



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Sep 13, 2023 · 18 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1701929645082353706](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1701929645082353706)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Russo-Italian politician, Irina Osipova. She's best-known for her ties to European and Russian neo-Nazi groups like Golden Dawn and Rusich, for her close ties to various Russian officials, and for her new job at the Italian senate.

1/17



She was born in Moscow, Russia in 1987 and his father is Oleg Osipov, former director of the Russian Center of Science and Culture in Rome. The organization is basically a form of Russian soft power & aims to establish contacts between the influential Russians and Italians.

2/17



Today, the organization is led by Dariya Pushkova, former RT propagandist and daughter of prominent Russian politician Aleksey Pushkov who also happens to be the President of the "Commission on Information Policy".

3/17




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Participants



## Aleksey Pushkov

Chairman of the Commission of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on Information Policy and Cooperation with the Media; Senator of the Russian Federation

### Biography

Russian Senator and Chairman of Federation Council's Commission on Information Policy and Cooperation with the Media.

Born 10 August 1954 in Moscow.

Higher Education: graduated in 1976 from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations with a specialization in International Relations.

Speaks two foreign languages: English, French.

Candidate of Historical Sciences.

1983–1988 – Editor-Consultant to Problems of Peace and Socialism/World Marxist Review (Prague).

1988–1991 – Consultant of the International Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

1991–1995 – Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper Moskovskiy Novosti (Moscow News)

1995–1998 – Deputy General Director, Public Russian Television (ORT)

From 1998 – Head, Author, and Anchor of Postscriptum (TV Centre).

Osipova got involved in politics at an early age, and already back in 2012, she founded an association called "RIM - Young Italian-Russian", which aimed to bring together all "active and creative young people, who mainly use Russian in their daily lives".



She also participated in the Rome municipal elections from Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party in 2016, getting just under 200 votes. Her campaign relied heavily on Putinisms like "The model for Italy to defend national interests" and she referred to Putin as the...

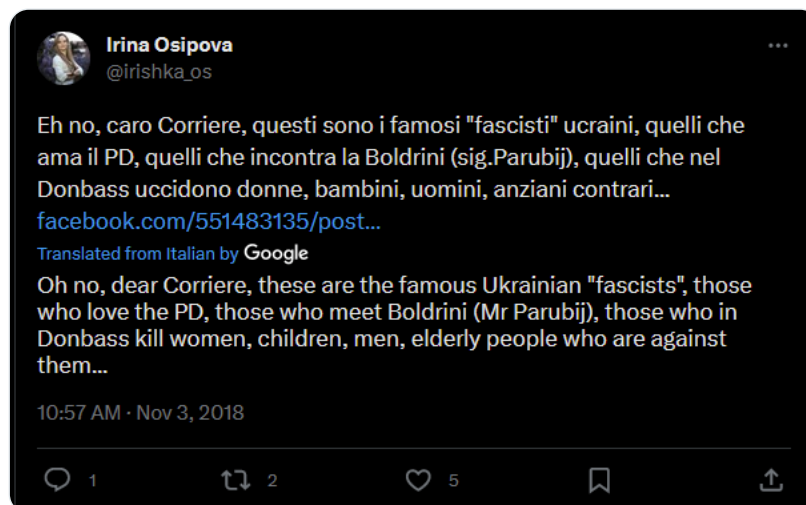
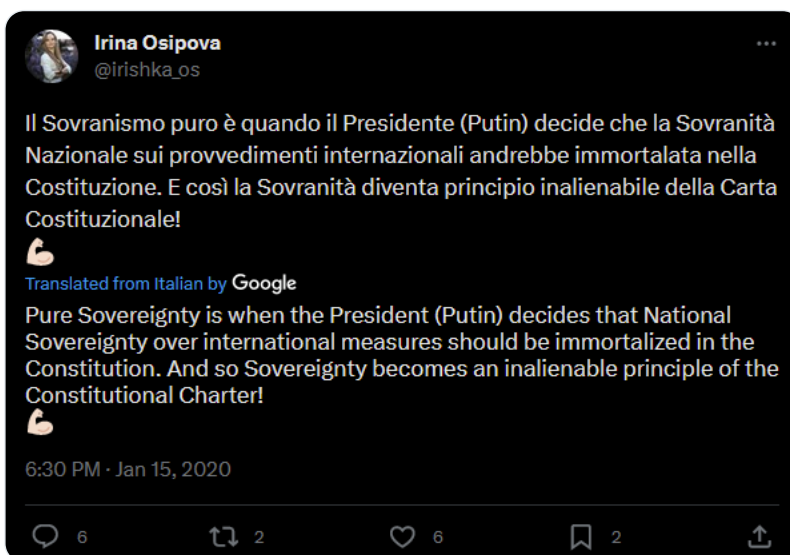
5/17



...Tsar and as "a leader who has no equal in the world." You can still find some of these messages on her old X/Twitter account.

