

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTERFERENCE MISSION

21 – 24 February 2022
Washington, DC

PROGRAMME

Monday 21 February 2022

18:30 - 19:00 Welcome and briefing
Joe Dunne, Director, EPLO Washington

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Morning/noon: Think tanks (GMF, Atlantic Council)
Afternoon: White House, National Democratic Institute

10:10 - 10:25 Bus transfer to German Marshall Fund US (GMFUS)

10:30 - 11:50 Roundtable with GMF experts
Welcome by Heather Conley, President, GMF
Amb. Karen Kornbluh, Senior Fellow and Director, Digital
Innovation and Democracy Initiative (DIDI), GMFUS
Topic: Transatlantic cooperation to build a healthy infosphere
Jonathan Katz, Director, Democracy Initiatives, GMFUS
Topic: Democracy support in the face of authoritarianism
Kristine Berzina, Senior Fellow and Head, Geopolitics Team, Alliance
for Securing Democracy
Bret Schafer, Senior Fellow and Head, Information Manipulation
Team, Alliance for Securing Democracy
Topic: Countering information manipulation; latest developments
and prospects for sanctioning disinformation

11:50 - 12:05 Bus transfer to EPLO/EU delegation

12:05 - 13:00 Free time for lunch

13:00 - 14:00	<p>Roundtable with experts from the Atlantic Council</p> <p>Amb. Daniel Fried, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council</p> <p>Andy Carvin, Senior Fellow and Managing Editor, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council</p> <p>Topic: Ukraine – hybrid responses to hybrid attacks</p> <p>Emerson Brooking, Senior Fellow, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council</p> <p>Topic: Civil Society Efforts to Combat Disinformation and Election Integrity in the US and the EU</p> <p>Justin Sherman, Nonresident Fellow, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council</p> <p>Topic: Security of the Global Internet</p> <p>Ben Judah, Senior Fellow, Europe Center, Atlantic Council</p> <p>Topic: Foreign Actors and Donors funding of Political Activities</p>
14:45 - 15:00	Bus transfer to the White House
15:30 - 16:30	<p>Meeting with</p> <p>Laura Rosenberger, Senior Director for China, National Security Council (NSC)</p> <p>Shanthi Kalathil, NSC, Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights</p>
16:30 - 16:45	Bus transfer to EPLO/EU delegation
16:45 - 18:30	<p>Roundtable hybrid meeting with experts from the National Democratic Institute (NDI)</p> <p>Topic: Advancing democracy - regional overview (added spotlight on Ukraine); functional overview (digital authoritarianism, kleptocracy, disinformation, anti-corruption).</p> <p>Short presentations and discussion, moderated by Frieda Arenos</p> <p>In person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Busza, Regional Director for Eurasia programs • Katie Fox, Deputy Regional Director for Eurasia programs • Kristina Jeffers, Program Director for Ukraine • Melissa Muscio, Program Director for Eurasia programs • Nadezhda Mouzykina, Deputy Director for Central and Eastern European programs • Genevieve Shea, Senior Program Manager for Central and Eastern European programs • Moira Whelan, Director for Democracy and Technology Programs • Frieda Arenos, Program Director for Democratic Governance

Virtual:

- Robert Benjamin, Regional Director for Central and Eastern European Programs
- Corina Rebegea, Advisor for Democratic Governance
- Victoria Welborn, Advisor for Democratic Governance
- Kaleigh Schwalbe, Program Manager for Democracy and Technology

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Morning: Department of State

Afternoon: Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP); Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Hudson Institute/NGO representatives

08:15 - 08:30	Bus transfer to the Department of State
09:00 - 09:50	Leah Bray , Acting Coordinator, Global Engagement Center Topic: Focus on Strategic Communications – key lessons from the US; countering foreign information manipulation; avenues for U.S.-EU cooperation (incl. potential sanctions over disinformation) John Spykerman, Director, Russia Team, Global Engagement Center Darjan Vujica, Director of Research and Analytics, Global Engagement Center
10:00 - 10:50	Tom Selinger, Director, DRL/EUR Director Topic: Advancing democracy & Countering authoritarianism Focus on advancing democracy, countering rising authoritarianism, and maximizing investments in critical democratic infrastructure to secure electoral processes
11:00 - 12:00	PRC nexus between disinformation and human rights (60 mins) Brian Gibel, EAP Director Topic: US relationship with PRC, US priorities for PRC Scott Busby, DRL A/PDAS: PRC human rights abuses; U.S. actions to counter PRC human rights abuses; Possible U.S.-EU collaboration Karl Stolz, GEC Deputy Coordinator for Operations How PRC uses information manipulation to carry out and conceal human rights violations; How the U.S. is countering that narrative; Possible U.S.-EU collaboration
12:00 - 12:15	Bus transfer to EPLO/EU delegation

