

# DIGITAL COHESION

*SOURCE MATERIAL:*

*WESTERN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE*



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Actions by Tech Giants</b>	<b>1</b>
Adobe	2
Alphabet (Google and Youtube)	2
Amazon	3
Apple	4
Chinese Brands (Huawei, Xiaomi, Alibaba, Tiktok, etc.)	5
Cisco	6
Coinbase	6
Intel	8
Meta (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram)	8
Microsoft	9
Samsung	10
Sony (Playstation)	11
Tesla	12
General Sources	13
<b>Actions by Key Tech Organizations</b>	<b>15</b>
Internet Corporation for Assignment of Names and Numbers (ICANN)	15
Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)	15
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)	16
General Sources	17
<b>Governmental Sanctions</b>	<b>18</b>
United States	18
European Union	20
United Kingdom	21
Switzerland	23
Japan	24
South Korea	25
Canada	26
Czech Republic	27
Australia	27
New Zealand	28
General Sources	30
<b>Cyber Attacks</b>	<b>31</b>

## Actions by Tech Giants

(listed in alphabetical order)

### Adobe

**General response:** halt all new sales of Adobe products and services.

**Update:** Adobe has not put forth any additional sanctions. Its sales are still halted.

Mendelovich, Yossy. "Adobe and Avid Ban Russia: Stop All Sales and Support." *Y.M.Cinema Magazine*.

March 6, 2022.

<https://ymcinema.com/2022/03/06/adobe-and-avid-ban-russia-stop-all-sales-and-support/>

- Adobe halted all new sales of its products and services and terminated previous access to Adobe Creative Cloud to Russian government-controlled media outlets.
- Donated \$1 million in direct aid and military assistance.

### Alphabet (Google and Youtube)

**General response:**

- Block Russian state media channels.
- Prohibit Russian state media from running ads and monetizing content on Youtube.
- Disable location tracking information to protect the community.
- Protect account security to combat malicious hacking activities.
- Provide protection against DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service attacks) for more than 100 Ukrainian news sites, including local news services.

**Update:** Alphabet has also not imposed new sanctions, but Russia has fined Google News for alleged "fake news."

"Russia fines Google over Ukraine 'fakes', far-right content - TASS." *Reuters*. April 21, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/russia-fines-google-over-youtube-fakes-tass->

2022-04-21/

- Russia accused and fined Google 11 million roubles (\$137,763) for news content and YouTube videos sponsored or posted by “far-right groups.”
- There has been no response from Google.

Vincent, James. “YouTube Blocks Russian News Channels RT and Sputnik in Europe.” *The Verge*. March 1, 2022. <https://www.theverge.com/2022/3/1/22956114/youtube-blocks-russian-media-rt-russia-today-sputnik-europe>

- YouTube blocked Russian news channels RT and Sputnik across Europe.
- This move can prevent revenue generation via advertising and restricts access to these channels in general.

Fung, Brian. “Google Follows YouTube in Cutting Off Ad Revenue to Russian State Media.” *CNN Business*. February 28, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/28/tech/google-russia-media-cut-off-ad-revenue-intl-hnk/index.html>

- Google doesn’t allow Russian state media outlets to run ads on its platform.
- This announcement came only a day after YouTube’s decision.

## Amazon

### General response:

- Discontinue shipments, or halt sales and other revenue streams starting March 8.
- Provide cybersecurity and logistics support for Ukraine.

**Update:** Amazon has not put forth any new sanctions. It continues to halt all sales and shipments, but there are no logistics made available on the cybersecurity support that it has provided.

Spangler, Todd. “Amazon Shuts Off Prime Video in Russia, Halts Product Shipments to Country Amid Ukraine War.” *Variety*. March 9, 2022. <https://variety.com/2022/digital/news/amazon-suspends-prime-video-russia-shipments-1235199942/>

- After being criticized for providing logistical support and not giving up profits, Amazon halted product shipments and shut down Prime video access on March 8.
- Amazon will also cease shipment of retail products and its video game, “New World,” to customers in Russia and Belarus.
- Merchants will no longer be accepted as Amazon third-party sellers.
- Amazon no longer accepts new Russia or Belarus-based customers for cloud computing services.

Weise, Karen. “Amazon Web Services Blocks New Sign-Ups from Russia and Belarus.” *The New York Times*. March 8, 2022.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/08/technology/amazon-web-services-russia.html>

Amazon has stopped letting customers in Russia and Belarus open new cloud computing accounts prior to its official announcement on March 8, 2022.

Reuters. “Amazon CEO Pledges Logistics, Cybersecurity Support for Ukraine.” *Reuters*. March 2, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/amazon-ceo-pledges-logistics-cybersecurity-support-ukraine-2022-03-03/>

Amazon is using its logistics capability to get supplies to those in need, and cybersecurity expertise to help governments and companies as part of its support for Ukraine.

## Apple

### General response:

- Pause all product sales.
- Services:
  - Apple Pay has been limited.
  - Disabled traffic, live incidents, as well as location tracking, in fear of attacks on population-dense areas.
- Removed applications of Russian state-controlled media, Russian Times (RT), and Sputnik.

**Update:** Apple’s original sanctions were quite extensive. It has put forth no new sanctions.

Goode, Lauren. "Apple Stops Sales in Russia — and Takes a Rare Stand." *Wired*. March 1, 2022.

