

**DATE**

6 April 2023

**BY EMAIL**

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**Ms Maria Zakharova**

Director, Information and Press  
Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Russian Federation  
Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

**Mr Maxim Burlyay**

Deputy Director, Information and Press  
Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Russian Federation

**SUBJECT**

International News Interview with  
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

Dear Ms Zakharova and Mr Burlyay,

I am writing on behalf of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and all our public broadcaster members.

The eyes of the world are on the Russian Federation, its government and its people. Over the past year and especially in recent weeks, news about Russia and its geopolitical role has surpassed all records for media interest.

For these reasons, I would like to request an **unprecedented international interview** with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov which would be made available in video and digital formats to all EBU Members and sublicensees. That's **more than 80 public broadcasters** across more than 30 countries in Europe, the US and Asia.

I propose that **three international correspondents**, each from an EBU Member with a bureau in Moscow, conduct a face-to-face interview with Minister Lavrov during the St Petersburg Forum in June 2023.

In light of the current news agenda it is critical to the public's understanding of Russia's position in the current international context, that we continue to hear the voices of key figures such as Foreign Minister Lavrov. The interview would focus on Moscow's view of the conflict in Ukraine, the effect of sanctions, the role of the EU and NATO, initiatives towards peace talks including the plan proposed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping, and Russia's efforts to forge alliances in a "multi-polar world".