

1 Title: To counter the influence of the Russian Federation in Europe and Eurasia, and for other
2 purposes.
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5 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
6 Congress assembled,

7 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

8 This Act may be cited as the “Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of
9 2017”.

10 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

11 Congress makes the following findings:

12 (1) The Government of the Russian Federation has sought to exert influence throughout
13 Europe and Eurasia, including in the former states of the Soviet Union, by providing
14 resources to political parties, think tanks, and civil society groups that sow distrust in
15 democratic institutions and actors, promote xenophobic and illiberal views, and otherwise
16 undermine European unity. The Government of the Russian Federation has also engaged in
17 well-documented corruption practices as a means toward undermining and buying influence
18 in European and Eurasian countries.

19 (2) The Government of the Russian Federation has largely eliminated a once-vibrant
20 Russian-language independent media sector and severely curtails free and independent
21 media within the borders of the Russian Federation. Russian-language media organizations
22 that are funded and controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation and
23 disseminate information within and outside of the Russian Federation routinely traffic in
24 anti-Western disinformation, while few independent, fact-based media sources provide
25 objective reporting for Russian-speaking audiences inside or outside of the Russian
26 Federation.

27 (3) The Government of the Russian Federation continues to violate its commitments
28 under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine’s Accession to
29 the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Budapest December 5,
30 1994, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Final Act, concluded at
31 Helsinki August 1, 1975 (commonly referred to as the “Helsinki Final Act”), which laid the
32 groundwork for the establishment of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in
33 Europe, of which the Russian Federation is a member, by its illegal annexation of Crimea in
34 2014, its illegal occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia in 2008, and its
35 ongoing destabilizing activities in eastern Ukraine.

36 (4) The Government of the Russian Federation continues to ignore the terms of the
37 August 2008 ceasefire agreement relating to Georgia, which requires the withdrawal of
38 Russian Federation troops, free access by humanitarian groups to the regions of South
39 Ossetia and Abkhazia, and monitoring of the conflict areas by the European Union
40 Monitoring Mission.

41 (5) The Government of the Russian Federation is failing to comply with the terms of the

1 Minsk Agreement to address the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, signed in Minsk,
2 Belarus, on February 11, 2015, by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France, and Germany, as
3 well as the Minsk Protocol, which was agreed to on September 5, 2014.

4 (6) The Government of the Russian Federation is—

5 (A) in violation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union
6 of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and
7 Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into
8 force June 1, 1988 (commonly known as the “INF Treaty”); and

9 (B) failing to meet its obligations under the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki
10 March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002 (commonly known as the
11 “Open Skies Treaty”).

12 SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the Government of the Russia Federation bears responsibility for the continuing
15 violence in Eastern Ukraine, including the death on April 24, 2017, of Joseph Stone, a
16 citizen of the United States working as a monitor for the Organization for Security and Co-
17 operation in Europe;

18 (2) the President should call on the Government of the Russian Federation—

19 (A) to withdraw all of its forces from the territories of Georgia, Ukraine, and
20 Moldova;

21 (B) to return control of the borders of those territories to their respective
22 governments; and

23 (C) to cease all efforts to undermine the popularly elected governments of those
24 countries;

25 (3) the Government of the Russian Federation has applied, and continues to apply, to the
26 countries and peoples of Georgia and Ukraine, traditional uses of force, intelligence
27 operations, and influence campaigns, which represent clear and present threats to the
28 countries of Europe and Eurasia;

29 (4) in response, the countries of Europe and Eurasia should redouble efforts to build
30 resilience within their institutions, political systems, and civil societies;

31 (5) the United States supports the institutions that the Government of the Russian
32 Federation seeks to undermine, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the
33 European Union;

34 (6) a strong North Atlantic Treaty Organization is critical to maintaining peace and
35 security in Europe and Eurasia;

36 (7) the United States should continue to work with the European Union as a partner
37 against aggression by the Government of the Russian Federation, coordinating aid
38 programs, development assistance, and other counter-Russian efforts;

39 (8) the United States should encourage the establishment of a commission for media

1 freedom within the Council of Europe, modeled on the Venice Commission regarding rule
2 of law issues, that would be chartered to provide governments with expert recommendations
3 on maintaining legal and regulatory regimes supportive of free and independent media and
4 an informed citizenry able to distinguish between fact-based reporting, opinion, and
5 disinformation; and,

6 (9) in addition to working to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the
7 European Union, the United States should work with the individual countries of Europe and
8 Eurasia—

9 (A) to identify vulnerabilities to aggression, disinformation, corruption, and so-
10 called hybrid warfare by the Government of the Russian Federation;

11 (B) to establish strategic and technical plans for addressing those vulnerabilities;

12 (C) to ensure that the financial systems of those countries are not being used to
13 shield illicit financial activity by officials of the Government of the Russian Federation
14 or individuals in President Vladimir Putin’s inner circle who have been enriched
15 through corruption;

16 (D) to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption by Russian actors; and

17 (E) to work toward full compliance with the Convention on Combating Bribery of
18 Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (commonly referred to
19 as the “Anti-Bribery Convention”) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and
20 Development; and

21 (10) the President of the United States should use the authority of the President to impose
22 sanctions under—

23 (A) the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public
24 Law 112–208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note); and

25 (B) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII
26 of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

27 SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

28 The United States, consistent with the principle of *ex injuria jus non oritur*, supports the policy
29 known as the “Stimson Doctrine” and thus does not recognize territorial changes effected by
30 force, including the illegal invasions and occupations of Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Crimea,
31 Eastern Ukraine, and Transdnistria.