<https://www.wired.com/story/apple-russia-iphone-ukraine-traffic-maps-rt-sputnik-app-store/>

- Apple paused all product sales through Apple stores in Russia.
- On the software front, Apple limited certain services, including Apple Pay and location tracking in its Maps app, and removed Russian news apps from its App Stores in countries outside of Russia.
- Apple is the last tech company to take a stand.

## Chinese Brands (Huawei, Xiaomi, Alibaba, Tiktok, etc.)

**General response:** no response. However, China-based TikTok has suspended live streaming and blocked all new uploads from Russia. It has also conducted a review process for videos that went against its content guidelines.

Soon, Weilun. "How China's tech giants, from TikTok to Tencent, are reacting to Russia's invasion of Ukraine." *Insider*. April 13, 2022.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-chinas-tech-giants-reacting-to-ukraine-crisis-tiktok-tencent-2022-3>

- March 6: users residing in Russia are unable to live stream or upload new content to the global platform. They are also only allowed to watch videos uploaded to the Russian platform.
- Removed 41,191 videos from February 24 to March 31.
- Blocked Russian Times in the EU.

Horwitz, Josh, and Brenda Goh. "Analysis: Chinese Brands Stay Put in Russia for Now Despite Western Exodus." *Reuters*. March 6, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/business/chinese-brands-stay-put-russia-now-despite-western-exodus-2022-03-04/>

- Brands involved include Huawei, Xiaomi, Alibaba, Didi Chuxing (a ride-sharing app similar to Uber, which announced that it would pull out of Russia but later revoked its decision without explanations), Lenovo, Honor, and others. As of the publication of this article, none of the

companies has pulled out of the Russian market; neither did they publicly announce any decisions or responses to the situation.

- Echoes Beijing's stance, refraining from explicitly criticizing Moscow's actions and blaming NATO expansion for the crisis, urging diplomatic talks to resolve the situation.

## Cisco

**General response:** stop all business operations (sales and services) in Russia and Belarus, and offer cyber support.

**Update:** Cisco has not put forth additional sanctions.

Narcisi, Gina. "Cisco Stops Business In Russia, Ups Security Efforts In Ukraine." *CRN*. March 8, 2022.

[www.crn.com/news/networking/cisco-stops-business-in-russia-ups-security-efforts-in-ukraine](https://www.crn.com/news/networking/cisco-stops-business-in-russia-ups-security-efforts-in-ukraine)

- Cisco has stopped all business operations, including sales and services, in Russia and Belarus for the foreseeable future.
- It is also offering auto-renewals and Webex meetings free of charge for Ukrainian customers.
- Cisco enabled security layers to protect Ukrainian organizations and infrastructure from Russian cyberattacks, monitoring critical organizations 24/7 through Cisco Talos.
- Established a Ukraine Humanitarian Assistance Fund.

Mukherjee, Spuantha, and Paul Sandle. "Cisco CEO Says Quarter of Staff in Ukraine Have Left." *Reuters*.

March 1, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/cisco-ceo-says-quarter-staff-ukraine-have-left-2022-03-01/>

- Cisco helped a quarter of its employees in Ukraine to evacuate the conflict zone.
- Those who decided to remain have been offered support.

## Coinbase

**General response:** will only freeze Russian crypto if legally bound.

**Update:** Coinbase froze accounts and complied with EU sanctions.

Sundararajan, Sujha. "Russian crypto users face another blow from Coinbase." *Yahoo! Finance*. May 9, 2022.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/russian-crypto-users-face-another-095306339.html#:~:text=Coinbase%20to%20block%20Russian%20user%20accounts%20under%20EU%27s%20sanctions&text=Per%20the%20local%20business%20news,future%20will%20also%20be%20blocked>

- 25k accounts under concerns that cryptocurrency would be used to evade sanctions.
- Compliance with EU's sanctions: Warned certain Russian accounts that "Until May 31, 2022, you must withdraw all funds from your account or provide us with special documents that confirm that you do not fall under these sanctions. Failing to do so, your crypto assets may be frozen."

Brooks, Khristopher J. "Cryptocurrency Companies Resist Pressure to Close Russian Accounts." *CBS News*.

Last updated March 7, 2022.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coinbase-binance-freeze-accounts-russia-ukraine/>.

- Coinbase has been hesitant to pull out of the Russian market as "ordinary Russians are using crypto as a lifeline."
- It stated that "if the US government decides to impose a ban, we will, of course, follow those laws" in the CEO's tweets.

Barrabi, Thomas. "Coinbase Blocks 25k Russia-Linked Crypto Addresses Over 'Illicit Activity.'" *The New York Post*. March 7, 2022.

<https://nypost.com/2022/03/07/coinbase-blocks-25k-russia-linked-crypto-addresses/>

- These blocks are not a direct response to the Ukrainian crisis but due to reports of illicit activities, tackling concerns that cryptocurrencies can be used to evade sanctions.
- The blocks were shared with the government to "further support sanctions enforcement."



## Intel

### General response:

- Condemned Russia's actions and suspended all shipments.
- Ceases supply of semiconductor (microchip) devices to cut off military and non-military usage.

**Update:** Intel has suspended all business in Russia and essentially exited the Russian market.

Lee, Timothy B. "Intel suspends all operations in Russia 'effective immediately.'" *ArsTechnica*. April 6, 2022.

