

**Question for written answer E-003889/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: German higher regional court deems measures employed by so-called fact-checkers unlawful

In its action plan against disinformation¹ the Commission calls for cooperation with so-called fact-checkers to be stepped up. In Germany this means the 'Correctiv' organisation, which was set up by SPD politicians and claims to exist in order to check facts². The organisation has now been put in its place, for the umpteenth time, by the courts³. The court's reasoning also stated that Correctiv's assessments represented a degradation of journalistic performance which could no longer be tolerated.

Freedom of the press and of expression is a cornerstone of a fundamental liberal-democratic order, one which is also enshrined in the EU's charter of fundamental rights.

As long as fact-checkers restrict and degrade journalistic performance, we have inadmissible censorship.

What is the Commission's assessment of the lapses – identified by the courts – of the fact-checkers which it has been promoting, and what conclusions does it come to?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/de_communication_on_disinformation_factsheet_proof_1.pdf

² <https://www.tichyseinblick.de/daili-es-sentials/facebook-correctiv-meinungen-fake-news-meinungsfreiheit/>

³ <https://www.tichyseinblick.de/tichys-einblick/keine-loesch-und-korrekturtage-mehr-bei-facebook/>