



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jun 15 · 24 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1669273194614734849](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1669273194614734849)

In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce a French politician and member of the European Parliament, Thierry Mariani ([@ThierryMARIANI](#)). He's best-known for his pro-Kremlin politics and antics on social media, and for promoting business with authoritarian regimes.

1/23



Mariani has been serving as a French MEP since 2019. He previously served as Minister in charge of Transport in 2010-2012. He ran for the European Parliament from Marine Le Pen's National Rally party.

Thierry's married to Irina Chaikhoulina, a native of Yekaterinburg.

2/23



According to gossip-y Livejournal blog post from 2015, they met in 2005, fell in love and got married in 2006 after Thierry got rid of his then-wife and children.

3/23

The Russian wife of a French deputy, or what the French came to the Crimea

Today's visit of French deputies to Crimea made more noise in Russia and Ukraine than in France itself, not to mention the world media, which practically ignored this news. A scandal could have arisen if the media had known the true reason for this trip.



Thierry Mariani with his wife

All members of the visit of the French deputies to the Crimea can be attributed to the "good old friends of Russia" (rather to the "old"), and they constantly emphasize that their trip is exclusively private, not official. This voyage is financed by the Franco-Russian Dialogue association, co-president of which is the head of Russian Railways Vladimir Yakovlev, known for his fuel cost storage. And the head of the French delegation, and co-president of the Franco-Russian Dialogue Association from the French side, is Thierry Mariani, a former Minister of Transport, a member of the French National Assembly from French citizens living abroad, who in 2005 unexpectedly infamed with love for Russia.



In Jul 2015, Mariani, together with Russian officials, paid a visit to the illegally annexed Crimea. While there, he praised the Crimean parliament for their "courage" to "make this decision despite the difficult situation and the great danger of further escalation."

4/23



During their trip to Crimea, the first by a European delegation since the peninsula's unrecognized annexation by Russia in March 2014, the parliamentarians hailed the Russian takeover and berated French authorities for endorsing EU trade sanctions slapped on Russia over its actions in Ukraine.

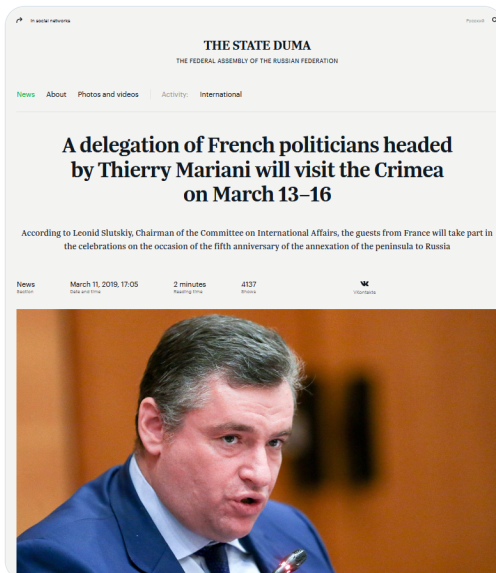
"We welcome the courage of the Crimean parliament, which was able to make this decision despite the difficult situation and the great danger of further escalation," the head of the delegation, Thierry Mariani, said during the group's stopover in Moscow, referring to a contentious vote for independence ahead of the annexation, with Russian troops occupying the peninsula and guarding the parliament building.

Mariani also assured Russian officials that there was "no reason for Europe to maintain its sanctions against Russia."

In 2020, he acted as an "international expert" at the 2020 All-Russian voting in Crimea.

He also claimed that there are no reasons for Europe to "maintain its sanctions against Russia." Thierry's 2015 trip was denounced by the French Foreign Ministry, calling it...

5/23



An international delegation arrived in Crimea to vote on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which included MEPs from France, experts from Hungary and Bulgaria, as well as a member of the Berlin Parliament

YALTA, July 2. /TASS/. Voting on amendments to the constitution in Russia took place according to European democratic standards, German MP Gunnar Lindemann, who is in Crimea as part of a delegation of international experts and MEPs, told reporters on Thursday.

"I visited both St. Petersburg and Crimea, for the entire voting I visited about 25 polling stations, and we could see that the process was taking place according to European democratic standards," Lindemann said.

Another member of the delegation, the editor-in-chief of the online newspaper [exakt24.se](#), a former member of the Swedish Parliament, Eric Almqvist, also noted the democratic nature of the voting process. "Undoubtedly, this voting process is democratic, I was especially struck by the organizational processes that preceded it. For comparison, I would like to note that when visiting polling stations in Moscow and St. Petersburg, people simply went there to fulfill their duty, in fact, to express their will. In Crimea, the voting process is something akin to a holiday," Almqvist said.

