

Blocking Putin's main message

VP Věra Jourová of the EU Commission told [Czech Radio on Wed.](#) that there are a few certainties in these uncertain times and that one of them is that Russia will definitely try to influence the EU elections in June. The revelations by the [BIS counterintelligence agency](#) just before Easter about Prague-based Voice of Europe, she said, might lead intelligence services in other countries to pay more attention to the way Russia influences the political debate. And the EU Parliament, she added, should act before the elections to condemn MEPs who are somehow aiding Russia.

The BIS operation coincided nicely with the [resolution](#) by the lower house of the Czech Parliament on March 19, which we wrote about on March 22. It was used by the ruling coalition to call on political and non-political actors not to support the wartime propaganda of the Russian terrorist regime or of those who promote it. People of influence are supposed to avoid statements or activities that further Russian propaganda that is aimed at disrupting the security and defense-preparedness of the country.

That can be seen as a reasonable request at a time of war. For the first time in history, the technological means exist for a foreign power to have a significant impact on the discussion about a war in Europe. War propaganda in the past was always the prerogative of the individual governments at war, but the internet now disrupts this monopoly and decreases the impact of the official message.

Yet by stigmatizing anything that comes out of Russia as being war propaganda or disinformation, countries in the West that support Ukraine are missing the bigger message that Vladimir Putin is sending. The result is that the rest of the world - the Global South - becomes more receptive to the message, which serves to accelerate the global processes that Putin is promoting, without those in the West fully realizing what is happening.

Putin reiterated his main message in an [interview on Russian state TV on March 13](#) with journalist Dmitry Kiselev: It is that the "golden billion" - the countries of the West - are running out of time. The golden billion, he said, has basically been parasiting on other nations for centuries - for 500 years. "They've been tearing apart

the poor peoples of Africa, they've been exploiting Latin America, they've been exploiting the countries of Asia, and of course no one there has forgotten it." He said these countries associate Russia's struggle for independence and true sover-

[U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992](#) divides the world very officially into developed countries - the [Annex I parties](#) - and those that are not developed. Annex I countries are responsible for the largest share of global

greenhouse emissions, according to the document, and they should therefore take the lead in dealing with climate change.

In almost all cases, as it turns out, the Annex I parties are also members or partners of the [Ukraine Defense Contact Group](#) (also known as the Ramstein group), which was created to help support Ukraine militarily. If the group isn't able to supply enough weapons to Ukraine, it's largely because its member countries have adopted environmental and social policies that were set in motion three decades ago by the UNFCCC climate-change convention.

This helps to explain [Foreign Min. Jan Lipavský's recent frustration](#): "I think the Western community lacks to some extent a common strategy for defining what the right level of support

for Ukraine is and what our objectives are. It's not entirely easy to have this debate, because there are major world players in both Nato and the EU who don't want the debate to be widely held. As a result, the Western community doesn't know exactly what is supposed to be achieved. That's why we're wavering in our support in both real terms and, perhaps, morally."

By not winning the war, the Annex I countries are helping to bring about the global changes called for under the UNFCCC. Sanctions, for example, don't hurt Russia for the most part, but they do indeed lead to deindustrialization and to lower consumption in developed countries. Almost every anti-Russian measure, including the current idea of seizing frozen Russian funds or the proceeds from them, ultimately has this same effect.

That's why it's so important to crack down on Russian disinformation and propaganda of the kind uncovered before Easter by BIS. If people start listening to Putin's comments about the end of the vampire ball, they might get so scared for their own livelihood, and for that of their children, that they begin demanding an end to the war in Ukraine. And that could disrupt the U.N.'s wealth-redistribution measures, which are unfolding so well.



eignty (the reason for the war in Ukraine, as he sees it) with their own aspirations for sovereignty and independent development. But this effort is aggravated, he said, by the fact that the desire to freeze the existing unjust state in international affairs is very strong among the Western elite. They've spent centuries filling their bellies with human flesh and their pockets with money, he said, but they must accept that the vampire ball is ending.

Putin speaks regularly of the golden billion. We tracked his first mention of it to [Nov. 15, 2000](#), less than a year after he took office. At a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group (APEC), he said that the consequences of globalization are undoubtedly a key concern of governments and international organizations and that the world is conventionally divided into the North and the South, according to the level of development. It is divided into the golden billion and the rest of humanity, he said.

The golden billion is sometimes seen as a [conspiracy theory](#), which makes it all the harder for us to hear what Putin is saying about it, but if you look closely at the premise behind the Green Deal, you will see that it is basically the same as the theory of the golden billion. The