

Ukraine's position on the alert No. 21/2021 on the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalists entitled: «TV Channels 112 Ukraine, NewsOne and ZIK TV Suspended by Presidential Decree» of February 5, 2021

We inform, that on February 4, 2021, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy enacted the Decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of February 2, 2021 «On application of personal special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions)» by the relevant Decree No. 43/2021 February 2, 2021.

Mentioned Decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine imposed sanctions against the People's Deputy of Ukraine Taras Kozak, as well as against legal entities that belong to him and are included in the ownership structure of the TV channels «112 Ukraine», NewsOne and Zik.

This decision was made on the basis of the Law of Ukraine «On sanctions», the Law of Ukraine «On combating terrorism» and the Law of Ukraine «On prevention and combating the legalization (laundering) of proceeds of crime, financing of terrorism and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction». In particular, the Law of Ukraine «On sanctions» foresees that special economic and other restrictive measures (hereinafter –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.

It is necessary to note that on April 24, YouTube blocked the broadcasting of 112 Ukraine, NewsOne and ZIK on the territory of Ukraine.

Currently the Supreme Court is considering several cases on the appeal of abovementioned Decree of the President of Ukraine. In one of them the Supreme Court has already denied claims in full; other cases shall be considered in May-June 2021.