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Statement by the Renew Europe members on the "foreign agents" law in the Russian Federation

Earlier this month Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an amended law on "foreign agents". The amendments put an additional pressure on country's civil actors, particularly on journalists, bloggers, or any user of social media. Under the new law, Russian journalists can be labelled as foreign agents simply for cooperating with international media sources that are already designated as foreign agents or for receiving funding from foreign sources.

The European Parliament has always stood for the freedom of thought and freedom of expression. Every year since 1988, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is being awarded for those who tirelessly fight for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is symbolic that the most prominent European human rights award is named after a Russian dissident who devoted his life to championing human rights. It is sad that several decades after, Russian authorities continue violating universal human rights inside and outside of Russia.

As this week the Human Rights Day is being celebrated worldwide, we, members of the European Parliament, express our support for Russian citizens working to enlighten and inform their fellow countrymen and women by providing quality news and reporting. Most importantly, we call upon Russian authorities to revoke the law on the "foreign agents".

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