The head of the delegation of deputies of the European Parliament, former Minister of Transport of France Thierry Mariani noted the high level of anti-epidemic security measures due to the coronavirus pandemic at the vote. "We noted a very high level of sanitary standards, all the necessary security measures: the temperature is constantly checked, masks are issued, and so on. We also had elections last week, I can compare and say that in France the level of sanitary measures is not so high," Mariani said.

He added that a good decision in terms of security and convenience for the voters was the decision to hold the vote within a few days.

..."a violation of international law." The trip was organized via Franco-Russian Dialogue Association.

Thierry has been aggressively speaking against the sanctions ever since, even so that one might think if he has financial interests with the Kremlin.

6/23

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

#Auchan et #LeroyMerlin ont raison de rester en #Russie. Les entreprises françaises ne sont pas obligés d'obéir à #Zelenski ! De plus, chaque fois que des entreprises françaises partent, d'autres prennent leurs places. Nous sommes une Nation, pas une ONG ! @franceinfo

Translated from French by Google

#Auchan and #LeroyMerlin are right to stay in #Russie . French companies are not forgotten to obey #Zelenski ! Moreover, each time French companies leave, others take their places. We are a Nation, not an NGO! @franceinfo



08:57 direct
8:30 franceinfo

franceinfo: guerre en Ukraine, quelle position du RN ?
1:08 Les deux nouveaux séismes ont fait au moins 6 morts et 300 blessés dans le sud du pays, au moins 150 blessés en Syrie.

7:13 PM · Feb 23, 2023 · 80K Views


1,360 Retweets 45 Quotes 3,720 Likes 14 Bookmarks

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

"Depuis le début de l'année, le rouble est devenu la devise la plus performante du monde en raison des contrôles de capitaux que la Russie a imposé....Le rouble russe s'approche de son plus haut niveau en quatre semaines par rapport au dollar" #Zonebourse

Translated from French by Google

"Since the beginning of the year, the ruble has become the best performing currency in the world due to the capital controls that Russia has imposed....The Russian ruble is approaching its highest level in four weeks against the dollars" #Zonebourse



zonebourse.com
Le rouble russe s'approche de son plus haut niveau en quatre semaines par r...
... | 9 juin 2022

12:33 AM · Aug 23, 2022


520 Retweets 28 Quotes 915 Likes 5 Bookmarks

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Les sanctions contre la #Russie ne peuvent pas fonctionner. Dans une économie mondialisée, quand les 2/3 de la planète ne les appliquent pas, ces sanctions sont totalement inefficaces. Pire...en faisant exploser les prix elles ruinent les États qui les appliquent @FranceInfo

Translated from French by Google

Sanctions against #Russie cannot work. In a globalized economy, when 2/3 of the planet do not apply them, these sanctions are totally ineffective. Worse...by causing prices to explode, they are ruining the States that apply them @FranceInfo



21:26 la route à l'Europe

franceinfo: discours sur l'état de l'Union, le debrief
0:58 La France est prête à procéder à de nouveaux rapatriements de familles de juodistes en Syrie, indique le Quai d'Orsay.

8:01 PM · Sep 17, 2022

797 Retweets 31 Quotes 1,747 Likes 13 Bookmarks

In 2016, he brought non-binding resolutions to the National Assembly and Senate calling on the EU to lift the sanctions against Russia. The resolution had only symbolic value, but it was a clear statement for his pro-Kremlin stance.

7/23

'Acute Russophilia'

Fillon, who polls show to be ranked third in the race to win the Right's nomination for president behind ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy and frontrunner Alain Juppé, is one of several members of the Républicains party urging the West to lift economic sanctions against Moscow and to pursue closer ties.

MEP Thierry Mariani, an outspoken Russia champion and Fillon backer, brought non-binding resolutions to the National Assembly and Senate calling on the European Union to lift economic sanctions against Russia. The resolutions, which had symbolic value, were adopted by both chambers in April and June, respectively.

Sarkozy, who heads the Républicains party, has also called for the lifting of sanctions. Last October, he traveled to Moscow and met with Putin, whom he has described as a "friend."

To a lesser degree, France's ruling Socialists are also considering a thaw in relations with Russia. Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron has called for the lifting of sanctions, while Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault invited Putin to come to Paris in October — an invitation the Russian leader accepted in principle.

Only Juppé, who leads polls ahead of a November primary, has voiced skepticism for what he called an onset of "acute Russophilia" in his party.

POLITICO

France's lower house calls on EU to lift Russia sanctions

Resolution is latest sign of warming toward Moscow.