After she wasn't elected, she started touring the Europe, visiting various far-right figures while building new connections.

6/17



Already back in 2014 she was demonstrating against the European sanctions on Russia after they illegally annexed Crimea. These demonstrations also focused on supporting Russia's policy against the Kyiv's "Nazi regime" and their stance on Donbas and Crimea.



In 2017, she participated as one of the speakers/panelists at an event called "Donbass, a war on the conscience of Europe". Apparently the whole event focused on EU's lack of solidarity towards the fake republics of DPR and LPR.



SALA STAMPA - PALAZZO MONTECITORIO  
CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI

MERCOLEDI' 12 LUGLIO 2017  
ORE 14.30

CONFERENZA STAMPA

DONBASS, UNA GUERRA  
SULLA COSCIENZA DELL'EUROPA

L'Unione Europea ha approvato a partire dallo scorso mese di giugno l'abolizione dei visti obbligatori per l'Ucraina, come primo passo verso l'integrazione come Stato membro. Ma l'Europa sembra voler ignorare il cruento conflitto che dal 2014 insanguina il Donbass, scatenato dopo il golpe di piazza Maidan dal governo ucraino contro la popolazione delle regioni di Donetsk e di Lugansk, che hanno proclamato Repubbliche popolari indipendenti in difesa della propria identità russa. L'Italia è direttamente coinvolta in questa guerra quasi sconosciuta all'opinione pubblica, dovendo subire le sanzioni economiche alla Russia imposte dagli USA e dall'UE, che in questi anni hanno penalizzato l'export italiano per miliardi di euro. Approfondiremo i retroscena di questa guerra quasi ignorata dai maggiori media europei, nonostante continui a mietere vittime quotidianamente, insieme a chi ha potuto osservare la situazione del conflitto in Donbass con i propri occhi, per iniziative diplomatiche, culturali e umanitarie.

Interverranno:

ON. ACHILLE TOTARO  
Deputato Fratelli d'Italia - Alleanza Nazionale

MAURIZIO MARRONE  
Rappresentanza della Repubblica Popolare di Donetsk in Italia

IRINA OSIPOVA  
RIM Giovani Italo-Russi

DANIELE MACRIS  
Centro di Cultura Italiana presso l'Università di Lugansk



Criticizing the Kyiv "Nazi regime" hasn't stopped Irina from hanging out with literal neo-Nazis in Europe and in Russia. He's spent time with Andrea Palmeri, former football hooligan, who was sentenced to 5 years in prison for recruiting people to fight in Donbas.



Russia

## The Italian football hooligan who fled house arrest to become a pro-Russian fighter in Ukraine



AFP - news@thelocal.it  
Published: 10 Apr, 2018 CET. Updated: Tue 10 Apr 2018 10:23 CET



Other groups Irina has associated herself with include a far-right, fascist movement Lealtà Azione, and a Greek, far-right and neo-Nazi and ultranational criminal organization, Golden Dawn.


In 2020, GD's leaders were convicted for heading a criminal organisation.

10/17

Ирина Осипова

Поиск


Друзья 493

 **Ирина Осипова**  
16 июл 2014

10

Ничего нового - идеи Бенито Муссолини на современный лад.  
<http://onf.ru>


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Ирина Осипова  
25 окт 2015

14

Разговаривая на английском с депутатом Европарламента от Золотой Зари я спросила почему его партия поддержала результаты референдума в Крыму, признав Крым российским?  
"...this referendum represented NARODNAYA VOLYA..." (Народная воля" - Джорджиос произнёс на русском, удивив меня так, что мы вместе засмеялись!)  
Показать полностью...



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# FYI.

This story is over 5 years old.

News

## A brief history of the League's relations with the fascists of Loyalty and Action

This weekend the "Festa del Sole" took place in Abbiategrasso, in which four deputies of the League participated.

