

Beat: Miscellaneous

## **VLADIMIR PUTIN IS BANNING RUSSIAN CIVIL SERVANTS FROM USING FOREIGN AIRLINES**

### **ONLY MEMBERS OF EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION**

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**USPA NEWS** - Russian officials of all levels must now use only airlines from members of the Eurasian Economic Union for business trips. Exceptions are allowed if EEU airlines do not fly to their desired destination....

Russian officials of all levels must now use only airlines from members of the Eurasian Economic Union for business trips. Exceptions are allowed if EEU airlines do not fly to their desired destination. The new rules are described in amendments to a presidential decree. The amendments also order all federal and municipal state bodies to make sure their internal rules match the new law. (RT)

According to Business Daily Vedomosti 'If civil servants use air transport to get to the place of their official trips and back, tickets can only be purchased for the flights on Russian airlines or airlines from other members of the Eurasian Economic Union, except for occasions when the abovementioned airlines do not fly to the destination point of the business trip or when no tickets can be purchased for the appropriate dates.'

In Late 2014, after the sharp devaluation of the Russian ruble caused by a plunge in oil prices President Vladimir Putin ordered a one-year freeze on civil servants' pay in various state offices, including the presidential administration. However, the same document that ordered the freeze also allowed the indexation of salaries for people who work in the budget sector and reserved budget money for this purpose. (RT)

President Vladimir Putin ordered federal and regional authorities to devise a list of senior government positions with "access to information of special importance" whose holders will be banned from having foreign bank accounts in a decree signed Sunday and published on the government's website the following day. (The Moscow Times in march 2015)

While the Kremlin has presented the measure as a way to thwart corruption, independent analysts have speculated that it represents a call for increased loyalty toward the state amid growing anti-Western sentiment. (The Moscow Times)

Yevgeniy Fyodorov ' of the United Russia Parliamentary Caucus ) said in March 2014, in an interview with Izvestia Daily. 'The new amendment has been drafted in order to rule out the possibilities of them being directly mentioned in foreign laws. The well-known Magnitsky Act puts it straight ""Russian civil servants who do not satisfy the United States face sanctions in the form of property arrest. After this the US started talks and if these talks are successful the arrest is lifted. They are using real blackmail to promote their own interests inside our country.'

Ruby BIRD

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