

OFFICIAL

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Title: Russia: Intervision song festival claims artist pressured by Australia to withdraw

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 22/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: Europe Posts , UN New York

From: Moscow

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministers: Foreign Minister

Attachments: Intervision statement.docx

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary: As reported widely in Russian media, the Russian government backed Intervision song festival claimed "unprecedented political pressure" from the Australian government led to performer VASSY's withdrawal from the final show of the competition. VASSY, who organisers noted was a dual US and Australian citizen, was to represent the United States. The statement from Intervision claimed the Australian government sent an official note to her on 20 September. Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, said Russia was not "chasing any political effect" from the festival. Copy of the statement is attached.

Sent By: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

Approved By:

Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – This section and pages (10-13) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

Organizers of the International Music Contest “Intervision”

20 September 2025

For reasons beyond the control of the organizers and the US delegation, caused by unprecedented political pressure from the Government of Australia, singer VASSY (a citizen of the United States and Australia) will not be able to perform in the final show of the contest.

Today, September 20, the Government of Australia issued an official note addressed to the artist.

The organizers express their regret over the inability of the artist to perform, while emphasizing that the United States remains a full-fledged participant of **Intervision** and will be represented in the international jury by the legendary vocalist of Deep Purple.

The contest firmly adheres to the principles of openness, cultural exchange, and respect for each participant, remains outside politics, and is dedicated solely to the development of arts and international cooperation.

Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the contest, Sergey Lavrov, noted:

“We are not striving for any political effect. We want the original purpose of a person and his or her identity to be respected and realized in free interaction with others, enriching one another through the exchange of spiritual values.”

The organizer is ready to provide delegations with all necessary legal and organizational support in cases of pressure or restrictions preventing their participation.