By Stefano Santoro

10.7.18 Facebook Twitter Signal

Listen to this article




PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK / FEDERATION.

Last weekend, the annual meeting of Lealtà Azione took place in Abbiategrasso (province of Milan), the far-right Lombard movement whose

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23.3.23

Food  
Mistakenly...

Then there's the founders of the Rusich Group, Alexey Milchakov & Yan Petrovsky, two neo-Nazis who are best-known for their brutal & barbaric terrorism crimes in Ukraine. Read more about Alexey here:

And about Petrovsky here:

11/17

ⓘ  
Not found

[https://twitter.com/P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1589145838869434370](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1589145838869434370)



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In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce a Russian-Norwegian mercenary, Yan Petrovsky AKA Voislav Torden AKA "Slavyan". He's best-known as the co-founder of the Rusich Group, for committing war crimes in Ukraine, and for trying to start a normal life after in Northern Europe.

1/20

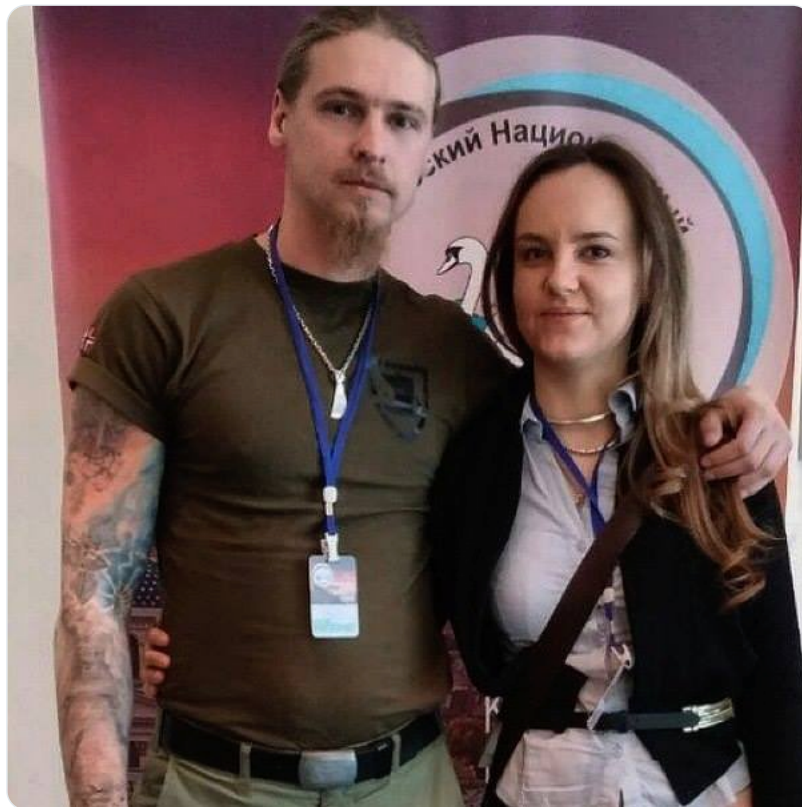
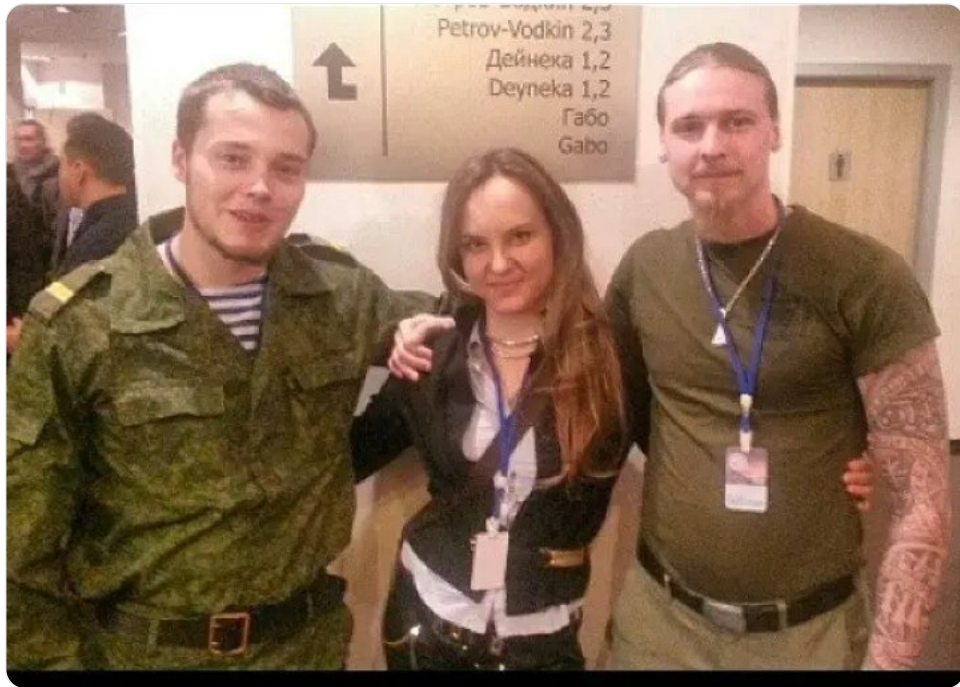


