1. **Regulatory update – Russia**

We have been alerted about a draft law regulating the status of a foreign agent, submitted to the Russian Duma on 25 April.

Summary of the draft:

* The draft law formulates such notions as "foreign agent" and "foreign influence".
* As a foreign agent the authors propose to consider a person "who has received support and (or) is under foreign influence in other forms" and carries out activities, the types of which are described in the draft law: political; purposeful collection of information in the field of military and military and technical activities of Russia; distribution of messages and materials intended for an unlimited range of persons, as well as participation in the creation of such messages and materials.
* Foreign influence implies providing a person with support from a foreign source (e.g., a foreign state, its authorities, international organizations), influencing that person, "including through coercion, persuasion," as well as by other means.
* Foreign support refers to the receipt of foreign funding, organizational, methodological, scientific and technical assistance, assistance in other forms.
* It will be possible to be classified as a foreign agent without having foreign funding or these or other types of assistance, but, for example, as a result of the "impact" of a foreign source. The provision that allows recognizing someone as a foreign agent without receiving funding or assistance already exists in the law "On measures to influence persons involved in violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms..." and applies only to individuals, regardless of their citizenship (it does not apply to individuals who are recognized as foreign media agents now).
* Now it is proposed to extend this norm to all categories of foreign agents.
* The bill proposes the creation of a unified register of foreign agents instead of several existing ones.
* When a person is added to the registry, the Ministry of Justice will now be required to state on what basis that person was recognized as a foreign agent "with an indication of the specific norms" of the law.
* The bill also introduces a unified procedure for exclusion from the register. In particular, a foreign agent can be excluded from the register following an unscheduled inspection by the Ministry of Justice, if it is found that during the year preceding the date of application for exclusion, the foreign agent did not receive foreign funding or assistance and was not engaged in political or other activities described in the bill.

Related document (in Russian): <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/113045-8#bh_note> / [Read more](https://www.rbc.ru/newspaper/2022/04/25/6262eed69a79472666361d78)