine.

[Read more](#)

Fertilizer sector set for biggest profits in years on Russia-Ukraine conflict

02.05.2022 | Fertilizer makers are set to post their biggest quarterly profits in years, following a supply squeeze of essential crop nutrients due to the Ukraine crisis, according to analysts. Top fertilizer makers Nutrien Ltd, Mosaic Co and CF Industries are expected to benefit as sanctions on Russia and Belarus, the world's No. 2 and 3 producers of potash, sent prices of the key fertilizer nutrient to levels not seen since the 2008 food crisis.

[Read more](#)

Citi CEO says sanctions will splinter global financial order

02.05.2022 | Western countries' use of economic sanctions to punish Russia for its military operation in Ukraine is prompting some international clients of Citigroup Inc to explore new ways to conduct trade and finance, the bank's chief executive said on Monday. In the Middle East, CEO Jane Fraser said, "you hear the clients there talk about the fact that they don't trust the western financial order to put all of their eggs in that basket going forward, that they are going to be looking at other places." Fraser, speaking on a panel at the Milken Institute Global Conference, added: "You have to anticipate the splintering of the old global financial order, the acceleration of new venues."

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Russia's Potanin snaps up third finance deal amid Ukraine turmoil

02.05.2022 | Russian billionaire Vladimir Potanin's Interros group said on Monday it had bought United Card Services, part of Global Payments Inc, its third deal in three weeks as it snaps up financial assets from buyers exiting the Russian market. Global Payments confirmed it was exiting its Russian business as it released its first quarter results on Monday. The value of the deal was not disclosed.

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EU UPDATES

Sanctions will not be lifted until Russia signs peace deal with Ukraine -Germany's Scholz

02.05.2022 | The sanctions imposed on Russia in response to its military operation in Ukraine will not be lifted until Moscow reaches a peace agreement with Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, adding that it was for Ukraine to determine the peace terms. Scholz, in an interview broadcast Monday on ZDF public television, said Russian President Vladimir Putin had miscalculated if he had anticipated he might be able to gain territory from Ukraine, declare an end to hostilities, and see Western countries drop sanctions.

[Read more](#)

EU energy ministers hold crisis talks after Russian gas cuts

02.05.2022 | Energy ministers from European Union countries hold emergency talks on Monday (2 May), as the bloc strives for a united response to Moscow's demand that European buyers pay for Russian gas in rubles or face their supply being cut off. Russia halted gas supplies to Bulgaria and Poland last week after they refused to meet its demand to effectively pay in rubles. Poland was prepared to stop using Russian gas this year, but the move has raised fears that other EU countries, including Europe's gas-reliant economic powerhouse Germany, could be next. It has also threatened to crack the EU's united front against Russia amid disagreement on the right course of action.

[Read more](#)

Germany U-turns to support oil embargo

02.05.2022 | Germany now favors an EU embargo on Russian oil, having previously opposed further energy sanctions against Russia, according to information obtained by several national media. Meanwhile, EURACTIV was informed that the EU is considering banning imports of oil transferred by tankers and allowing the ones through pipelines, at least for now. In preliminary talks on a potential sixth EU sanctions package against Moscow, Berlin spoke out in favor of stopping oil imports from Russia, EU diplomats told German media dpa and ZDF. However, the sources added that Germany envisages a transitional period of unknown length before a total embargo would come into force. Over the weekend, EU ambassadors held extensive discussions with European Commission officials over the content of a possible sixth sanctions package.

[Read more.](#)

Poland opens new gas pipeline from Lithuania

02.05.2022 | Poland has opened a new pipeline bringing gas from Lithuania after Russia's Gazprom stopped deliveries to the country on 27 April. The Poland-Lithuania Gas Connector (GIPL), under construction since 2020, started operating on 1 May. [The Poland-Lithuania Gas Connector \(GIPL\)](#),

under construction since 2020, started operating on Saturday (30 April). The new 580-kilometre-long infrastructure will supply Poland with two billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas per year, covering 10% of Poland's yearly demand, and reaching its full capacity in October.

[Read more.](#)

Most Slovaks oppose Russian gas import ban

02.05.2022 | More than 60% of Slovaks are not in favor of stopping Russian gas imports, while only 25% favor a gradual halt, and 7% want an immediate one, a new survey by the Focus agency has found. Focus asked respondents in early April if they favored a halt of gas deliveries from Russia even if gas prices would then increase. Voters of the ruling OĽaNO party and liberal parties, Progressive Slovakia and SaS, are most in favor of no longer being dependent on Russian gas. By comparison, voters of the Republic and Smer parties are least in favour of severing ties with Russia on gas.