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2022/04/intel-suspends-business-operations-in-russia-over-ukraine-war/>

- Suspends all business operations "effective immediately" on April 5.
- Such a decision is mainly due to sweeping "Western sanctions that have made it difficult for global companies to operate in Russia."

White, Monica J. "Intel Joins List of Companies to Halt Shipping to Russia." *Digital Trends*. March 4, 2022.

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/intel-stops-shipping-to-russia-and-belarus/>

- Suspends all shipments to customers in Russia and Belarus.
- Raised funds for relief efforts (\$1.2 million on March 3).

## Meta (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram)

### General response:

- Block RT and Sputnik access to Facebook and Instagram, and any access to these two channels across the EU.
- Removed the option to monetize content on their platform.
- Blocked Russian state media from running ads, demoting their content, and fact-checking posts on the conflict. Meta has already been facing restrictions in Russia due to non-alignment with official Russian rhetoric on the conflict.

- Locked down accounts of state-sponsored trolls and disabled information warfare networks.
- Imposed additional account privacy and security protections to prevent targeting social media accounts of civil society and the protesters.

**Update:** Meta's original sanctions were quite extensive. It has put forth no new sanctions.

"Meta's Ongoing Efforts Regarding Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." *Meta*. February 26, 2022. <https://about.fb.com/news/2022/02/metass-ongoing-efforts-regarding-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/>

- Established additional account privacy and security protections.
- Established monitoring operations to combat ongoing disinformation campaigns.

Frater, Patrick. "Meta Restricts Russian State Media on Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram Following Invasion of Ukraine." *Variety*. March 1, 2022.

<https://variety.com/2022/digital/global/meta-restricts-russian-state-media-1235192727/>

- Meta restricts access to Russian state media within the European Union across all its subsidiary social media platforms.
- Meta has been contacted by the EU and Ukrainian government on limiting potential Russian disinformation regarding the conflict.

## Microsoft

### General response:

- Removed Russian state-owned media outlet, RT's mobile apps from the Windows store and de-ranked RT and Sputnik on Bing, its web browser.
- Banned advertisements from Russian state-sponsored media.
- Has been and will be monitoring digital space, and advising the Ukrainian government on attacks targeting its digital infrastructure.
- Halted new sales since March 5.

**Update:** Microsoft has put forth no new sanctions.

Smith, Brad. "Digital Technology and the War in Ukraine." *Microsoft*. February 28, 2022.

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2022/02/28/ukraine-russia-digital-war-cyberattacks/>

- Microsoft's original statement did not mention sales and shipments.
- *Protecting Ukraine from cyberattacks*: monitor cyberspace, alert the government and provide defensive advice regarding attacks targeting Ukrainian critical infrastructure, then share intelligence with NATO officials and the American government.
- *Protection from state-sponsored disinformation campaigns*: Reduce the exposure of Russian state propaganda by not displaying RT and Sputnik content, removing corresponding apps, and de-ranking the content on Bing.
- *Support for humanitarian assistance*: provide support for humanitarian organizations and activate the Microsoft Disaster Response Team.

Bishop, Todd, and Taylor Soper. "Microsoft Suspends Sales of Products and Services in Russia, Condemns 'Unlawful' Invasion of Ukraine." *GeekWire*. March 4, 2022.

<https://www.geekwire.com/2022/microsoft-suspends-sales-of-all-products-and-services-in-russia-a-condemns-unlawful-invasion-of-ukraine/>

- This came a few days after its initial response that failed to mention its operations in Russia.
- Microsoft will suspend all new sales of its products and services and stop "many aspects" of its business in Russia in line with government sanctions.

## Samsung

### General response:

- Suspend shipments of both tech devices and microchips into Russia, but will continue to operate its factories.
- Donate \$6 million to Ukraine Red Cross

**Update:** Samsung has not imposed new sanctions and has remained cautious to be as clear-cut as its Western counterparts.

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Byung-Wook, Kim. "Samsung joins Russia sanctions, donates \$6m to Ukraine." *The Korea Herald*. March 6, 2022. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220306000101>

- Samsung donated \$6 million to the Ukraine Red Cross, including \$1 million in consumer electronics.
- Samsung factories located in Russia continue to be in operation.

Kim, Sohee. "Samsung Suspends Shipments of Phones, Chips to Russia." *Bloomberg*. March 4, 2022.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-04/samsung-suspends-shipments-of-phones-chips-to-russia>

- Samsung suspended product shipments to Russia, ranging from chips to smartphones and other consumer electronics.
- This statement was emailed to Bloomberg and not publicly announced.

## Sony (Playstation)

### General response:

- To pause all theatrical releases and suspend all operations of PlayStation stores in Russia.
- To suspend all software and hardware shipments.
- Unclear whether all operations have been suspended.

**Update:** Sony has not imposed new sanctions.

Loh, Matthew. "Disney, Warner Bros, and Sony are Pausing Theatrical Releases in Russia in Response to the Invasion of Ukraine." *Business Insider Africa*. March 1, 2022.

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/entertainment/disney-warner-bros-and-sony-are-pausing-theatrical-releases-in-russia-in-response-to/ydhm9w0>

- Sony paused theatrical releases in Russia.
- The statement immediately followed Disney and Warner Media announcements.

Franklin, Jonathan. "Sony Halts PlayStation Sales in Russia Due to Ukraine Invasion." *NPR*. March 9, 2022.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/03/09/1085611369/sony-playstation-russia>

- Sony stopped all sales of its PlayStation consoles and software in Russia.
- The company suspended all shipments to Russia and closed its PlayStation Stores.