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (L) talks the Russian stands next to French Transport State Secretary Thierry Brechet (R). (AP Photo/AFIP via Getty Images)

In Nov 2018, Mariani traveled to the fake republic of DNR, where he met, among other people, with the fake Foreign Minister Natalya Nikonorova. He's been a big proponent of the "genocide in Donbas" narrative, claiming that Ukraine has been "bombing civilian homes since 2014."

8/23

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Plus de 2h d'entretien avec Natalya #Nikonorova, Ministre Aff. Etrangères de la République de #Donetsk «Nous attendons d'abord la fin des combats qui ont fait 10 000 morts depuis 2014 et surtout que l'Ukraine respecte enfin les accords de #Minsk pour le retour à la paix» #DNR #DHP

Translated from French by Google

More than 2 hours of interview with Natalya #Nikonorova, Foreign Minister of the Republic of #Donetsk "We are first waiting for the end of the fighting which has claimed 10,000 lives since 2014 and above all that #Ukraine respects finally the agreements of #Minsk for the return to peace" #DNR #DHP



Nicolas DHUICQ and 2 others

2:24 PM · Nov 12, 2018

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Plaisir de retrouver (pas vraiment par hasard...) Xavier Moreau fondateur de @stratpol_site et Michel Voisin en arrivant à #Donetsk #DNR

Translated from French by Google

Pleasure to find (not really by chance...) Xavier Moreau founder of @stratpol_site and Michel Voisin when arriving at #Donetsk #DNR



10:14 AM · Nov 10, 2018

17 Retweets 6 Quotes 43 Likes

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI


Un civil ukrainien tué par un obus russe, c'est un crime de guerre. Un civil de #Donetsk tué par un obus ukrainien, c'est une "pression". Et cela dure à Donetsk depuis 2014, avec 14000 morts dans l'indifférence générale. Alors, ne soyez pas surpris s'ils ne veulent plus de l'Ukraine 🇺🇦

Translated from French by Google

A Ukrainian civilian killed by a Russian shell is a war crime. A #Donetsk civilian killed by a Ukrainian shell is "pressure". And it's been going on in Donetsk since 2014, with 14,000 dead in general indifference. So don't be surprised if they don't want Ukraine anymore 🇺🇦

Anissa El Jabri @anissaeljabri · Sep 23, 2022

La pression militaire ukrainienne s'est déjà fortement renforcée sur Donetsk avec de nombreuses victimes civiles. Hier 6 morts et autant de blessés - bilan provisoire- dans un bombardement sur le marché central. Ce bus qui passait devant est calciné



Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI


C'est bien que les médias français en parlent enfin un peu ... Mais il n'y a rien de nouveau : depuis 2014 l'Ukraine bombarde #Donetsk en tuant des civils et cela n'a pas intéressé nos médias pendant 8 ans.

Translated from French by Google

It's good that the French media are finally talking about it a little... But there is nothing new: since 2014 Ukraine has been bombing #Donetsk killing civilians and this has not interested our media for 8 years.

RFI @RFI · Jun 18, 2022

Donetsk de plus en plus sous le feu des bombardements ukrainiens rfi.my/8Vrlt



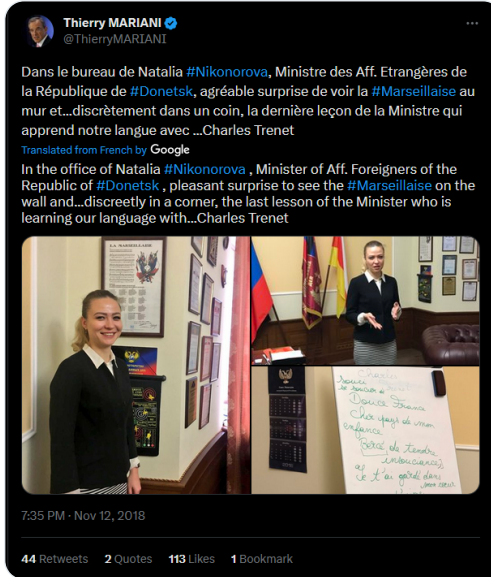
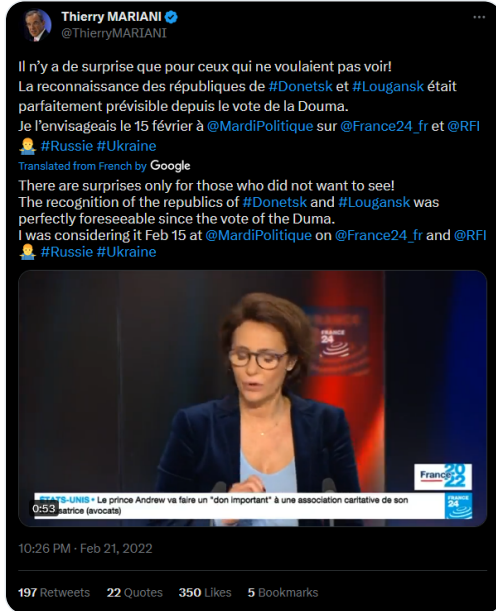
3:02 PM · Jun 19, 2022