[Read more.](#)

Finnish group ditches Russian-built nuclear plant plan

02.05.2022 | Finnish-led consortium Fennovoima said on Monday it had scrapped a contract for Russia's state-owned Rosatom to build a nuclear power plant in Finland, citing delays and increased risks due to the conflict in Ukraine. The announcement ended months of uncertainty and years of political wrangling over the planned Hanhikivi 1 plant, a project that would have increased Finland's dependency on Russia for its energy. Fennovoima said it had terminated the contract due to RAOS Project's "significant delays and inability to deliver the project," referring to Rosatom's Finnish subsidiary.

[Read more](#)

German government mulls limiting biofuel production

02.05.2022 | Germany's environment and agriculture ministries are reportedly working on restrictions for biofuel production so more grain can be used as human food as agriculture markets remain strained due to the conflict in Ukraine. Together with Agriculture Minister Cem Özdemir, Environment Minister Steffi Lemke is currently looking to reduce the production of biofuels made from grain or oilseeds, Lemke told the Augsburgener Allgemeine newspaper. Agricultural raw materials such as rapeseed, grain, and beet have often been used to produce additives mixed with climate-damaging fossil fuels to improve their CO2 balance.

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Ukraine on agenda as Indian PM Modi visits Europe

02.05.2022 | Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Europe on Monday (2 May) with New Delhi's refusal to condemn Russia's military operation in Ukraine set to be a key talking point in meetings with regional leaders. India, which imports much of its military hardware from Russia, has long walked a diplomatic tightrope between the West and Moscow, and has called only for an immediate end to hostilities. "My visit to Europe comes at a time when the region faces many challenges and choices," Modi said in a statement released before his departure for Germany, Denmark and France. The premier intended to "strengthen the spirit of cooperation" with European partners "who are important companions in India's quest for peace and prosperity", the statement added.

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Germany signs hydrogen cooperation agreement with India

02.05.2022 | Germany's Minister of Economic and Climate Affairs Robert Habeck and his Indian counterpart R.K. Singh have signed an agreement on German-Indian hydrogen cooperation following multiple rounds of consultations. While gaining independence from Russian bicarbonate fuels is underway, the Germans have turned towards importing a new kind of molecule to fuel their industry and chemical processes: green hydrogen, created by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis. "The expansion of green hydrogen production and application will serve the common long-term goal of driving the ramp-up of green hydrogen, making it commercially viable," explained Habeck. Ensuring the ramp-up of green hydrogen production and applications has also become one of the missions of Habeck's colleague, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who had been championing a concept of "hydrogen diplomacy" in parallel with more in-depth energy partnerships administered by the foreign and economy ministry.

[Read more](#)

Prague pressures Budapest to change its Russia stance

02.05.2022 | Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala wants to convince his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orbán to change his stance on Russia as Hungary is among the countries willing to pay for natural gas imports in roubles – a move unacceptable for Czechia despite its heavy Russian gas dependency. "If we failed to show unity and joint position to Russia, we all would lose on it," Fiala warned, adding that Czechia is "definitely not going" to switch paying for the Russian gas supplies in roubles. "This is an impulse for us to discuss this with Viktor Orbán," he added.

[Read more.](#)

Most Finns would accept permanent NATO presence

02.05.2022 | Most Finns would allow permanent NATO military bases on their soil ahead of the country's possible application for NATO membership, a survey conducted by media house *Uutisuomalainen* found. According to the survey, 61% of Finns would allow NATO to establish permanent military bases in Finland during peacetime. Reflecting the current positive attitude towards the military alliance and Finland's possible membership in it, 12% of those surveyed would permit the deployment of nuclear weapons in the country.

[Read more.](#)

Dutch port employees refuse to dock Russian oil tanker

02.05.2022 | Workers at the Amsterdam port refuse to unload a Russian oil tanker that was previously refused docking at a Swedish port and is now anchored in the sea lock in IJmuiden, broadcaster NOS reports. Russian ships are not allowed to dock anywhere in Europe because of the sanctions regime, but the Russian oil tanker, Sunny Liger, sails under the Marshall Islands' flag and is thus exempt. Amsterdam dock employees say they would refuse to unload the boat should it attempt to dock. When the boat arrived in Sweden, employees refused to unload it.

[Read more.](#)

SANCTIONS UPDATES

US

02.05.2022 | On May 2, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Russia-related General License 30, "Authorizing Transactions Involving Gazprom Germania GmbH Prohibited by Directive 3 under Executive Order 14024."

Related document:

[Russia-related General License 30, "Authorizing Transactions Involving Gazprom Germania GmbH Prohibited by Directive 3 under Executive Order 14024."](#)

Tracking sanctions against Russia

The latest sanctions and actions taken against Russia by countries, major companies and organisations. Reuters is tracking government sanctions and actions against Russia taken by large companies and organisations around the world.

[Read more](#)

Kind regards, **Tadzio Schilling**,
Chief Executive Officer
Association of European Businesses