32 SEC. 5. COORDINATING AID AND ASSISTANCE ACROSS 33 EUROPE AND EURASIA.

34 (a) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the
35 Countering Russian Influence Fund \$250,000,000 for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

36 (b) Management of the Fund.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
37 Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency
38 for International Development and, as appropriate, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
39 Director of National Intelligence, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a working group

1 to administer the Countering Russian Influence Fund in order to facilitate the achievement of the
2 goals described in subsection (c) while minimizing the expense to United States taxpayers.

3 (c) Goals.—Amounts in the Countering Russian Influence Fund:

4 (1) Shall be used for the following:

5 (A) To assist in protecting critical infrastructure and electoral mechanisms from
6 cyberattacks in the following countries:

7 (i) Countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the
8 European Union that the Secretary of State determines—

9 (1) are vulnerable to influence by the Russian Federation; and

10 (2) lack the economic capability to effectively respond to aggression by
11 the Russian Federation without the support of the United States.

12 (ii) Countries that are participating in the enlargement process of the North
13 Atlantic Treaty Organization or the European Union, including Albania, Bosnia
14 and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Kosovo, Serbia, and Ukraine.

15 (B) To combat corruption, improve the rule of law, and otherwise strengthen
16 independent judiciaries and prosecutors general offices in the countries described in
17 paragraph (1).

18 (2) May be used to seek to achieve the following, to the extent practicable and as
19 appropriate:

20 (A) Responding to the humanitarian crises and instability caused or aggravated by
21 the invasions and occupations of Georgia and Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

22 (B) Improving participatory legislative processes and legal education, political
23 transparency and competition, and compliance with international obligations in the
24 countries described in paragraph (1).

25 (C) Building the capacity of civil society, media, and other nongovernmental
26 organizations countering the influence and propaganda of the Russian Federation in the
27 countries described in paragraph (1).

28 (d) Implementation.—

29 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State acting through the Coordinator of United States
30 Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (authorized pursuant to section 601 of the Support for
31 East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5461) and section 102 of the
32 Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of
33 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5812)) shall coordinate efforts to implement the goals described in
34 subsection (c) and establish metrics relating to efforts to achieve those goals.

35 (2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

36 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1 of each year, the Secretary of State acting
37 through the Coordinator of United States Assistance to Europe and Eurasia shall
38 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the programs and
39 activities carried out to achieve the goals described in subsection (c) during the
40 preceding fiscal year.

1 (B) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include, with
2 respect to each program or activity described in that subparagraph—

3 (i) the amount of funding for the program or activity;

4 (ii) the goal described in subsection (c) to which the program or activity relates;
5 and

6 (iii) an assessment of whether or not the goal was met.

7 (e) Coordination With Global Partners.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize cost efficiency, eliminate duplication, and speed
9 the achievement of the goals described in subsection (c), the working group established
10 under subsection (b) shall ensure coordination with—

11 (A) the European Union and its institutions;

12 (B) the governments of countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty
13 Organization or the European Union; and

14 (C) international organizations and quasi-governmental funding entities that carry
15 out programs and activities that seek to accomplish the goals described in subsection
16 (c).

17 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY OF STATE.—Not later than April 1 of each year, the Secretary
18 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

19 (A) the amount of funding provided to each country referred to in subsection (c)
20 by—

21 (i) the European Union or its institutions;

22 (ii) the government of each country that is a member of the European Union or
23 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

24 (iii) international organizations and quasi-governmental funding entities that
25 carry out programs and activities that seek to accomplish the goals described in
26 subsection (c); and

27 (B) an assessment of whether the funding described in subparagraph (A) is
28 commensurate with funding provided by the United States for those goals.

29 (f) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to or limit
30 United States foreign assistance not provided using amounts available in the Countering Russian
31 Influence Fund.

32 (g) Appropriate Congressional Committees Defined.—In this section, the term “appropriate
33 congressional committees” means—

34 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
35 Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and
36 Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on
37 Intelligence of the Senate; and

38 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the
39 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on

1 Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS**
4 **CONTROLLED AND FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF**
5 **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.**

6 (a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
7 annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a
8 report that includes a description of media organizations that are controlled and funded by the
9 Government of the Russian Federation, and any affiliated entities, whether operating within or
10 outside the Russian Federation, including broadcast and satellite-based television, radio, Internet,
11 and print media organizations.

12 (b) Form of Report.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified
13 form but may include a classified annex.

14 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

15 The provisions of this Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act.
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