

**Ukraine's position on the new announcement of August 25, 2021,  
No. 161/2021 on the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalists  
entitled: «Ukrainian News Website Strana.ua Banned»**

We inform you that on August 20, 2021 the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky by his Decree № 376/2021 of August 21, 2021 put into effect the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine of August 20, 2021 «On application of personal special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions)».

This decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine is aimed at applying sanctions to the citizen of Ukraine Igor Anatolyevich Guzhva (who held the position of editor-in-chief of Strana.ua), as well as to legal entities that are part of the ownership structure of this publication. Restrictive measures include, in particular, blocking Internet service providers' access to Strana.ua's web resources, including their subdomains.

This decision was made on the basis of the Law of Ukraine "On Sanctions". In particular, the Law of Ukraine «On sanctions» foresees that special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions) may be applied with the aim of protecting national interests, national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to combat terrorism as well as to restore violated rights, freedoms and lawful interests of the Ukrainian citizens, society and the State. The reason for such actions lies, in particular, in these channels' dissemination of the content that threatens national interests, national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.