

‘Putin’s Chef’ Admits Links to Pro-Kremlin Media for the First Time

A new group of four news outlets called Patriot identified Prigozhin as chairman of its board of trustees.

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Yevgeny Prigozhin **Mikhail Metzel / TASS**

Businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin has for the first time said he is linked to pro-Kremlin media after years of denying the association, Russia’s RBC news website [reported](#).

A newly formed group of four pro-Kremlin outlets called Patriot mentioned Prigozhin by name, identifying him as chairman of its board of trustees.

“This is undoubtedly a big honor for me, so I agreed,” RBC quoted Prigozhin as saying about the offer from Patriot, through his company Concord, after the news broke Friday.

The United States has charged Prigozhin — nicknamed President Vladimir Putin’s “chef,” because his ties to the Kremlin go back to catering dinner receptions in the early 2000s — for

allegedly interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Russian media have [reported](#) that Prigozhin funded the private military contractor Wagner and owned the Internet Research Agency, also known as the "Kremlin's troll factory."

Related article: [Alleged Troll Factory Mastermind Prigozhin, 12 Other Russians Charged With U.S. Election Meddling](#)

Concord's press service said that Prigozhin had no role in creating any of the four outlets that comprise Patriot. The U.S. Treasury [blacklisted](#) two of the media group's outlets in December over allegations of election meddling and "a wide range of other malign activities."

Patriot's website says its mission is to "create a favorable information space" about Russia against the backdrop of "anti-Russian media that don't notice the good that's happening in the country."

The monthly audience of the four outlets that comprise Patriot totals 25.8 million people and [tops](#) another pro-Kremlin outlet RT's numbers, according to Russia's The Bell business outlet.

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