



RIPE NCC
RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

RIPE NCC Services in Wartime

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RIPE NCC Executive Board Resolution on Provision of Critical Services



The RIPE NCC provides critical services to its membership spread across a diverse geographical and political region.

The Executive Board of the RIPE NCC believes that the means to communicate should not be affected by domestic political disputes, international conflicts or war. This includes the provision of correctly registered Internet numbering resources.

The Executive Board of the RIPE NCC is committed to taking all lawful steps available to ensure that the RIPE NCC can provide uninterrupted services to all members across our service region and the global Internet community.

The RIPE NCC will publicly document all its efforts to ensure that the registry is not negatively affected by laws, regulations or political developments.

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It is crucial that the RIPE NCC remains neutral and does not take positions with regard to domestic political disputes, international conflicts or war.

This guarantees equal treatment for all those responsible for providing Internet services. This is a fundamental reason why the RIPE NCC has been able to maintain its operations in the way it has for the past three decades. It also means that the information and data provided by the RIPE NCC can be trusted as authoritative and free from bias or political influence. Failure to adhere to this approach would jeopardise the very model that has been key to the development of the Internet in our service region.

The Executive Board also expresses solidarity with those operators who have the difficult task of maintaining Internet access to assist the people suffering from the terrible effects of armed conflicts and war.

<https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-executive-board-resolution-on-provision-of-critical-services>

Developments in 2022 (1)



- **24 February:** Russia begins invasion of Ukraine
- **25 February:** EU announces new sanctions against Russia (extra sanctions announced several times since then)
- **1 March:** ‘RIPE NCC Executive Board Resolution on Provision of Critical Services’
- **2 March:** RIPE NCC receives request from Ukrainian government to revoke the rights of all Russian members to use Internet number resources (similar request also sent to ICANN)
- **10 March:** RIPE NCC responds that it cannot comply with this request:
 - RIPE NCC does not have a mandate to take such unilateral actions
 - This would risk undermining the governance and technical stability of the Internet
 - Without the RIPE Registry as a trusted source of data, it will be much harder to identify the source of Internet traffic and understand what is happening on the Internet
 - <https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-response-to-request-from-ukrainian-government>

Developments in 2022 (2)



- **11 March:** RIPE NCC informs Ukrainian members that they do not risk losing their memberships if they are not able to pay their invoices or meet certain administrative requirements due to the war
- **14 March:** Russian members similarly informed that they do not risk closure if they are not able to pay invoices on time due to disruption affecting financial institutions
- **4 April:** Ukrainian Internet Association (UAI) requests waiver of fees for all Ukrainian members
- **6 April:** ‘An Open Internet Remains the Goal’ - RIPE NCC explains its position in more detail
 - ‘The RIPE NCC has spent the past 30 years working to support a stable Internet that is open to all. This is the bedrock of everything we do, and it is why we cannot take or support any measures that risk undermining the Internet’s technical foundations, however urgent or well-intentioned they may seem.’
https://labs.ripe.net/author/hans_petter_holen/an-open-internet-remains-the-goal/

Clearing up Some Misconceptions



- The RIPE NCC is not required to terminate the SSA of sanctioned members or deregister their resources
- Payment extension for Russian members due to external circumstances does not amount to sanctions evasion
- All members have the same payment obligations
 - Payment extensions currently given to members in Ukraine, Russia, Syria and Iran - they are expected to eventually pay the full amount
 - Sanctioned members are not invoiced but also expected to pay full amount

A Few Points to Consider



- **The RIPE NCC must treat all members equally**
- Payment extensions and any further support for Ukrainian members therefore create an evolving precedent
 - The RIPE NCC will need to investigate how it can offer the same kind of support in similar situations (while ensuring its financial stability)
- We believe it is important not to close members who are unable to pay due to factors outside of their control
 - To support members and avoid impacts on wider Internet stability



Questions



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