



Russian court convicts owner of on-line piracy cinema for copyright infringement

📅 24/12/2019 📖 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, RUSSIA

Alisa Pestryakova

Piracy on-line movie streaming services (cinemas) in Russia not infrequently release video content obtained from unauthorized piracy content distribution networks (piracy CDN). Such underground cinemas gain profit from advertising, mostly by illegal gambling operators.

Group-IB, a company engaged in the detection and prevention of online fraud, including infringement of copyright, uncovered in 2018 a wide network of pirate cinemas in Russia, each containing more than 10 thousand titles, including recent releases of popular movies and series. Group-IB initiated criminal proceeding against the owner of the service, who had not stopped piracy streaming after receiving cease-and-desist letters from Group-IB. Besides, when the websites releasing pirated

content were blocked, mirror sites were created instead.

Group-IB told the press that it was not easy to track the real person behind the pirate streaming sites. First, they traced digital footprints of the owner of service and only then were able to identify the person. The latter was arrested in the spring of 2019. In December 2019 a court convicted the offender and passed a sentence of 2 year suspended imprisonment, with a 3 year probation period instead of actual imprisonment, on grounds of cooperation.

This is the first case in Russia of indictment and sentencing of the owner of piracy content services.

Statistics released by Group-IB shows decrease of internet-piracy in Russia, due to the disappearance of the three main piracy CDNs, which provided 90%



of content, as well as the improvement of Russian legislation and the effects of the Counter-piracy Memorandum of Russian media and Internet companies signed in November 2018 (see article published on Lexology on October 10, 2019 “Counter-piracy Memorandum of Russian media and Internet companies is extended awaiting amendments to Law On Information, information technologies and

information protection”


<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f7f8e083-479e-44da-80b8-9868a86fc8fb>). It is expected that the prospect of criminal liability will further decrease the appeal of piracy as a business.



Alisa Pestryakova

ASSOCIATE

 a.pestryakova@dejalex.com

 +7 495 792 54 92

 Ulitsa Bolshaya Ordynka 37/4
119017 – Moscow

MILANO

Via San Paolo, 7 · 20121 Milano, Italia
T. +39 02 72554.1 · F. +39 02 72554.400
milan@dejalex.com

ROMA

Via Vincenzo Bellini, 24 · 00198 Roma, Italia
T. +39 06 809154.1 · F. +39 06 809154.44
rome@dejalex.com

BRUXELLES

Chaussée de La Hulpe 187 · 1170 Bruxelles, Belgique
T. +32 (0)26455670 · F. +32 (0)27420138
brussels@dejalex.com

MOSCOW

Ulitsa Bolshaya Ordynka 37/4 · 119017, Moscow, Russia
T. +7 495 792 54 92 · F. +7 495 792 54 93
moscow@dejalex.com