## Tesla

**General response:** sales are to continue as Russia is a large consumer of Tesla vehicles.

**Update:** no new sanctions were imposed, and Tesla was revealed to continue aluminum imports from a Russian company.

Kolodny, Lora. "Tesla has bought aluminum from Russian company Rusal since 2020, showing how war complicates supply chain." *CNBC*. March 14, 2022.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/14/tesla-has-bought-aluminum-from-russian-supplier-rusal-since-2020.html>

- Tesla continues to import aluminum from a Russian company.
- Rusal, the company in question, was previously subject to U.S. sanctions but those were lifted by Trump's administration.

Morrison, Sara. "Does Ukraine Really Need Elon Musk's help?" *Vox*. March 4, 2022.

<https://www.vox.com/recode/22958373/ukraine-russia-starlink-spacex-elon-musk>

- Elon Musk personally sent Starlink satellite dishes to ensure internet connectivity in Ukraine.
- There are potential pitfalls as Russians would be able to triangulate the signal and attack Ukrainians using these services on the ground.

Falcon, Russell, and Nextar Media Wire. "Tesla Paying Ukrainian Employees Who are Called Back to Fight Russia: Report." *Wavy*. March 10, 2022. [https://www.wavy.com/news/national/tesla-paying-](https://www.wavy.com/news/national/tesla-paying-ukrainian-employees-who-are-called-back-to-fight-russia-report/#:~:text=While%20Tesla%20doesn't%20have,to%20respond%20to%20the%20requests)

[ukrainian-employees-who-are-called-back-to-fight-russia-report/#:~:text=While%20Tesla%20doesn't%20have,to%20respond%20to%20the%20requests](https://www.wavy.com/news/national/tesla-paying-ukrainian-employees-who-are-called-back-to-fight-russia-report/#:~:text=While%20Tesla%20doesn't%20have,to%20respond%20to%20the%20requests)

- Tesla employees will retain employment and be paid up to 3 months in compensation if they are

conscripted to fight in Ukraine.

- Ukrainian Tesla drivers have free access to Tesla Superchargers in Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to aid their evacuation.
- Tesla has not responded to whether it will suspend sales (it currently remains unaffected), and Musk has disabled its PR department to avoid journalists' inquiries.

## General Sources

"The Ukraine Corporate Index Tracks Companies' Response to Russia's Invasion." *The Good Lobby*. Last updated March 9, 2022. <https://www.thegoodlobby.eu/2022/03/04/ukraine-corporate-index/>

- A corporate index tracker that synthesizes information from news sources and presents a list, (updated when there's new information available), to provide a relatively comprehensive overview of the response from major corporations to the Conflict.
- Used this source as a jumping board to identify the corporations.

"How Are the Big Tech Companies Responding to the Invasion of Ukraine?" *Sky News*. March 7, 2022.

<https://news.sky.com/story/how-are-the-big-tech-companies-responding-to-the-invasion-of-ukraine-12555497>

- Additional information on several corporations that Ukraine's prime minister, Mykhailo Federov, directly appealed to for aid.
- Identified how critical technology companies are in times of conflict, both as a means to disseminate information to a large audience, as well as a potential channel for corruption, propaganda, and manipulation.
- Used for Apple, Google (Alphabet), Meta, and Microsoft.

Nicholls. Rob. "The Power of Tech Giants: How They are Sanctioning Russia Over Ukraine War." *Business Standard*. Last updated March 7, 2022.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/the-power-of-tech-giants-how-they-are-sanctioning-russia-over-ukraine-war-122030700258\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/the-power-of-tech-giants-how-they-are-sanctioning-russia-over-ukraine-war-122030700258_1.html)

- Focuses on responses from the Big Five tech companies.
- Used for Google (Alphabet), Apple, Meta, Amazon, and Microsoft.

Gain, Vish. "How the Tech Sector is Responding to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." *The Silicon Republic*.

February 28, 2022. <https://www.siliconrepublic.com/business/tech-response-ukraine-social-media-apps-infosec-crypto>

- Provides more information and analysis behind these self-imposed, voluntary tech sanctions.
- Used for Google (Alphabet), Apple, Meta, and other social media platforms.

## Actions by Key Tech Organizations

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, sent a request to various internet governance institutions including, ICANN and RIPE NCC to cut off Russia from the Internet. His appeal received a collective sympathetic no. These organizations pointed out that they do not have power by law, rather they are independent international bodies that work by agreement, not by force, and that their function is to ensure the functionality of the internet.

### Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

- **Fedora's letter to ICANN:**  
<https://technopolitics.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Ukraine-ICANN.pdf>
- **ICANN's response:**  
<https://technopolitics.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ICANN-Response.pdf>

### Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)

**General response:** echoed ICANN's statement, a sympathetic "no."

- **Fedora's letter to RIPE NCC:**  
<https://technopolitics.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Ukrainian-RIPE-NCC.pdf>
- **RIPE NCC Response:**
  - <https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-response-to-request-from-ukrainian-government>
  - <https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-response-to-request-from-ukrainian-government#:~:text=Dear%20Vice%20Prime%20Minister%2C,the%20heart%20of%20the%20Internet>
  - <https://www.ripe.net/participate/member-support/the-ripe-ncc-and-ukraine-russia>



- “RIPE NCC Executive Board Resolution on Provision of Critical Services.” *RIPE NCC*. March 1, 2022.

