



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 30, 2024 · 15 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1774084529201856903](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce confirmed cases where the Kremlin has funded or otherwise influenced European politicians & parties in order to gain their support with issues like conducting business with Russian businesses, aid to Ukraine & sanctions against Russia.

1/14



On 28 Mar 2024, the Czech Republic & Poland exposed a Kremlin-backed propaganda network that paid European politicians & spread anti-Ukraine narratives on media. According to the investigators, the Voice of Europe website was used as a vehicle to pay politicians.

2/14

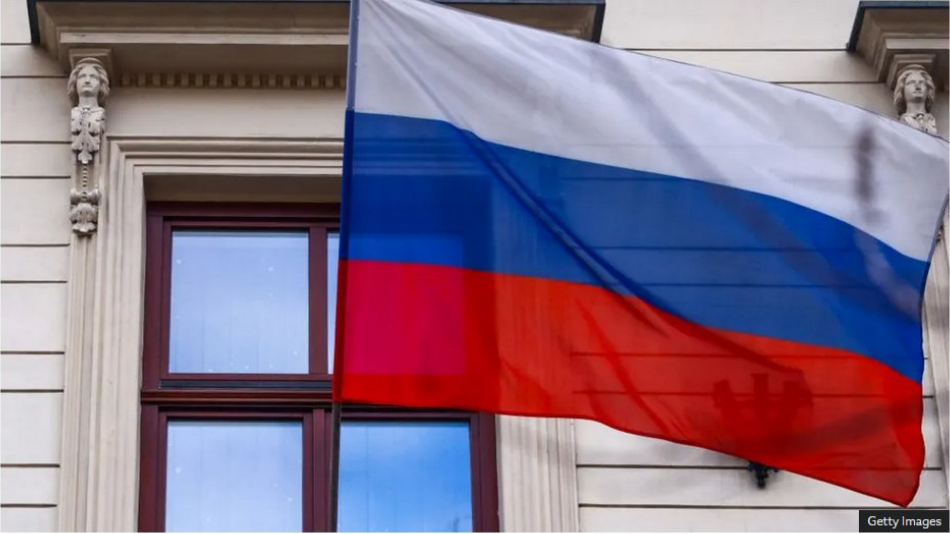
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Russian network that 'paid European politicians' busted, authorities claim

2 days ago Share

By Ido Vock, BBC News



Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said members of the European Parliament had been paid by the network

A Russian-backed "propaganda" network has been broken up for spreading anti-Ukraine stories and paying unnamed European politicians, according to authorities in several countries.

Getty Images

But first of all, let's look at how to motivate people to work on behalf of a foreign agent. I have previously written about the acronym MICE, which translates to Money, Ideology, Compromise and Ego. More on this here:

3/14

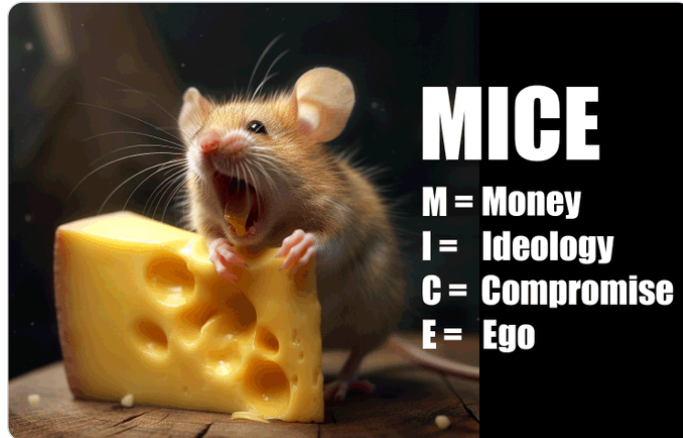


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In today's #vatniksoup, I'm going to talk about MICE. Not the rodent, but an acronym that originates from CIA recruitment strategy used in espionage. MICE explains the main motivators for covert and also overt action, and it stands for Money, Ideology, Compromise and Ego.

1/25



12:22 PM · May 21, 2023



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There are many journalists, political parties and individual politicians who have provenly received funding from the Kremlin or from the CCP. One of the most famous examples is the Latvian MEP, Tatjana Zdanoka exposed by the @InsiderEng:

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In today's [#vatniksoup](#) I'll introduce a Latvian politician and MEP, Tatjana Ždanoka. She's best-known for her history in the Communist Party of Latvia, for her pro-Russian politics in the country, and for her strong and constant support of Russia in the European Parliament.


1/18



9:49 AM · Mar 27, 2023 

 1.7K  Reply  Copy link



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POLITICS

Exclusive: Latvian Member of European Parliament is an agent of Russian intelligence, leaked emails confirm

Christo Grozev, Michael Weiss, Roman Dobrokhotov
29 January 2024

CONTENT

1. Their woman in Strasbourg
2. But her emails...
3. The second handler

Tatjana Ždanoka MEP has spent decades openly advocating for Moscow from both Riga and Strasbourg. *The Insider* can today reveal that Ždanoka was working on behalf of the FSB's Fifth Service, reporting to two different handlers from at least 2004 to 2017.

