

EU Denounces Alleged Russian Hacking Ahead of German Vote

By [AFP](#)

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A woman casts her vote at a polling station for postal voting for Sunday's German national election in Berlin. **Markus Schreiber / AP / TASS**

The European Union on Friday condemned alleged Russian cyberattacks that have targeted Germany in the run-up to this weekend's election for Chancellor Angela Merkel's successor.

"Some EU Member States have observed malicious cyber activities, collectively designated as 'Ghostwriter,' and associated these with the Russian state," foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

"Such activities are unacceptable as they seek to threaten our integrity and security, democratic values and principles, and the core functioning of our democracies."

Borrell's statement said the EU and its member states "strongly denounce these malicious cyber activities, which all involved must put to an end immediately."

"We urge the Russian Federation to adhere to the norms of responsible state behavior in cyberspace," it said, adding that the bloc would "consider taking further steps."

Berlin this month strongly criticized what it called Russian attempts to influence the September 26 election of a new parliament.

It pointed the finger at hackers from Russia's "Ghostwriter" group which reportedly specializes in spreading disinformation.

German intelligence believes they have been trying to gain access to the private email accounts of federal and regional MPs.

German authorities say Russia's military intelligence service GRU is behind the attacks and has targeted in particular politicians from Germany's ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and Social Democrats (SPD), news weekly Der Spiegel reported.

German federal prosecutors said they have opened "an investigation on suspicion of espionage" into the accusations.

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