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Legislative initiatives

Draft law to regulate Russian segment of Internet prepared

The Russian Ministry of Communications and Mass Media has prepared amendments to Federal Law No. 126-FZ as of 7 July 2013 On Communications introducing changes to the regulatory framework governing the Russian segment of the Internet.

The proposed amendments envisage the following changes:

- To lay down the objective of regulation as ensuring the integrity, continuity, stability, resilience and security of the Russian national segment of the Internet;
- To define certain terms, including "the Russian national segment of the Internet", "IP address", "Internet exchange point (IXP)", "country code top-level domains .ru and .рф", "critical infrastructure of the Russian national segment of the Internet", etc;
- To introduce norms regulating the critical Internet infrastructure and authorise the Russian Government to set up procedures to govern and operate separate components of such critical infrastructure;
- To develop a government-controlled information system to ensure integrity, sustainability and security of the Russian national segment of the Internet;
- To oblige legal entities and individual entrepreneurs operating under the Russian jurisdiction and having officially registered autonomous system numbers and/or IP-addresses, and exchange points operators, to submit data to the government-controlled information system in a manner determined by the Russian Government;
- To authorise telecommunications operators, while routing traffic, to connect their networks to Russia-based Internet exchange points registered in the above-mentioned government-controlled information system;

- To lay down that cross-border traffic transit routes in Russia can only be set up by telecommunications operators;
- To oblige telecommunications operators maintaining cross-border traffic transit routes to comply with the requirements set by the Russian Ministry of Communications and Mass Media and the Russian Federal Security Service.

The draft law clearly reflects the Russian authorities' commitment to information sovereignty and is consistent with the global Internet balkanisation trend. If adopted, the law will reinforce state control over the critical components of the Internet infrastructure.

However, there are still a number of gaps to be filled. Many relevant aspects, such as procedure for submitting data to the information system, operation and governance of the critical infrastructure components are delegated to executive organs, which makes it hard to project the consequences for business once the draft law is adopted.

[Federal draft legislation portal](#)

We hope that you will find the information in this edition interesting and informative. Should you have any questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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