8:20 AM · Aug 31, 2023



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Osipova has also made connections in the Italian politics, and she's collaborated with Lombardy-Russia association since 2014. The group is led by Northern League member Gianluca Savoini, former right-hand man and spokesperson of Matteo Salvini:



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In today's #vatniksoup we'll do our first trip to Italy as I introduce an Italian politician and Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Salvini (@matteosalvinimi). He's best-known for his Russia-related funding scandals, and for his Euroskeptic and pro-Putin views.

1/16



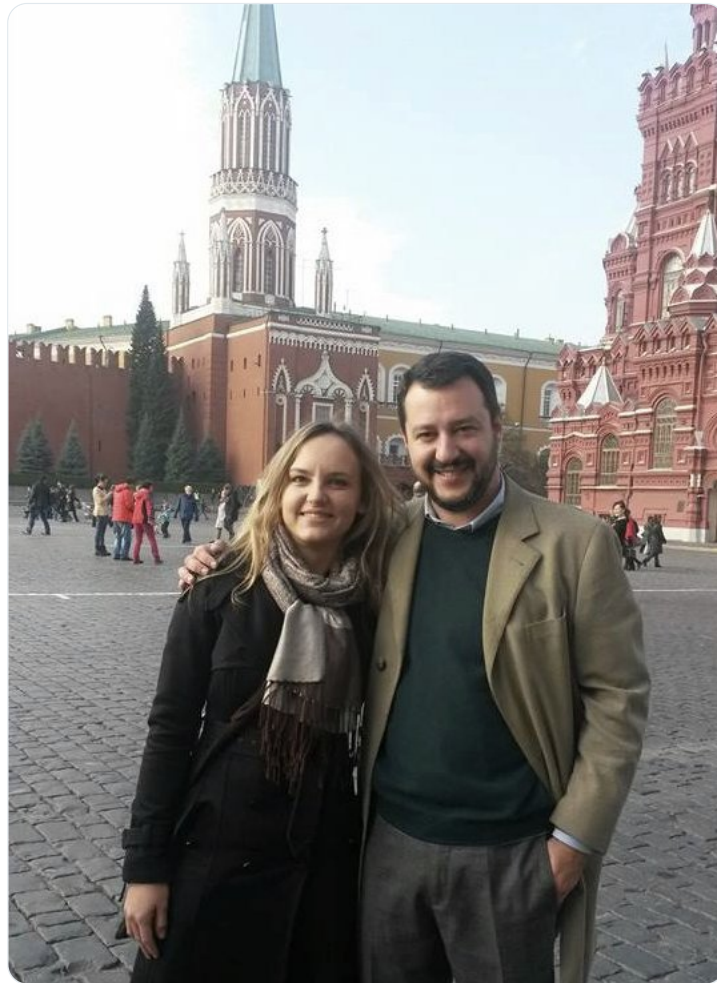
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In 2023, Osipova wiggled her way into the Italian Senate as a "parliamentary assistant". She got the position after participating in a public competition in 2019 which did not require any kind of authorization. She placed 78th and was accepted as an assistant due to ...



