

Ban due on direct flights between Russia and Ukraine

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Posted on : 2015/10/24 14:31:07

“Moscow first called Kyiv's ban on Russian airlines madness, then announced that it would mirror the move. Ukraine now says flights will end at midnight on Saturday, after last-minute crisis talks failed.”

By Sarah Rainsford, BBC News, Moscow, Oct 24, 2015: Direct flights between Ukraine and Russia will stop on Sunday, as new sanctions initiated by Kyiv come into effect. Moscow first called Kyiv's ban on Russian airlines madness, then announced that it would mirror the move. Ukraine now says flights will end at midnight on Saturday, after last-minute crisis talks failed. Up to 70,000 passengers a month will be affected. The sanctions are intended to punish Russia for annexing Crimea and supporting armed rebels in eastern Ukraine. The fact that they have been introduced now, when a ceasefire is finally holding on the ground, shows how bitter relations remain. Russia has accused Ukraine of shooting itself in the foot with the move, pointing out that most passengers are Ukrainian travelling to work in Russia, visiting relatives or in transit. But two-thirds of all passengers travel on Russian airlines. For complete text, link below: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34622665>
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