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Aeroflot and Transaero Banned From Flying Over Ukraine Without Clearance

By The Moscow Times

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Russia in early August banned Ukrainian airlines from passing through Russian airspace on routes to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey.

Ukraine demanded that Russian airlines Aeroflot and Transaero obtain permission for every flight they make over its territory, because these airlines fly over Crimean airspace which Ukraine considers to be closed.

Ukraine's State Aviation Administration, or SAA, said that requiring the two Russian airlines, which use Crimean airspace, to obtain flight transit permits would improve aviation safety.

"These measures will help ensure an adequate level of air safety by streamlining the transit procedure over Ukraine by the airlines, which disregard aviation rules in the closed airspace over (Crimea)," it said in a statement.

The airlines cross Ukrainian territory when flying to Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Egypt

and Greece.

Ukraine's SAA did not say whether flights by Aeroflot and Transaero to Ukrainian cities would be affected.

Last week, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk said sanctions against Russia, which were backed by parliament on Thursday, could allow Ukraine to impose a "partial or full ban on the transit" of resources from Russia and on air flights and road traffic via Ukrainian territory.

On the Russian side, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said last week that Moscow had decided to ban transit flights for Ukrainian airlines and that it was considering banning European and U.S. airlines as well in retaliation for sanctions.

See also:

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