In Belgium, two politicians from the far-right party Vlaams Belang, Filip Dewinter and Frank Creyelman, have received payments from Chinese spies.

Vlaams Belang is currently polling around 28% for the upcoming elections:



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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Belgian far-right politician and one of the key figures of the far right party Vlaams Belang, Filip Dewinter (@FDW_VB). He's best-known for his ultranationalism, and for promoting authoritarian regimes like Russia, the CCP and Syria.

1/17



1:46 PM · Jan 22, 2024



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Foreign influence: New ties between Vlaams Belang MP and Chinese spy revealed

Wednesday, 27 March 2024

By **Ciara Carolan**



Vlaams Belang MP Filip Dewinter. Credit: Belga

Filip Dewinter, a leading member of far-right party Vlaams Belang and an MP in the Flemish Parliament, allegedly received payments from a Chinese spy in Belgium for many years.

NEWS > POLITICS

Belgian far right expels alleged China spy from party

Frank Creyelman is said to have worked for the Chinese spy agency for 3 years.

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The former Vlaams Belang party member served in the Flemish parliament until 2014 | EPA-EFE/Olivier Matthys

DECEMBER 15, 2023 1:31 PM CET

BY PIERRE EMMANUEL NGENDAKUMANA

In Germany, another far-right party, AfD, has extremely close relations with the Kremlin, and many of their politicians have received gifts and free luxury trips to Russia. They have also received funding and instructions from their masters:



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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a German right-wing and populist political party, Alternative für Deutschland, or AfD (@AfD). The party is best-known for their Euroskeptic and pro-Kremlin politics, and for having strong political and financial ties to the Kremlin.

1/19



9:03 AM · Aug 7, 2023




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POLITICS

The far-right Bundestag aide and his rapping FSB case officer

Roman Dobrokhotoy, Michael Weiss, Christo Grozev
1 February 2024

A pro-Russian aide to a far-right German legislator who attempted to scuttle Berlin's shipment of main battle tanks to Ukraine is an agent of Russian intelligence, *The Insider* can now reveal. Also, his handler is a rapper.

Radio Prague International Broadcast in English 03/30/2024 BROADCAST ARCHIVE WAYS TO LISTEN

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Media: AfD's Byströň got cash from Czech-based Russian network

🕒 03/29/2024

 Czech-born German politician Petr Byströň from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party received money from a Russian influence network in Prague, the Czech news outlet Denik N and Germany's Der Spiegel reported.

The information came from the Czech counterintelligence service, known by the acronym BIS, which said on Wednesday that it had broken up a Russian group seeking to influence European elections and spread anti-Ukraine propaganda.

Two individuals, including pro-Russian Ukrainian politician Viktor Medvedchuk, were placed on Czechia's sanctions list, meaning their assets were frozen.

Author: [Ian Willoughby](#)

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-  Russia's Patriarch Kirill first name on Czech national sanctions list

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A former German journalist, Hubert Seipel also received funding through shell companies for providing positive coverage of Vladimir Putin. Most of the "macho imagery" of him comes from Seipel's work.

More on Hubert:



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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a German journalist and documentarist, Hubert Seipel. He's best-known for creating several propaganda pieces on Vladimir Putin, for downplaying Putin's atrocities, and for receiving money from a Russian oligarch without disclosing this.
1/17



10:59 AM · Nov 15, 2023



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Cyprus confidential
Germany

This article is more than **4 months old**

Top German journalist received €600,000 from Putin ally, leak reveals

Influential author and broadcaster Hubert Seipel received financial support for his work on two books described by many as sympathetic to Russian president

Kate Connolly, Timo Schober, Bastian Obermayer and Frederik Obermaier

Tue 14 Nov 2023 17:00 CET

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Hubert Seipel wrote two books charting Vladimir Putin's rise to power. Composite: Guardian Design/Getty Images/Shutterstock

Austria is a hotbed for Russian espionage. Recently, @InsiderEng revealed that the Wirecard conman Jan Marsalek has been working for GRU for a decade, and for example gave confidential documents to Austrian far-right party FPÖ:




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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an Austrian fugitive businessman and Russian operative, Jan Marsalek (@derJanMarsalek). He's best-known for the Wirecard scandal, and for funneling money to Russian intelligence agencies and PMC Wagner's operations.

1/18

billions in commercial gang fraud, the particularly serious case of embezzlement and other property and economic offences. He is currently on the run.



2017 2019 Foto: PP München

Jan MARSALEK *15.03.1980

Can you provide any information on Jan MARSALEK's whereabouts?

We ask you to give your information to the PP Munich on **+49 (0) 89 / 29 100** or any other police station. You can also use the Bavarian Police contact form at www.polizei.bayern.de.
Your information can be treated confidentially!