<https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-executive-board-resolution-on-provision-of-critical-services>

- RIPE NCC is a regional internet registry for Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central Asia.
- “The means to communicate should not be affected by domestic disputes, international conflicts or war.”
- RIPE NCC must remain neutral to guarantee equal treatment and provide authoritative, free-from-bias information.

## Internet Society:

Andrew Sullivan, president of the Internet Society called the request the “antithesis of how the internet was designed and meant to function.”

## Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)

**General response:** echoed ICANN’s statement, and supports the decision of upholding the global internet.

McSherry, Corynne, and Konstantinos Komaitis. “Wartime Is a Bad Time To Mess With the Internet.”

*Electronic Frontier Foundation*. March 3, 2022.

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2022/03/wartime-bad-time-mess-internet>

- Remaking fundamental internet infrastructure protocols can lead to dangerous and long-lasting consequences.
- Deprives people of a powerful tool (or a fundamental human right) to share information.
- Sets a dangerous precedent for independent, autonomous organizations to interfere with politics.

- Compromises security and privacy for everyone.
- Undermines trust in the network and policies upon which it is built.

## General Sources

Moss, Sebastian. "Ukraine Invasion Brings Internet Governance Neutrality Question into Focus." *Data Center Dynamics*. March 3, 2022.

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/analysis/ukraine-invasion-brings-internet-governance-neutrality-question-into-focus/>

- This article provides an evaluation of internet governance neutrality, primarily in response to RIPE NCC's response to the Ukrainian plea to cut off access to all Russian domains.
- It mentioned ICANN and RIPE NCC, but wasn't able to identify other internet governance organizations that provided input, suggesting no additional organizations responded.

Wakefield, Jane. "Russia-Ukraine: Is Internet On Verge of Break-Up?" *BBC*. March 8, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-60661987>

- Provided an analysis of the implications of potentially cutting off internet access from Russia.
- Identified several institutions, including ICANN and EFF.

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## Governmental Sanctions

### United States

#### General response:

- Oil refining sector: ban exports of refining technologies, making it more difficult for Russia to modernize its oil refineries.
- Banks: bar certain Russian banks from the SWIFT international payments system.
- Technology sector: wide restrictions on semiconductors, telecommunication, encryption security, lasers, sensors, navigation, avionics, and maritime technologies.

**Update:** the U.S. increased the scope of its sanctions to fully ban several Russian banks and Putin's family and close colleagues. It has also exempted the internet communication providers from U.S. sanctions against Russia.

- Barred Russia from making debt payments with the \$600 million in U.S. banks.
- Banned Russian oil and energy.

Moss, Sebastian. "US Treasury exempts Internet communication providers from Russia sanctions." *Data Center Dynamics*. April 11, 2022.

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/us-treasury-exempts-internet-communication-providers-from-russia-sanctions/>

- The US Treasury has exempted the provision of Internet communication services from US sanctions against Russia, an exemption welcomed by human rights and open access groups.
- Content delivery networks and web infrastructure companies have long opposed the restriction of the rights of Russian citizens to access the internet.
- Individuals: sanctions on Russian oligarchs and lawmakers

"U.S. Treasury escalates sanctions on Russia for its atrocities in Ukraine." *U.S. Department of the Treasury*. April 6, 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0705>

- Full-blocking sanctions on Sberbank and Alfa-Bank, the largest government, and private-owned banks, respectively, and their subsidiaries.
- Individually targeted sanctions on Putin, Putin's family (two adult daughters), Foreign Minister Lavrov and family (wife and daughter), and other Russian Security Council Members.

"War in Ukraine: West hits Russia with oil bans and gas curbs." *BBC News*. March 9, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60666251>

- The U.S. is completely banning all imports of Russian oil, gas, and energy.
- 8% of U.S. oil comes from Russia.

"What is SWIFT and Why Were Some Russian Banks Excluded From It?" *Al Jazeera*. February 27, 2022.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/25/what-is-swift-could-be-used-punish-putin>

- Russia has the second-largest number of users in the Russian National SWIFT Association. There are 300 financial institutions in the system, which is more than half of Russia's financial institutions.
- Blocking Russia out of SWIFT can cripple its ability to trade with the rest of the world.
- The ban will slow down trade and make transactions costlier.

"FACT SHEET: United States, European Union, and G7 to Announce Further Economic Costs on Russia."

*The White House*. March 11, 2022.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/11/fact-sheet-united-states-european-union-and-g7-to-announce-further-economic-costs-on-russia/>

- Revoking Russia's most-favored-nation status that comes along with its WTO membership.
- Denying borrowing privileges for Russia from the Bretton Woods institutions.
- Full-blocking sanctions on Russian elites and family members.
- Banning exports of luxury goods to Russia.
- Banning U.S. import of goods from signature sectors of Russia's economy, including seafood, vodka, and non-industrial diamonds.

Macias, Amanda, and Thomas Franck. "Biden Administration Expands Sanctions Against Russia, Cutting Off U.S. Transactions with Central Bank." *CNBC*. Updated March 1, 2022.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/28/biden-administration-expands-russia-sanctions-cuts-off-us-transactions-with-central-bank.html>

- Prohibits Americans from doing business with Russia's central bank and freezes the bank's assets in the U.S.
- These measures also target the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation.

