



Key Russian Law Developments in February 2026

1. Draft Amendments to Rules on Unilateral Rescission of Contract and its Effects Were Published for Consultations

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation prepared a draft bill introducing amendments to the Civil Code of the Russian Federation.¹ The draft bill mainly concerns regulation of the parties' right to rescind a contract and its consequences. It provides, among other things, for the following updates:

- the bill explicitly stipulates that the amount of a fee agreed for a party's rescission of a contract can be disproportionate to the value of the obligations under that contract.

At the moment, there is a tendency in Russian judicial practice to lower an agreed "exit fee" for a party's rescission solely on the grounds of disproportionality. Thus, the draft bill is supposed to rectify this tendency and to enhance the protection of private parties' contractual arrangements;

- the bill clarifies that the particular rules of the Civil Code on the rescission of contract are mainly discretionary for merchants. It is proposed to expressly state that merchants are entitled to alter or supplement the default rules on rescission of particular contracts – hire of work and service, freight forwarding, custody, escrow, consignment, fiduciary management, and simple partnership.

Given the present wording of the relevant statutory provisions, it is not entirely clear whether the parties of, for instance, a service contract can exclude or modify the customer's right to unilaterally rescind the contract. The draft bill is supposed to eliminate this ambiguity, at least, for commercial enterprises.

The bill is currently at the stage of summarizing the results of public consultations and has yet to be submitted to the State Duma.

2. Bill Allowing Insurers to Refuse Payment in Cases of Gross Negligence of Policyholder or Beneficiary Was Submitted to State Duma

On 11 February 2026, a bill introducing amendments to the Law of the Russian Federation "On Insurance Activities in the Russian Federation" was submitted to the State Duma of the Russian Federation.²

According to the bill, insurers will be exempt from payment under voluntary insurance contracts covering commercial interests if the insured event occurred due to gross

¹ [Draft Federal Law](#) on Amending Parts One and Two of Civil Code of Russian Federation.

² [Draft Federal Law](#) on Amending Article 3 of the Law of the Russian Federation "On Insurance Business in the Russian Federation."

negligence of the policyholder or the beneficiary, including where such gross negligence is associated with non-compliance with mandatory legal requirements. The proposed rule will be a default one and can be amended in the insurance contract.

Our detailed analysis of that bill can be found on our Telegram channel [KKMP.connect](#) and the [pravo.ru](#) opinions section.

The bill is currently considered by the State Duma in the first reading.

3. Miscellaneous Updates

- On 8 March 2026, the President signed the law amending legislation on foreign investments in strategic companies, on which we reported in October 2025.³ It expands the list of strategic activities, obliges foreign investors to obtain governmental approval for transactions involving certain property, imposes additional disclosure obligations on foreign investors, etc. The law will come into force on 7 June 2026.
- On 27 February 2026, the Central Bank allowed mandatory enforcement of judgements and other enforceable documents against the funds at type "O" accounts.⁴ A type "O" account is a ruble account used by residents to pay counterparties from unfriendly states for using intellectual property. Meanwhile, the funds on type "C" accounts (also used for settlements with promises from unfriendly states) remain inaccessible for enforcement.
- The Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media prepared a draft governmental resolution on the rules of domain name registration. The draft stipulates that, with effect from 1 September 2026, registration or renewal of a domain name in .RU, .РФ and .SU zones will be subject to personal identification through the Russian state identification system.⁵ The draft is currently at the stage of summarizing the results of public consultations.

³ [Federal Law No. 51-FZ dated 8 March 2026](#) On Amendments to the Federal Law "On the Procedure for Foreign Investments in Business Entities of Strategic Importance for National Defense and State Security" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation, and on Repeal of Subparagraphs 8 and 9 of Paragraph 10 of Article 6 of the Federal Law "On Foreign Investments in the Russian Federation."

⁴ [Board of Directors' Resolution](#) on Amendments to the Special Ruble Type "O" Account Regime.

⁵ [Draft Resolution](#) of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Approving the Rules for Domain Name Registration."

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We will be happy to answer any questions you may have on this subject.



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