404 Retweets 4 Quotes 627 Likes 5 Bookmarks

He also acted as an individual observer at the 2018 fake general elections in DNR. He's visited Russia as an election observer. These trips were paid for by the EU.

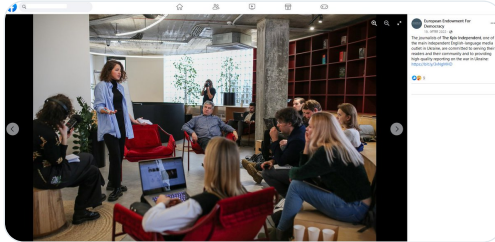
Ironically, Thierry joined the board of governors of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) in 2020.

9/23



The mission of this organization is to "to promote the values of freedom and democracy in the European Neighbourhood and beyond." The organization has supported news outlets like The Kyiv Independent. His stint didn't last long, though, as he resigned after just few months.

10/23



Like so many before him, Thierry has been blaming Ukraine for breaking the Minsk agreements, a contract that has not been respected by either Ukraine or Russia since it was signed. Incidentally, he doesn't mention the previous Budapest Memorandum from 1994 anywhere.


11/23

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Le conflit en #Ukraine n'a pas commencé en février, il dure depuis 2014. Macron ne s'est jamais battu pour faire appliquer les Accords de Minsk. Cela nous rappelle surtout que dans un conflit « gelé » un jour ou l'autre ça reexplose! #Crimée @Europe1

Translated from French by Google

The conflict in #Ukraine did not start in February, it has been going on since 2014. Macron has never fought to enforce the Minsk Accords. Above all, it reminds us that in a "frozen" conflict, one day or another, things will explode again! #Crimee @Europe1



8:01 PM · Oct 10, 2022

1,310 Retweets 52 Quotes 3,042 Likes 26 Bookmarks

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

L'intérêt de l'#Ukraine, c'est d'entraîner l'Europe dans cette guerre. L'intérêt de la France, ce n'est pas de rentrer dans cette guerre, c'est que ces combats cessent ! Pourquoi la France et l'Allemagne n'ont jamais voulu faire respecter les accords de #Minsk? @bfmbusiness

Translated from French by Google

The interest of #Ukraine is to involve Europe in this war. The interest of France is not to return to this war, it is that these fights stop! Why did France and Germany never want to enforce the #Minsk agreements? @bfmbusiness



11:24 AM · Feb 17, 2023 from Strasbourg, France · 100.8K Views

1,061 Retweets 64 Quotes 2,417 Likes 18 Bookmarks

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Le conflit entre l'#Ukraine et la #Russie aurait pu être évité si l'Ukraine avait respecté les accords de #Minsk en donnant une certaine autonomie aux régions de #Donetsk et #Lougansk. Au lieu de cela Zelensky promettait de reprendre ces territoires par la force. @CNEWS

Translated from French by Google

The conflict between #Ukraine and #Russie could have been avoided if Ukraine had respected the agreements of #Minsk by giving a certain autonomy to the regions of #Donetsk and #Lougansk . Instead Zelensky promised to take back these territories by force. @CNEWS



8:35 PM · Jun 27, 2022


1,193 Retweets 57 Quotes 2,379 Likes 23 Bookmarks

Thierry MARIANI @ThierryMARIANI

Les accords de Minsk ont été signés en février 2015 mais ils n'ont JAMAIS été appliqués par l'#Ukraine. Cela fait donc 7 ans que l'Union européenne subventionne l'Ukraine (17 Milliards depuis 2014!) alors que ces accords n'ont jamais été respectés.

Translated from French by Google

The Minsk agreements were signed in February 2015 but they have NEVER been applied by the #Ukraine . The European Union has therefore been subsidizing Ukraine for 7 years (17 billion since 2014!) while these agreements have never been respected.



12:44 AM · Feb 23, 2022 from Elsene, België

294 Retweets 11 Quotes 471 Likes 5 Bookmarks

He mocked the US intelligence for announcing Russia's invasion in Ukraine before it started, and on 23 Feb 2022, he stated that the reports of Putin's push for Kyiv are "ludicrous".