## European Union

### General response:

- Oil refining sector: ban exports of specific refining technologies.
- Transportation: close airspace to Russian aircraft, including private jets of Russian oligarchs.
- Block Russian state-owned RT and Sputnik.
- Belarus: ban imports from mineral fuels to tobacco, wood and timber, cement, iron, and steel.
- Freeze European assets of Putin and foreign minister Sergey Lavrov.

### Update:

- Energy sanctions: comprehensive phase-out by the end of 2022.
- Individual sanctions on military officers suspected of war crimes.
- Broad bans of Russian state-run broadcasters.

Kirby, Paul. "Ukraine war: EU plans Russian oil ban and war crimes sanctions." *BBC News*. May 4, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61318689>

- Energy sanctions:
  - Halt Russian coal imports by August 2022.
  - Russian crude oil to be phased out in six months.
  - Refined oil products are to be phased out by the end of 2022.

- Gas imports to be reduced by two-thirds by the end of 2022.
- Individual bans have been targeting suspected war criminals.

“EU restrictive measures against Russia over Ukraine (since 2014).” *European Council*. n.d.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/restrictive-measures-against-russia-over-ukraine/>

The EU has adopted five packages of sanctions since the conflict began.

Monard, Eva, Renato Antonini, Guy Soussan, David O'Sullivan, Stefan Tsakanakis, Byron Maniatis, Elli Zachari, and Charlotte Brett. “Update: EU Adopts Far-Reaching Sanctions following Russian Invasion of Ukraine.” *Steptoe International Compliance Blog*. February 27, 2022.

<https://www.steptoointernationalcomplianceblog.com/2022/02/update-eu-adopts-far-reaching-sanctions-following-russian-invasion-of-ukraine/>

- Targeted restrictions against specified individuals.
- Expanded financial measures aiming at cutting Russia’s access to the EU capital markets.
- Trade restrictions target the energy and aviation sectors. Bans on most exports of dual-use items, as well as certain semiconductors and cutting-edge technologies from the EU to Russia.

“Ukraine: EU Agrees to Extend the Scope of Sanctions on Russia and Belarus.” *European Commission*. March 9, 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_1649](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1649)

- Limits Belarus’ participation in the SWIFT system, similar to those of Russia.
- New restrictions on the export of maritime navigation and radio communication.
- Places limits on the movement and assets of oligarchs and politicians.

## United Kingdom

General response:

- Impose sanctions on Russian banks, locking out Russia's Sberbank altogether.
- Freeze assets on all Russian lenders.
- Ban Russia's flagship airline Aeroflot from landing in the UK.
- Suspend dual export licenses.
- Ban exports of high-tech exports and selected parts of the extractive industry.

**Update:**

- Trade tariffs on platinum and palladium.
- Sanctions on individual Russian military generals for alleged war crimes.

M, Muvija. "UK sanctions Russian generals it says have 'blood on their hands'." *Reuters*. April 21, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-sets-out-26-new-sanctions-against-russia-2022-04-21/>

Asset freeze and travel bans on individual Russian military generals for alleged war crimes.

"New UK sanctions for Russia and Belarus." *BBC News*. March 9, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61372302>

- Import tariffs on £1.4bn of platinum and palladium, which are metals used for mobile phones and computers.
- Planned export bans on products worth more than £250m in sectors of the Russian economy that are most dependent on UK goods.

"War in Ukraine: West hits Russia with oil bans and gas curbs." *BBC News*. March 9, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60666251>

- In-line with the U.S.'s ban, the UK promises to phase out Russian oil imports by the end of 2022.
- 6% of UK oil is imported from Russia.

Ruck, Michael E., and Rosie Naylor. "UK Imposes Further Sanctions in Response to Russia's Invasion of

Ukraine." *K&L Gates*. February 25, 2022. [https://www.klgates.com/UK-Imposes-Further-](https://www.klgates.com/UK-Imposes-Further-Sanctions-in-Response-to-Russias-invasion-of-Ukraine-2-25-2022)

[Sanctions-in-Response-to-Russias-invasion-of-Ukraine-2-25-2022](https://www.klgates.com/UK-Imposes-Further-Sanctions-in-Response-to-Russias-invasion-of-Ukraine-2-25-2022)

- UK individuals and entities are now prohibited from any dealings with, or providing any funds to or for the benefit of, directly or indirectly, any of the Russian banks or individuals.
- Freezes assets of all major Russian banks, and excludes them from the UK financial system.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. "UK Sanctions Relating to Russia." *UK Government*.

Updated March 8, 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-sanctions-on-russia>.

Offers a comprehensive list of all UK-imposed sanctions on Russia.

## Switzerland

### General response:

- Adopt all EU sanctions, and freeze the assets of Russian individuals and assets.
- Sharp deviation from its traditional neutrality.

**Update:** Switzerland has continued to adopt all EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus.

"Swiss have frozen \$8 billion in assets under Russia sanctions." *Reuters*. April 7, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/swiss-have-frozen-8-billion-assets-under-russia-sanctions-2022-04-07/>

- Switzerland has traditionally been a popular destination for Moscow's elite and a holding place for Russian wealth.
- It has frozen \$8.03 billion in Russian funds and assets.

Reich, Philippe M., and Rolaz, Meera. "Situation in Ukraine: Switzerland tightens sanctions against Belarus and Russia." *Sanctions News: A Blog by Baker McKenzie*. March 18, 2022.