Editor and Publisher: PP München | August 2020

1:11 PM · Dec 19, 2023



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POLITICS

A most wanted man: Fugitive Wirecard COO Jan Marsalek exposed as decade-long GRU spy

Roman Dobrokhotov, Christo Grozev, Michael Weiss
1 March 2024

CONTENT

- "World Domination"

Fugitive Wirecard COO Jan Marsalek wasn't just responsible for Germany's largest financial fraud in history. He was also a decade-long Russian spy.

In Italy, an aide to Italy's then deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini held secret talks with Russian officials to pump Russian oil money to Italian far-right party Lega Nord:

9/14

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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



10:37 AM · Mar 15, 2023 


 3.2K  Reply  Copy link

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RUSSIA

Revealed: The Explosive Secret Recording That Shows How Russia Tried To Funnel Millions To The “European Trump”

A close aide to Italy's deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini held covert talks to put  Russian oil money to his far-right party. BuzzFeed News has the tape.

In France, former MEP, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, organized loans from Russia to Marine Le Pen's National Rally party. Schaffhauser and other pro-Kremlin politicians are currently being investigated by the French Intelligence.



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In today's [#vatniksoup](#) I'll introduce a French lawyer and politician, Marine Le Pen. She's best-known for her attempts at becoming the president of France and for her connections to the European far-right movement and to Vladimir Putin.

1/17



2:12 PM · Mar 26, 2023



3.6K Reply Copy link

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NATIONAL SECURITY

A Russian bank gave Marine Le Pen's party a loan. Then weird things began happening.



By Paul Sonne

December 27, 2018 at 9:47 a.m. EST



Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, now called the National Rally, in Paris in 2014. (Christopher Morris/VII/Redux)

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INTERNATIONAL • 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

French intelligence services investigate pro-Russian campaign ahead of EU elections

The DGSI is looking into a campaign led by a former far-right French MEP in the European elections in June, with links to several pro-Russian figures.

By Jacques Follorou

Published on March 2, 2024, at 3:00 am (Paris) · 6 min · [Lire en français](#)



 Subscribers only



In the Netherlands, there have been speculations on FvD leader Thierry Baudet being paid by the Kremlin. His party member and MEP, Marcel de Graaff is also being investigated for his Russian connections:



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In today's #vatniksoup I'll introduce another Dutch politician and MEP, Marcel de Graaff (@MJRLdeGraaff). He's best-known for his beliefs in conspiracy theories, for his strong pro-Russian stance, and for his pro-Kremlin voting patterns in the European Parliament (EP).

1/16



8:20 AM · Mar 28, 2023



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In Bulgaria, the Russian state paid politicians, famous journalists, analysts and political scientists 2000 EUR monthly for their pro-Kremlin takes on both traditional and social media.

12/14

Home / Short News / Politics / The Capitals / Bulgarian secret services: Russia pays public figures to spread propaganda

Bulgarian secret services: Russia pays public figures to spread propaganda

By Krassen Nikolov | Euractiv.bg Jul 4, 2022



The government lost a no-confidence vote but will stay in power until a new one is formed or, if that is impossible until the president dissolves parliament. [Shutterstock/Zhenya Voevodina]

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The Bulgarian secret services have data showing that Russia pays about €2000 (BGN 4,000) per month to public figures, journalists, and politicians to spread its propaganda in the country, a government spokesperson and head of the prime minister's office, Lena Borislavova told **Darik radio over the weekend.**

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And of course this is just the tip of the iceberg. Most of these covert operations will never be exposed, and there are probably hundreds of politicians and policymakers who receive cash and crypto payments from Russia, Iran and the CCP.

MILITARY & DEFENSE

Counterintelligence agents for the Western powers told us what China and Russia pay their double-agents

Mitch Prothero Mar 25, 2021, 10:57 AM GMT+2

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- **China bought a spy inside a NATO marine research facility for just 17,000 euros (\$20,000).**
- **We asked active intel officials to detail the finances required to run a double agent in the West.**
- **Spies are cheap, it turns out. Russia and China often pay less than the price of a luxury car for the services of traitors.**

Naturally, there are also politicians and propagandists who were funded more or less openly by RT, Sputnik and other Kremlin mouthpieces. Some of these include Nigel Farage and George "The Cat" Galloway.



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In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce a British politician and TV presenter, Nigel Farage ([@Nigel_Farage](#)). He's best-known for his prominent role in the Brexit campaign, and for his bootlicking of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin.

1/24



10:26 AM · May 10, 2023



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In today's #vatnik soup I'll be introducing a British reality TV star and a propagandist, George Galloway (@georgegalloway). He's best known for his appearance on Big Brother, affiliation with Russia state-media & his love for various authoritarian regimes around the globe.

1/15



9:08 AM · Jan 17, 2023



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The logo for "The Soup Central" features the words "SOUP CENTRAL" in large, white, serif font on an orange circular background. Below the circle, the text "YOU'VE BEEN SERVED" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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