12/23

 **Thierry MARIANI** 
@ThierryMARIANI

Dire que Poutine poussera ses troupes jusqu'à #Kiev est grotesque. Il sait très bien que contrairement au #Donbas, la population lui est majoritairement hostile.
Rappel: en 2008, l'armée de la #Georgie était en débandade, mais Poutine n'est jamais allé jusqu'à #Tbilissi 🇷🇺 #Russie

Translated from French by Google

To say that Putin will push his troops to #Kiev is ludicrous. He knows very well that unlike #Donbas, the population is mostly hostile to him.
Reminder: in 2008, the army of #Georgie was in disarray, but Putin never went as far as #Tbilissi 🇷🇺 #Russie

10:01 AM · Feb 23, 2022 from Steenokkerzeel, België

208 Retweets 304 Quotes 541 Likes 9 Bookmarks

 **Thierry MARIANI** 
@ThierryMARIANI

Nous sommes déjà au 14eme jour où les USA nous annoncent l'invasion imminente de l' #Ukraine par la #Russie
Ça commence à devenir lassant !

Translated from French by Google

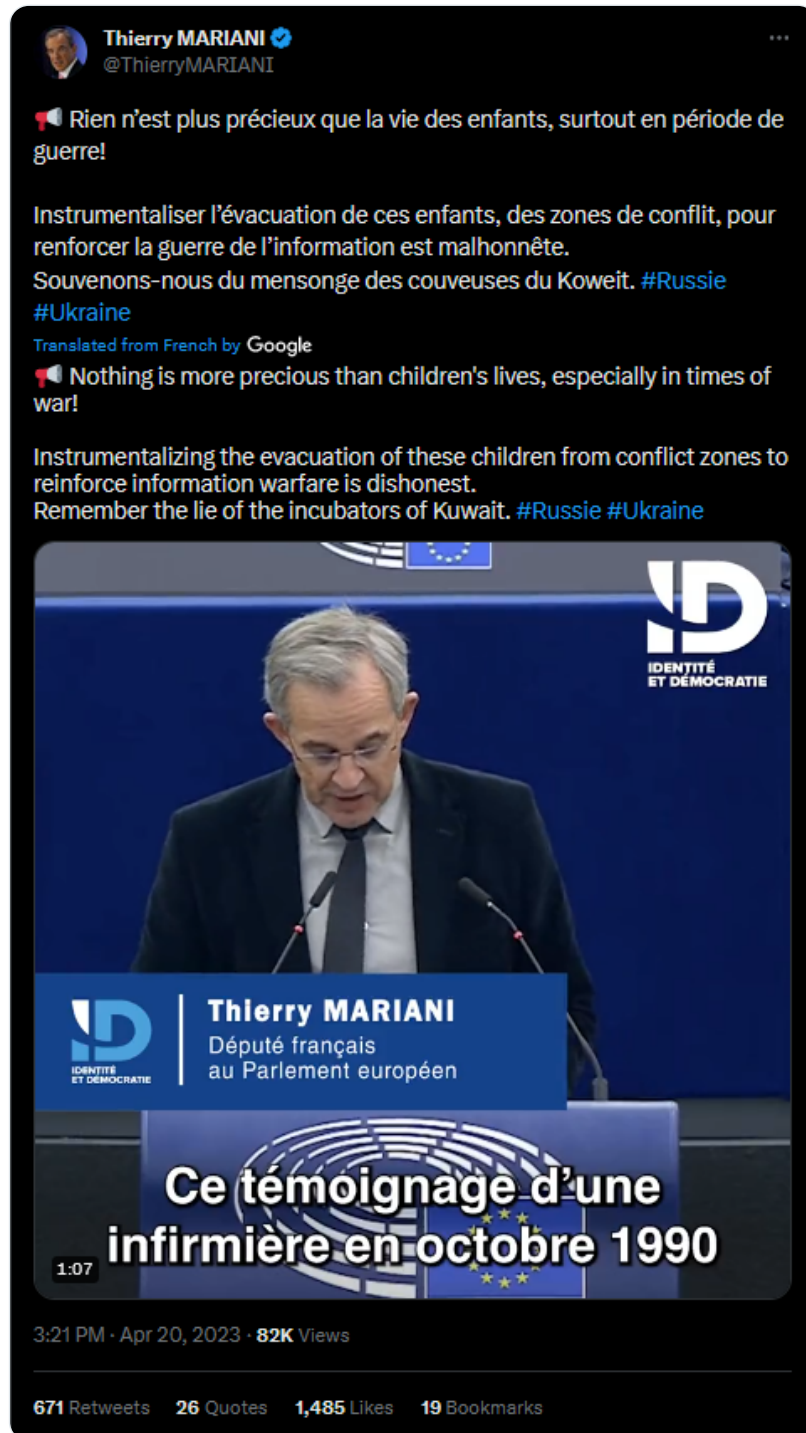
We are already on the 14th day when the USA announces the imminent invasion of #Ukraine by #Russie
It's starting to get boring!


