MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia on Thursday lifted a ban on the Telegram messaging app that had failed to stop the widely-used programme operating despite being in force for more than two years.

Some Russian media cast the move as a capitulation, but communications watchdog Roskomnadzor said it had acted because the app’s Russian founder, Pavel Durov, was prepared to cooperate in combating terrorism and extremism on the platform.

“Roskomnadzor is dropping its demands to restrict access to Telegram messenger in agreement with Russia’s general prosecutor’s office,” it said in a statement.

Durov has been at odds with Russia’s authorities over user privacy issues, with Roskomnadzor demanding that Telegram hand over certain information for it to be included on a government list of information distributors.

Roskomnadzor moved to ban the app in April 2018, but despite blocking IP addresses, it was unable to carry out its threat, with Telegram continuing to thrive in Russia, where it is a leading service for news channels.

Despite the ban on using the app, government departments such as the Russian Foreign Ministry and national coronavirus task-force have official channels on Telegram.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-telegram-ban-idUSKBN23P2FT>

The [Yarovaya law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarovaya_law" \o "Yarovaya law), which requires [telecom operators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_company) to keep all voice and messaging traffic of their customers for half a year, and their [internet traffic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_traffic) for 30 days, went into effect in the Russian Federation on July 1, 2018.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blocking_Telegram_in_Russia#cite_note-2)

The position of Moscow's Meschansky district court is that, in accordance with the [Yarovaya law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarovaya_law" \o "Yarovaya law), Telegram is required to store encryption keys from all user correspondence and provide them to Russia's [Federal Security Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Security_Service), the FSB, upon request.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blocking_Telegram_in_Russia#cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blocking_Telegram_in_Russia#cite_note-4) Telegram management insists that this requirement is technically impracticable, since keys of opt-in secret chats are stored on users' devices and are not in Telegram's possession.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blocking_Telegram_in_Russia#cite_note-5) [Pavel Durov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavel_Durov), Telegram's co-founder, said that the FSB's demands violated the constitutional rights of Russian citizens to the privacy of correspondence.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blocking_Telegram_in_Russia#cite_note-6)

1 июля 2018 года был принят [Yarovaya law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarovaya_law" \o "Yarovaya law)б который гласит,что государство имеет право записывать и хранить весь трафик – голосовой и месенджер в течении 6 месяцев в целях борьбы с терроризмом и экстремизмом. Исходя из этого закона следует,что Телеграмм должен отдать ключ от кодировки мессенджера государству.