

EN
E-001260/2019
Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.5.2019)

The Commission is very much aware of the threats posed by foreign disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining the Union's Institutions, policies, actions and values.

In 2015, the East Stratcom Task Force was set up within the European External Action Service (EEAS) to address Russia's on-going disinformation campaigns. In 2016, the EU Hybrid Fusion Cell was established to monitor and address hybrid threats by foreign actors, including disinformation.

The Action Plan against Disinformation¹, adopted on 5 December 2018, sets forth further proposals for a coordinated EU response to the challenge of disinformation, including third-country sourced campaigns. These include: (i) additional resources to improve EU capabilities to detect disinformation campaigns; (ii) a Rapid Alert System, launched on 18 March 2019, to facilitate the sharing by EU Institutions and the Member States of insights and coordinated responses; (iii) swift and effective implementation of the Code of Practice on Disinformation by the platforms; and (iv) targeted awareness campaigns, media literacy programmes, and support for national multidisciplinary teams of independent fact-checkers and researchers.

In addition, the Commission has stepped up cooperation with EEAS and the European Parliament on the detection of disinformation campaigns, on myth-busting, and on positive messaging about the EU. The fight against disinformation is also a prominent feature of the Election package² and is discussed with the Member States regularly as part of European cooperation network on elections³.

¹ Action Plan against Disinformation, 5 December 2018, JOIN (2018) 36 final, at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/action-plan-disinformation-commission-contribution-european-council-13-14-december-2018_en

² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5681_en.htm

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship/electoral-rights_en#electionsnetwork