Question for written answer E-003684/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Emil Radev (PPE), Iskra Mihaylova (Renew)

Subject: EU-level measures against disinformation

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it unprecedented waves of false or misleading information that has swept through the European public. By spreading disinformation, entities inside and outside the EU are seeking to sow discord both within and among the Member States, undermine European values and jeopardise public health.

In these difficult times for Europe, disinformation is also used as a political tool. Combating this phenomenon in the future will be a fundamental factor in upholding European principles and democracy.

The Commission’s efforts to combat the disinformation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic by using existing mechanisms and developing future ones are to be commended.

Can the Commission state, in this connection:

1. In what way will the action taken to combat disinformation during the epidemic be used in the EU’s future work on disinformation?

2. What measures steps will the Commission take to combat disinformation on issues other than the COVID-19 pandemic?

3. To what extent will these measures affect all forms of mass media: news agencies, traditional electronic and print media, the internet media and social network media, which is becoming increasingly popular and facilitating the spread of disinformation? Are penalties against the publication of false and misleading information being envisaged?