<https://sanctionsnews.bakermckenzie.com/situation-in-ukraine-switzerland-tightens-sanctions-against-belarus-and-russia/>

- Expansion of the Designated Parties List (resulting in asset freezes and travel restrictions).
- Further restrictions on dual-use and high-tech goods exports to Belarus.
- Prohibitions on the supply of various types of machinery to Belarus.



- Enhancement of the existing tobacco sector restrictions.
- Procurement restrictions on wood, cement, iron and steel, and rubber originating from Belarus.
- Introduction of numerous financial sanctions in line with those imposed against Russia.

Global Sanctions Team. "Switzerland Reinforces Its Sanctions Against Russia." *White & Case*. March 7, 2022. [www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/switzerland-reinforces-its-sanctions-against-russia](https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/switzerland-reinforces-its-sanctions-against-russia)

- Modeled after EU sanctions.
- Freeze assets in line with the EU.
- Ban listed individuals from entering Switzerland.
- Restricted exports of dual-use, high-tech, and aircraft-related goods as well as oil/gas equipment to Russia and Ukraine, and tightened various monetary and financial sanctions.

## Japan

### General response:

- Financial institutions and military equipment: sanction exports.
- Target individuals and financial institutions, freezing their assets.

### Update:

- Targeted sanctions on individuals and related companies, including the prohibition of crypto transactions.
- Expelled eight Russian diplomats.
- Banned or restricted imports.

Kim, Victoria. "Japan dials up measures against Russia, aligning itself with the U.S. and Europe." *The New York Times*. April 9, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/09/world/asia/japan-russia-ukraine.html>

- Expelled eight Russian diplomats.
- Imposed a ban on Russian coal, and restrictions on imports including timber, vodka and machinery.

Ohashi, Koichiro. "Japanese financial sanctions on Russia over invasion into Ukraine." *The National Law Review*. April 8, 2022.

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/japanese-financial-sanctions-russia-over-invasion-ukraine/>

- Japan is in line with the international community with regard to imposing sanctions and asset freezes.
- Measures include prohibitions on payments via crypto assets.

Rich, Motoko, and Makiko Inoue. "Japan, Hesitant to Impose Sanctions on Russia in 2014, Embraces Them Now. One Reason: China." *The New York Times*. February 24, 2022.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/24/world/europe/japan-russia-sanctions.html>

- Prohibits Russia from issuing new sovereign bonds in Japanese markets.
- Bans trade with the breakaway republics in eastern Ukraine.
- Freezes the assets of representatives of those republics and bars them from receiving visas.

"Japan Freezes Assets of More Russian Officials, Oligarchs." *Al Jazeera*. March 8, 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/3/8/japan-freezes-assets-of-dozens-of-russian-officials-oligarchs>.

- Additional freezing of the assets of dozens more Russian and Belarusian officials and oligarchs.
- Bans exports of Russia-bound oil refinery equipment and Belarus-bound general-purpose items that could be used by its military.

## South Korea

### General response:

- Block Russian banks from the SWIFT international payments system.
- Tighten export controls against Russia by banning exports of strategic items (semiconductors).
- Release oil reserves to stabilize the international energy market and insulate prices against bans of exports of Russian oil.

**Update:** South Korea has continued to adopt U.S. and EU sanctions. However, it is notable to mention

that South Korea has been criticized for being too mild on its approach to Russia.

Jun, Kwanwoo. "South Korea Bans Transactions With Russia's Central Bank." *The Wall Street Journal*.

March 7, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-03-07/card/south-korea-bans-transactions-with-russia-s-central-bank-96B5xib2OW41u03krYrp>

- Banned transactions with Russia's central bank and sovereign wealth funds.
- Restricted exports of strategic and nonstrategic items to Russia.

## Canada

### General response:

- Cancel all export permits.
- Sanctions against 62 individuals and entities, including elites and major banks.
- Prioritize immigration applications for Ukrainians.

**Update:** Canada imposes sanctions on 203 additional individuals and their relationship to the annexation of the Donbas region.

"Canada imposes sanctions on 203 individuals complicit in attempted annexation of certain areas of Donbas, Ukraine." *Government of Canada*. April 27, 2022.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/04/canada-imposes-sanctions-on-203-individuals-complicit-in-attempted-annexation-of-certain-areas-of-donbass-ukraine.html>

Imposed restrictions on 11 senior officials and 192 other members of the People's Councils of the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics and froze their assets.

"Canadian Sanctions Related to Russia." *Government of Canada*. Updated March 10, 2022.

[https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/sanctions/russia-russie.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/russia-russie.aspx?lang=eng)

- Complete asset freeze against a comprehensive list of Russian elites.
- Prohibits any person in Canada and any Canadian outside Canada from importing specific

petroleum products.

## Czech Republic

### General response:

- Ban Russian airlines from landing (its strategic central European location is leverage).
- Exit two international banks set up in the Soviet era.

**Update:** the Czech Republic adopts all EU, U.S., and NATO sanctions against Russia.

Saidel, Peter. "Czech Republic takes further steps to support Ukraine." *The Wall Street Journal*. May 11, 2022.

<https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-05-11/card/czech-republic-takes-further-steps-to-support-ukraine-YU9NwDZ1L1hQRtKge360-YU9NwDZ1L1hQRtKge360>

- The Czech Republic adopted a resolution in support of NATO and EU sanctions.
- It will accelerate its supply of weapons to the Ukrainian army and send troops to join NATO.