3:55 PM · Feb 13, 2022 from Paris, France


166 Retweets 127 Quotes 658 Likes 4 Bookmarks

In his recent speech in the European Parliament, Mariani defended the abductions of Ukrainian conducted by the Russians, stating that the "evacuation" of these children from conflict zones is being propagandized in the West.

13/23




Thierry MARIANI 
@ThierryMARIANI


 Rien n'est plus précieux que la vie des enfants, surtout en période de guerre!

Instrumentaliser l'évacuation de ces enfants, des zones de conflit, pour renforcer la guerre de l'information est malhonnête.
Souvenons-nous du mensonge des couveuses du Koweït. [#Russie](#) [#Ukraine](#)

Translated from French by Google

 Nothing is more precious than children's lives, especially in times of war!

Instrumentalizing the evacuation of these children from conflict zones to reinforce information warfare is dishonest.
Remember the lie of the incubators of Kuwait. [#Russie](#) [#Ukraine](#)



3:21 PM · Apr 20, 2023 · **82K** Views

671 Retweets 26 Quotes 1,485 Likes 19 Bookmarks

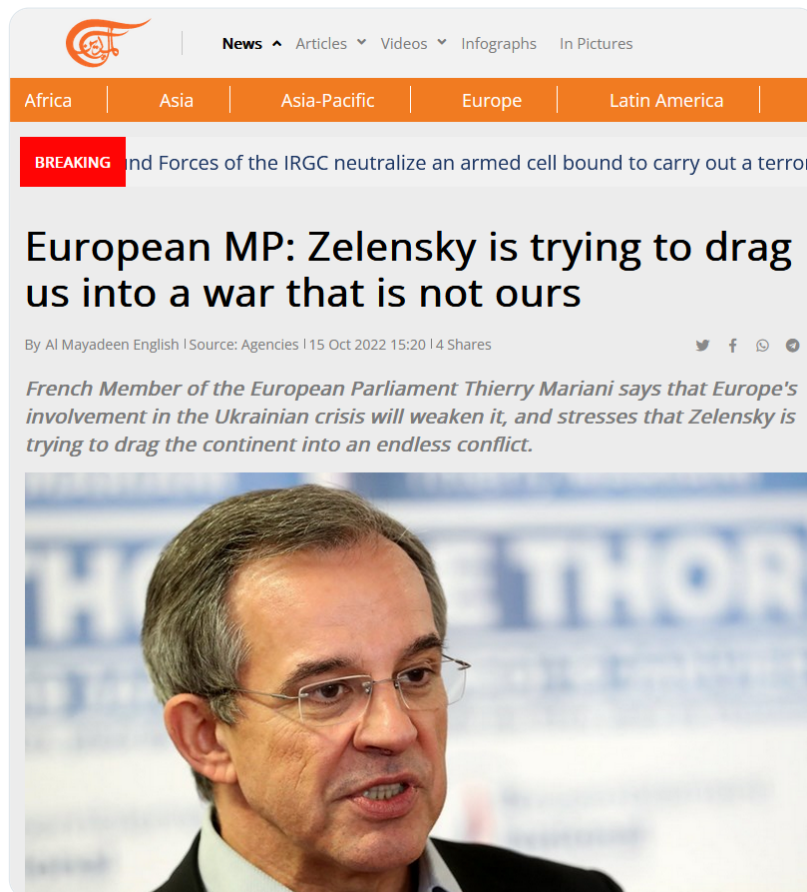
This disgusting take supports Russia's push to desperately try and fix its failing demographics by kidnapping Ukrainian youth - so far almost 20 000 abductions of Ukrainian children have been confirmed.

14/23



Thierry is a staunch critic of Zelensky, blaming him for trying to "drag the EU into a war that is not ours." He's also blamed Poland & the Baltics for "supporting a more active participation" in the war, suggesting that these countries only want to "settle some old scores".

15/23



He's called events like the bombing of the Kerch bridge an escalation, but at this point one can ask escalation into what? Russia is already bombing civilian targets almost on a daily basis. Its troops are raping, pillaging and torturing civilians around Ukraine.

16/23



Mariani has also been featured several times on TASS, where he usually bashes anything coming from the West. In one of his interviews he declared that the European capitals are "far too scared to displease Washington or get blackmailed by Ukrainian President...


