

Preliminary Timeline of Sanctions and Impact on the Internet

1998 - Present Day

- 1999**
US-Serbia
One of the first reported cases of compliance uncertainty with [sanctions](#) that were imposed to former Yugoslavia, Serbia: An American satellite Internet feed provider reportedly was unclear how it could comply with the US government sanctions and still provide Internet satellite feed to Yugoslavia. The fears stemmed from Executive Order 13,121, which went into effect on [May 1](#).
- US-Serbia**
After the Kosovo attack, the Executive Order prohibited a range of trade and a broad supply of goods or services and any related transaction with Serbia and Montenegro. This event raised some of the earliest (but short-lived) political and compliance uncertainty about sanctions and Internet connectivity. In this period, the US issued various [general licenses](#) that exempted certain technologies and software from sanctions in Serbia. For a clearer picture and more details see [Jelena Cosic's research](#) on this topic.
- UN Sanctions**
UN sanctions [Afghanistan](#), EU issued a [Council Regulation](#) prohibiting the export of certain goods and services to Afghanistan.
- 2001**
US, 9/11
9/11 terrorist attack. The US began to use sanctions more aggressively. Sanctions also became more targeted (early smart sanctions), but there was no Internet specific sanction relief yet. The Internet had been commercialized but had not achieved its later ubiquity. The US tightened [its sanctions on Afghanistan](#).
- 2009**
Iran
One of the potential events that led to the provision of sanctions relief in the subsequent years was the Iranian uprising that used the Internet to effectively communicate to the world what was going on in Iran.
- 2010**
US-Iran & US-Cuba
US sanction relief for personal communication and the Internet [for Iran, Cuba](#), and Sudan (through amending the sanction regulations) - Iran has been [sanctioned](#) since 1979, Sudan sanctions had been in [place since 1997](#), and [Sanctions on Cuba](#) started in the 60s.
- 2011**
US-Cuba & Europe-Syria
Reports that Cuba could not develop its Internet partly [due to US embargo](#), Europe [sanctioned Syria](#).
- 2012**
EU Sanctions
EU Sanctions (in place since 2007 after [the imposition of UN Sanctions](#)) affected Internet governance organizations, and they had to re-ensure that they were in compliance with sanctions while [serving](#) certain countries.
- 2013**
Sudan
Sudan's [civil society reported](#) frustration with how the US sanctions affected their access to digital technology and to the Internet.
- 2014**
US & EU
[EU and US sanctions](#) on Russia because of invading Crimea. Access to domain names in Crimea was hampered. Reportedly, [the US general licenses](#) did not apply to domain name registration services.
- 2015-2019**
US-Iran & US-Cuba
[Ease of US embargo](#) on Cuba and specific attention to facilitate access to the Internet. To a certain extent, the sanctions relief worked, but there were still reports of restrictions on access to [Internet services due to sanctions](#).
- 2019**
US-Iran
US issued [Iran General License D-1](#), with Respect to Certain Services, Software, and Hardware Incident to Personal Communications.
- 2020**
Netherlands
The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that they recognized IP resources to be economic resources, as defined in the EU sanctions regulations, and therefore [RIPE NCC must freeze the resource](#) if it is provided to a sanctioned entity
- 2019**
RIPE NCC
RIPE NCC became aware that two of its member entities based in Iran and one member in Syria might [be on the sanction list](#). They informed the members and created additional sanction screening processes.

Preliminary Timeline of Sanctions and Impact on the Internet (cont.)

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2021

US-Afghanistan

US withdrawal from Afghanistan and Taliban takeover. Afghanistan IP addresses are still registered, but it is not clear what will happen in the future. It might be difficult to verify who is in control of these addresses.

2022 (Present)

US, EU

US and EU impose sanctions against Russia because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The UK joins the US and EU in imposing separate sanctions.

UK

The UK issued [a license](#) and authorized limited transactions to facilitate Civilian Telecommunication Services, which are either an "electronic communication network" or "electronic communications service" as defined by Section 32 of the Communications Act 2003 that is used for civilian purposes.

EU

European Union usually calls sanctions "[European Restrictive Measures](#)". They also imposed sanctions on Russia, and then a so-called "[Internet carveout](#)" was issued.

US-Iran

The most recent US sanction relief for Iran ([Iran GL D-2](#)) is to provide Internet services for the people of Iran as they are partaking in an uprising. It has imposed sanctions on the Minister of Communication along with others due to Internet censorship.