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№ 1/05-1-22 від 02.03 2022р.

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To: Hans Petter Holen, RIPE NCC Managing Director

CC:

Felipe Victolla Silveira, Chief Operations Officer

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Kaveh Ranjbar, Chief Information Officer

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Dear mr. Managing Director,

I'm sending you this letter on behalf of the people of Ukraine, asking you to address an urgent need to introduce strict sanctions against the Russian Federation in the field of DNS regulation, in response to its acts of aggression towards Ukraine and its citizens.

On the 24th of February 2022 the army of the Russian Federation engaged in a full-scale war against Ukraine and breached its territorial integrity, leading to casualties among both military staff and civilians.

By proceeding to a so-called "military operation" aiming at "denazifying" and "demilitarizing" Ukraine under the pretext of its own national security, the Russian Federation breached numerous clauses of International Law. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a clear act of aggression and a manifest violation of Article 2.4 of the UN Charter, which prohibits the "use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State". Also Russia is using its weapon to target civilian infrastructure such as residential apartments, kindergartens, hospitals etc., which is prohibited by the Article 51(3) of Additional Protocol I and Article 13(3) of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions.

These atrocious crimes have been made possible mainly due to the Russian propaganda machinery using websites continuously spreading disinformation, hate speech, promoting violence and hiding the truth regarding the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian IT infrastructure has undergone numerous attacks from the Russian side impeding citizens' and government's ability to communicate.

Moreover, it's becoming clear that this aggression could spread much further around the globe as the Russian Federation puts the nuclear deterrent on "special alert" and threatens both Sweden and Finland with "military and political consequences" if these states join NATO. Such developments are unacceptable in the civilized, peaceful world, in the XXI century.

Therefore, I'm strongly asking you to introduce the following list of sanctions targeting Russian Federation's access to the Internet:

1. Revoke, permanently or temporarily, the domains ".ru", ".рф" and ".su". This list is not exhaustive and may also include other domains issued in the Russian Federation.
2. Contribute to the revoking for SSL certificates for the abovementioned domains.
3. Disable DNS root servers situated in the Russian Federation, namely:
 1. Saint Petersburg, RU (IPv4 199.7.83.42)
 2. Moscow, RU (IPv4 199.7.83.42, 3 instances)
4. Withdraw the right to use all IPv4 and IPv6 addresses by all Russian members of RIPE NCC (LIRs - Local Internet Registries).

All of these measures will help users seek for reliable information in alternative domain zones, preventing propaganda and disinformation. Leaders, governments and organizations all over the world are in favor of introducing sanctions towards the Russian Federation since they aim at putting the aggression towards Ukraine and other countries to an end. I ask you kindly to seriously consider such measures and implement them as quickly as possible. Help to save the lives of people in our country.

Respectfully yours,
Mykhailo FEDOROV

Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine,
Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

