

**Question for written answer P-004792/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dariusz Rosati (PPE)**

Subject: Combating Russian propaganda

One fundamental way in which Russian propaganda works is through the creation of fake news. Every day the media carry a huge amount of false information which serves as a reference point for Russian activity and its impact on countries in the Eastern Partnership and the EU. In 2015, in an attempt to combat these activities, the Council set up, within the European External Action Service, the East StratCom Task Force to deal with matters of strategic communication.

The opportunity to influence the prevailing sentiment in Europe exists with the Kremlin's aggressive disinformation policy, which is carried out by media outlets such as the RT television station, with its annual budget of some USD 300 million, and the Sputnik news agency.

In the light of the above, I would like to ask the following;

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the work of East StratCom so far?
2. Does the Commission plan to increase East StratCom's budget?
3. Does the Commission plan to take action which will result in increased cybersecurity and the introduction of an international legal framework in this area?