POLITICS PUBLIC COMPETITIONS • FDI • RUSSIA • SENATE • SOVEREIGNTY • VLADIMIR PUTIN

## Putin fan, sovereignist and Fdi candidate: who is Irina Osipova, the Russian who won the competition to work in the Senate

8 SEPTEMBER 2023 - 2.35PM

by Editorial Staff



*The woman will take up service at Palazzo Madama from next November 1st*

..the dire need of new work force in the Palazzo Madama, the upper house of the Italian Parliament in Rome. The appointment was also noticed by the Ukrainian Embassy in Rome, who expressed their concern on the matter & criticized the "the hiring of a Russian propagandist"

14/17

# Irina Osipova hired in the Senate, Ukrainian embassy: "Worry, the Russians are a risk in the institutions"

September 09, 2023 | 5.15pm

Adnkronos editorial team

READING: 1 minute



## Morning Report

L'unica newsletter per le notizie del mattino



Friendship with Palazzo Madama, but no to Moscow propagandists



Irina Osipova and Ukrainian ambassador Yaroslav Melnyk

Many anti-EU "experts" often refer to the decisions made on the EU level by people who were not elected (supposedly they haven't heard of the EU parliament).

Here we have a clear case of pro-Kremlin Russian who has strong ties to both Russian and ...



... European far-right movements working at the Italian Senate because she was able to write and speak better than other candidates.

And this is exactly how the Russian soft power works.

16/17

## Understanding Russia's Soft Power Strategy

Alexander Sergunin

*St Petersburg State University/Higher School of Economics*

Leonid Karabeshkin

*Euroacademy, Tallinn, Estonia*

This article examines the specifics of Moscow's soft power strategy. The sources of the Kremlin's interest in the soft power concept are explained. The article discusses how the soft power concept fits in the current Russian foreign policy philosophy. Russia's soft power resources, institutions and instruments are described. Special attention is given to the limitations and constraints of Moscow's soft power strategies. The reasons why these strategies are often being inefficient are explained. The Kremlin's inclination to the combination of the soft and hard power strategies is identified.

**Keywords:** Russia; soft power; Kremlin; foreign policy

### Introduction

It has become commonplace to claim that in the post-Cold War era key international players often prefer to exercise soft rather than hard power. According to those who have adopted the soft power concept, economic, socio-cultural, institutional and legal instruments are more efficient in the present-day world than military strength or direct political and economic pressure. In their view, for many nations, hard power has become an exceptional tool and a last resort in foreign relations rather than day-to-day practice. Hard power is now mainly applicable to those international actors who violate international law or directly threaten national, regional or global security.

Since the mid-2000s, Russia has attempted to develop a soft power concept and an implementation mechanism of its own. The idea of soft power was formally introduced into Russian foreign policy doctrine in 2013 and top Russian leaders (including President Vladimir Putin) have declared that soft power instruments are the most important ones in Moscow's foreign policy arsenal. However, Moscow has repeatedly used hard power instruments in the post-Soviet space over the last decade – most recently in the cases of Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014–2015. Such actions are dissonant with Russia's officially proclaimed adherence to non-violent foreign policy methods.

Russia's soft power strategy is a relatively new theme in the academic literature and remains noticeably under-researched. Several categories addressing this topic can be identified. First, some studies, mainly of an historical character, have focused on the alleged continuity of Russia's present-day soft power strategies with Soviet-type propaganda or even Russia's pre-revolutionary foreign policies (Tsygankov, 2013a and 2013b).

On 12 Sep 2023, a petition calling for the prevention of her appointment was launched:

These petitions may have only little actual effect, but this is definitely something the Italian Senate should consider doing.

La Irina Osipova,  
partendo da sinistra:

Al ritrovo imperialista russo;  
Con portavoce Rusic e mercenari  
nazisti Wagner;  
con Lega Salvini a favore di Putin  
(FB e IG personali della Osipova)



**Firma la petizione**

Impediamo l'assunzione di Irina Osipova in Senato! No alle spie naziste russe!

<https://www.change.org/p/impediamo-l-assunzione-di-irina-osipova-in-senato-no-alle-s...>

Thank you to @Ander\_Bruckes for their great thread on Osipova:

All soups:

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🇺🇸 Uno dei nuovi volti del Senato della Repubblica lo si può trovare sotto questo passamontagna (👇): è quello di Irina #Osipova, moscovita, putiniana, secondo alcuni membro dei Servizi Segreti russi.

Una storia interessante

1/👉



6:08 PM · Sep 8, 2023



2K



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### Vatnik Soup

#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

<https://vatniksoup.com>



Pekka Kallioniemi

[buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi](https://buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi)

### Pekka Kallioniemi

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