17/23



...Vladimir Zelensky," and that Poland is trying to drag EU deeper into the Russo-Ukrainian war.

Mariani's actions and talks make you almost think, that he has some business interests in Russia. As a matter of fact, him and Yves Pozzo di Borgo have been under...

18/23

RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY

18 MAR, 22:23

Poland drags EU countries into escalation in Ukraine against their will – MEP from France

Thierry Mariani said that in the provision of weapons "Warsaw is now going even further than Washington"

PARIS, March 18. /TASS/. Warsaw is trying to draw the European Union into the Ukrainian conflict as deeply as possible contrary to the interests of most EU countries, a member of the European Parliament from France, Thierry Mariani, told TASS.

"In the conflict in Ukraine, Poland has become the element that is obviously trying to drag the EU into the escalation as deeply as possible against the wish of the EU countries," Mariani said.

He expressed his attitude to Poland's decision to dispatch MiG-29 fighters to Ukraine.

"It seems to me it is extremely dangerous for Poland to supply military aircraft to Kiev," the source said. "So far, the United States has not made such a decision."

As the European legislator stated, "Warsaw is now going even farther than Washington" in providing military hardware to Ukraine.

"The aircraft to be delivered are to enable Ukraine to strike deep into the territory of Russia," he warned.

"This is another in a series of steps towards the EU's involvement in the conflict. Each such step brings us closer to participation in the conflict and we run the risk of getting into it someday," Mariani added.

...investigation for Russia-related corruption since 2021. Their trips were paid for by Russia, and the French courts are determining whether these trips were rewards for the loyalty to the Russian Federation. They also investigate misuse of the organization's funds.

19/23

The screenshot shows the top of a Le Monde news page. The date is Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 8:04 am (Paris). The navigation bar includes NEWS, INTERNATIONAL, WAR IN UKRAINE, ENVIRONMENT, FRANCE, and OPINION. The article is categorized under FRANCE and FRENCH JUSTICE. The main headline is "Two French politicians under investigation for Russia-related corruption". The sub-headline reads: "The Paris prosecutor's office is investigating possible corruption and influence peddling in connection with the Franco-Russian Dialogue, an advocacy group presided by member of the European Parliament Thierry Mariani." The authors are Abdelhak El Idrissi and Anne Michel. The article was published on October 26, 2022, at 5:00 am (Paris), and updated on October 26, 2022, at 5:29 am. There is a link to "Lire en français". Below the text is a photo of Thierry Mariani holding a small globe, with a map of the Caucasus region in the background.

Russia isn't the only country that Mariani has been simping - he's a member of the Azerbaijan's Friends Association, a main tool of the "caviar diplomacy", a lobbying strategy of Azerbaijan involving lavish gifts and free tips.

20/23

The screenshot shows a news page titled "CAUCASUS OF FRANCE". It features a map of the Caucasus region with labels for Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Below the map is a section titled "Recette des dons financiers pour les réfugiés d'Artsakh". The main article is titled "Thierry Mariani: Karabakh is an Azeri territory" and is dated May 3, 2023. The article text includes: "MEP Thierry Mariani returns to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on RMC - BFMTV Monday, May 3. 'If there are war crimes, they must be condemned, but we must not fall into the propaganda of one or the other. We really need an international commission of inquiry that finds out the truth about what happened.' Thierry Mariani recalled that in 2003, Renaud Muselier was on an official trip, as Secretary of State, to Azerbaijan. Mr Muselier said he supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The MEP agrees with him. 'These are disputed lands, which according to international law are Azeri,' the MP said. Mr. Mariani pointed out that this was not a conflict of Islamists against Christians. 'It's a war of nationalism and if we really want to help this region, we have to facilitate dialogue. These are lands today where we must find peace,' he said. 'Do you know what Karabakh is? It is Alsace-Lorraine between France and Germany. We must facilitate a negotiation, an agreement between these two peoples who are condemned to live side by side, who have lived side by side for centuries and not throw oil on the fire,' concludes the politician. There is a video player showing Thierry Mariani speaking at a press conference.

Azerbaijan's French friends

Azerbaijan's lawyers reportedly intended to call French MP Jean-François Mancel as a witness.

Mancel is president of the Friends of Azerbaijan Association (AAA), the French arm of Azerbaijan's "caviar diplomacy" that aims to counter the influence of the Armenian diaspora, which has a large presence in France, on the Nagorno-Karabakh question, improve trade and speak up for the "pearl of the Caucasus".