"Czech Government Announces A Series of Unilateral Sanctions Against Russia." *Radio Prague International*. February 25, 2022. <https://english.radio.cz/czech-government-announces-a-series-unilateral-sanctions-against-russia-8743153>.

- Stopped issuing visas to Russian citizens and currently reviewing already issued residence visas for Russians living in the Czech Republic.
- Inspects Russian companies or companies with Russian owners in relation to the drawing of public funds in the Czech Republic.
- Speeds up the process of withdrawing from two post-Soviet banks - the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank - and will call on other EU members to do the same.

## Australia

**General response:** target elite citizens and lawmakers and freeze assets.

**Update:** Australia has continued to add to its list of individuals and has also expanded sanctions to include state-owned corporations.

Jose, Renju. "Australia imposes more sanctions on Russian state-owned enterprises." *Reuters*. April 13, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-imposes-more-sanctions-russian-state-owned-enterprises-2022-04-14/>

- Australia imposed targeted financial sanctions on 14 Russian state-owned enterprises.
- Companies involved include defense-related entities, shipping companies, Russian Railways, and electronic manufacturers.

Petterd, Anne. "Australia Announces Plans to Impose New Sanctions Upon Russia." *Global Compliance News*. March 6, 2022. <https://www.globalcompliance.com/2022/03/06/australia-announces-plans-to-impose-new-sanctions-upon-russia-23022022/>

- Travel bans placed on individuals and government-related entities.
- Economic sanctions are imposed on Russian banks.
- Economic sanctions are imposed on the two independent Ukrainian regions, especially transport, energy, telecommunications, oil, gas, and mineral reserves sectors.

"Russia Sanctions Regime." *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*. Accessed on March 11, 2022. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/sanctions-regimes/russia-sanctions-regime#:~:text=Why%20are%20sanctions%20imposed%3F,extended%20in%202015%20and%202022>

Prohibits the import of oil, refined petroleum products, natural gas, coal, and other energy products from Russia.

## New Zealand

### General response:

- Travel bans on Russia.
- Prohibit trade with Russian military and security forces.

### Update:

- Increase tariffs for all imports from Russia and extend existing export prohibitions.
- Impose asset freezes on banks and financial institutions.

Mahuta, Hon Nanaia, and O'Connor, Hon Damien. "New Zealand to apply trade sanctions in response to Russian atrocities." *New Zealand Government*. April 6, 2022.

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-apply-trade-sanctions-response-russian-atrocities>

- Apply 35% tariffs to all imports from Russia.
- Extend the existing export prohibitions to industrial products closely connected to strategic Russian industries.

"New Zealand imposes new sanctions on Russian banks." *Reuters*. April 18, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-imposes-new-sanctions-russian-banks-2022-04-19/>.

- Freeze assets of the central bank and the sovereign wealth fund.
- The asset freeze also applies to eight of Russia's largest banks and seven others with ties to oligarchs.

"New Zealand, South Korea Announce New Sanctions on Russia." *Al Jazeera*. March 7, 2022.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/3/7/new-zealand-south-korea-announce-new-sanctions-on-russia>

- Freeze Russian assets in New Zealand.

- Prevent Russians and Russian companies from moving their money and assets to New Zealand to escape sanctions imposed by other countries.
- Stop superyachts, ships, and aircrafts from entering New Zealand waters or airspace.

## General Sources

“What sanctions are being imposed on Russia over the Ukraine invasion?” *BBC News*. May 4, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60125659>

- Includes all new updates, including prospective sanctions, by multiple states.
- Used as a jumping board for additional research.

Al Jazeera Staff. “List of Sanctions against Russia after it Invaded Ukraine.” *Al Jazeera*. Updated March 3,

2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/25/list-of-sanctions-on-russia-after-invasion>.

- Provides a comprehensive list of all sanctions imposed on Russia since the Ukrainian Crisis.
- Used as a jumping board for more in-depth research.

Moss, Sebastian. “U.S., Japan, Taiwan Impose Sanctions, Restrict Sales of Semiconductors and Telco Equipment to Russia.” *Data Center Dynamics*. February 25, 2022.

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/us-japan-taiwan-impose-sanctions-restrict-sales-of-semiconductors-and-telco-equipment-to-russia/>.

- Moves to cut off Russia’s access to technology, especially semiconductors used in software, and military and non-military technology.
- Used for the U.S. and Japan.

Rubio-Licht, Nat, Alex Eichenstein, Sarah Roach, and Veronica Irwin. “The War in Ukraine is Putting Tech — from Companies to Governments — to the Test.” *Protocol*. March 1, 2022.

<https://www.protocol.com/policy/russia-ukraine-war-tech?rebellitem=1#rebellitem1>

- Provides a comprehensive analysis of the tech sanctions imposed by both companies and governments.

- Encompasses chips (semiconductors), cargo shipments, and space co-operations.
- Used for the U.S., South Korea, Japan, and the EU.



## Cyber Attacks

Milmo, Dan. "Anonymous: The hacker collective that has declared cyberwar on Russia." *The Guardian*.  
February 17, 2022.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/27/anonymous-the-hacker-collective-that-has-declared-cyberwar-on-russia>

- Anonymous has claimed credit for:
  - DDoS attacks against Russia Today (propaganda site) and other government websites.
  - The Ministry of Defense database hack.
  - Russian state TV hack that broadcasts patriotic pro-Ukraine content.
- Difficult to deter as it is a loosely organized individual group.