12:15 - 13:00	Free time for lunch
13:00 - 14:30	<p>Expert roundtable, Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP)</p> <p>Yli Bajraktari, CEO, Special Competitive Studies Project Joe Wang, Senior Director of Research and Analysis for Foreign Policy Rama G. Elluru, Senior Director of Research and Analysis Peter Mattis, Director of Research and Analysis for Intelligence Meaghan Waff, Associate Director of Research and Analysis for Intelligence Lauren Nanche, Associate Director of Research and Analysis for Foreign Policy Dr. PJ Maykish, Senior Director of Research and Analysis for Future Technology Platforms Abigail Kukura, Associate Director of Research and Analysis for Future Platforms Brandon McKee, Director of Governmental Affairs</p> <p>Topics: AI research, development and competition: curbing digital authoritarianism to protect democracy, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How current uses of algorithms make platforms powerful tools for manipulation and polarisation • Dependence on foreign technology (hardware, software) and how this increases vulnerabilities for foreign interference, what to do against it • Future trends and threats (AI, deep fakes...) • Cyber espionage/Pegasus NSO
15:30 - 15:45	Bus transfer to the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Meeting with CISA leadership</p> <p>Steven Nider, Chief of Staff National Risk Management Center Betsie Chacko, Associate Director, International Affairs, Stakeholder Engagement Division David Kuennen, Team Lead, Engagement, Assistance, and Training, Election Security Initiative Lauren Protentis, Team Lead, Mis, Dis, and Malinformation Team Robert Schaul, Analysis and Resilience Policy Lead - Countering Foreign Influence, Election Security Initiative, National Risk Management Center Beau Woods, Senior Advisor Dr Patricia Soler, Section Chief, Cybersecurity</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent ransomware attacks and how to mitigate them;

- Protection of public electronic communication networks, such as internet backbones and submarine communication cables
- Cybersecurity Training & Exercises; the need to do this jointly
- Cyber espionage, including NSO's Pegasus
- Avenues for transatlantic cooperation

17:00 - 17:30	Bus transfer to EPLO/EU delegation
17:30 - 18:00	Briefing by Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis: Current status of transatlantic ties in an age of foreign interference
18:00 - 18:15	Bus transfer to Stern Policy Center, Hudson Institute, Kleptocracy Initiative
18:15 - 19:45	Roundtable meeting with experts on kleptocracy and corruption Nate Sibley, Research Fellow, Hudson Institute's Kleptocracy Initiative Paul Massaro, Senior Policy Advisor for counter-kleptocracy, U.S. Helsinki Commission Christopher Walker, Vice President for Studies and Analysis, National Endowment for Democracy

Thursday 24 February 2022

09:00 - 10:00	Virtual meeting with Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland) Venue: EPLO Topic: Disinformation and political violence - January 6th and beyond
11:00 - 11:15	Bus transfer to Ronald Reagan Events Center International Republican Institute (IRI)
11:30 - 13:30	Roundtable with IRI experts (<i>lunch offered by IRI</i>) Jan Surotchak, Transatlantic Strategy Sr. Director (Regional discussion: Western Balkans) Paul McCarthy, Europe Director Topic: Regional discussion: Western Balkans Stephanie Roland, Eurasia Deputy Director Topic: Regional discussion: Ukraine Emina Ibrahimovic, Program Officer, Beacon Team Katie Harbath, Director, Technology and Democracy Topic: Information manipulation and digital authoritarianism Alex Tarascio, Transatlantic Strategy Deputy Director Topic: Foreign authoritarian influence Eguar Lizundia, Deputy Director, Technical Advancement

Center for Global Impact
Topic: Anti-corruption and kleptocracy

13:30 - 13:45

Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

14:00 - 15:00

Roundtable with CEPA experts

Foreign interference: Recent developments, transatlantic solutions?

- Dr. Alina Polyakova, President & CEO
- Geysa González, Senior Vice President, Operations and External Affairs
- James Lamond, Director, Democratic Resilience
- Filip Medic, Director, Business Development
- Carsten Schmiedl, Senior Program Officer, Transatlantic Defense and Security
- Sasha Stone, Senior Program Officer, Democratic Resilience
- Filippos Letsas, Chief of Staff

15:15

Bus transfer to Dulles Airport