

NEW RUSSIAN DRAFT LAW

- Background

? **The main formal purpose: to contribute to the prevention of terrorist activities and their financing; to prevent illegal financing of political activities**

? **The real purpose: to get NGOs, their financing and activities under control**

Two purposes only partly coincide

STAGES

- ? **Russian State Duma came with a draft for the new federal law regarding non-profit non-government organizations and associations**
- ? **After the first reading of the draft law – NGO's representatives, Russian ombudsman Mr. Lukin, human right activists and Russian Public Chamber criticized a lot the first version of the draft law. The critic was addressed directly to RF president Mr. Putin**

DEVELOPMENT

As a result –

about 60 amendments were brought to the draft law before 2nd and 3rd hearings

? 27 December the final version of the draft law became approved by Council of Federations

? 16 th of January the Law was signed by RF president

• After 90 days the law will enter into power

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Positive outcome of the amendments

- The most dangerous formulations regarding the ban for foreign institutions and organizations to establish their representative offices and branch offices disappeared from the final version of the draft law
- The article regarding the compulsory registration and accounts disappeared as well
- Public opinion was partly considered
- Voice from NGOs was partly heard
- Russian Government hold consultations with Council of Europe

Main disadvantages of the new Law

(according to the expertise made by Center for Development of Democracy and Human rights)

? Unclear and dim formulations

That can allow civil servants on different levels to make the arbitrary interpretations

? Additional bureaucracy of registration and re-registration procedure

That can complicate the existence of smaller NGOs with limited administrative recourses and reduce the possibilities for new comers

- Contradiction with International Law and even RF Constitution