

NEWSLETTER – 8 December 2022

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear readers,

The month of November was productive for the ING2 Committee. A meeting regarding the state of Chinese interference in Africa and its related disinformation activities happened on 17 November. In addition, we organised an important exchange of views with Commission representatives on the follow-up of the INGE I report. Furthermore, we opened December with an interparliamentary committee meeting, inviting EU countries that had elections in 2022 or will have elections in the beginning of 2023. We discussed how to create coherent approaches to protecting our EU democratic processes.



In the coming week, ING2 will again have a busy agenda. On 8 December, our meeting will start with a continuation of our investigation into China's influence strategy, but now from a domestic point of view. A recent report by the NGO Safeguard Defenders revealed a far-reaching network of overseas Chinese police stations targeting Chinese expatriates has been established within the Member States of the European Union (Czech Republic, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain). The study demonstrates the People's Republic of China (PRC) constant surveillance of its citizens' activities.

The second part of the meeting promises to be equally captivating. We will have an exchange of views with the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep BORRELL. The discussion will touch upon various topics related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and European resilience in the run-up to the 2024 European elections.

Raphaël GLUCKSMANN

ON THE AGENDA

8 December

Exchange of views on “Chinese overseas police service stations in the EU” - 13:30-14:30 (SPINELLI, 1G-3)

In association with the Committee on Civil Liberties Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

During this exchange of views, the Special Committee will discuss the establishment of overseas police stations by the People's Republic of China (PRC), especially inside the territory of the European Union.

Invited expert:

Ms Laura HARTH is a human rights activist with expertise in Chinese affairs. Ms HARTH is the Campaign Director of Safeguard Defenders, a non-profit organisation defending human rights in Asia. Ms HARTH also joined the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), an international group of legislators reflecting on a coordinated approach to China, where she seeks to expand Magnitsky-style sanctions globally. In addition, she serves in an advisory capacity in other organisations, such as Hong Kong Watch, a UK-based NGO monitoring the state of human rights, freedoms, and rule of law in Hong Kong.

Exchange of views with Josep BORRELL, Vice-President of the European Commission/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy - 14:30-15:45 (SPINELLI, 1G-3)

In association with the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) (tbc), and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

Members of ING2 will discuss with the HR/VP, **Josep BORRELL**, the progress on some of the latest initiatives taken by the EU touching upon ING2-related topics, such as measures to tackle

Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union including Disinformation

information manipulation in the context of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, efficiency of sanctions, the FIMI toolbox development, and preparedness for the 2024 European elections. The AFET and SEDE committees will join ING2 Members in this exchange of views.

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 12 January

- **Consideration of the ING2 draft report**
- **Hearing on 'Climate change disinformation - International disinformation impact on the EU's climate goals'**

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