Along with several other MPs, three former ministers from Nicolas Sarkozy's 2007-2012 presidency - Rachida Dati, Thierry Mariani and Jean-Marie Bockel - are members of AAA.

They have been invited on "cultural trips" to Azerbaijan and, in some cases, their constituencies have benefited donations and investments from the country, according to *Le Monde*.

Mariani, a former AAA president, dismissed questions about presents of caviar as "ridiculous", saying he had received some "really small tins", worth less than the amount of donations MPs are supposed to declare, of the delicacy.

Since the trips, Mariani has shown strong support for Ilham Aliyev, the authoritarian President of Azerbaijan, even having personal relations with him and his family. He's also the chairman of an NGO L'Eurasie, les nouveaux horizons, that's connected to several...

21/23

Consult the [archive](#)

Le Monde

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NEWS - ECONOMY - VIDEOS - DEBATES - CULTURE - THE TASTE OF THE WORLD

LES OŒUVRES

"Caviar diplomacy": exchanges of good practices between Azerbaijan and French elected officials

The young oil country, regularly challenged by human rights organizations, is trying to restore its image with a lot of gifts and investments.

By Laura Motet


Published on September 05, 2017 at 11:40 a.m., modified on September 06, 2017 at 06:42 a.m. • Reading 7 mins.

ESI
European Stability Initiative
BERLIN - BRUSSELS - ISTANBUL

Caviar Diplomacy

How Azerbaijan silenced the Council of Europe

Part 1



... figures involved in lobbying and money laundering of almost three billions dollars through shell companies located in the UK. This money was used to whitewash Azerbaijan's reputation in Europe.

22/23


Global laundromat
Azerbaijan

Explainer

Everything you need to know about the Azerbaijani Laundromat

How did the scheme work, who benefited, and how did it come to light?

Luke Harding, Caelainn Barr and Dina Nagapetyants
Mon 4 Sep 2017 18:00 BST



More than 16,000 transactions adding up to \$2.9bn were made between 2012 and 2014.
Photograph: Justin Merritt/Getty

What is the Azerbaijani Laundromat?

A scheme to curry influence, pay lobbyists, apologists and European politicians and to launder cash. The \$2.9bn (£2.2bn) operation ran between 2012 and 2014 - meaning that on average \$3m was channelled out of Azerbaijan every day. The source of money isn't always clear, but it comes from companies linked to Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, state ministries and the **International Bank of Azerbaijan**, the country's largest bank, which recently filed for bankruptcy protection. The cash was transferred into four offshore-managed UK companies. From there, it was

OCCRP AZERBAIJANI LAUNDROMAT

DONATE

THE AZERBAIJANI LAUNDROMAT

The Azerbaijani Laundromat is a complex money-laundering operation and slush fund that handled \$2.9 billion over a two-year period through four shell companies registered in the UK.

The scheme was uncovered through a joint investigation by Berlingske (Denmark), OCCRP, The Guardian (UK), Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), Le Monde (France), Tages-Anzeiger and Tribune de Genève (Switzerland), De Tijd (Belgium), Novaya Gazeta (Russia), Dossier (Austria), Atlaszoo.hu (Hungary), Delo (Slovenia), RISE Project (Romania), Ilied (Bulgaria), Arpaev (Estonia), Czech Center for Investigative Journalism (Czech Republic), and Icarus's (US).


This project is part of the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium, a collaboration started by OCCRP and Transparency International.

SHORTCUTS

- All stories
- Reactions
- Where Did the Money Go?
- The Raw Data
- The Project Team

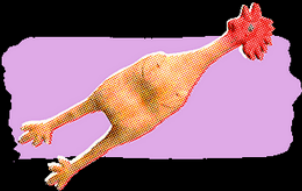
Oh, and he never speaks about the events that took place in Bucha, Iziium, Kherson or Kramatorsk. We can safely assume, that in his mind these atrocities never took place.

23/23



**No results for
"(from:@thierrymaria
ni) bucha"**

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A blue banner with white text and icons. The name 'Pekka Kallioniemi' is written in large white font. To the right is a circular illustration of a chef in a kitchen. Below the name is a small coffee cup icon and the URL 'buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi'. The background features faint icons of a bird, a play button, a musical note, and a gift.

Pekka Kallioniemi

Support me in creating daily vatnik soups! All donations will be spent on research and production of vatnik soup or in the creation of web portal (vatniksoup.com)...

<https://buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi>

Subscribe for my upcoming YouTube channel:



An illustration of a chef in a white uniform and hat, stirring a pot of red soup with a wooden spoon. The scene is set within a circular frame with a textured background.

The Soup Central

The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.

<https://youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral>

Past soups: vatniksoup.com

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