

**Question for written answer E-000625/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: EUR 4 million for EDMO, Brussels' 'anti-disinformation' consortium headed by a former social democratic minister from Portugal

The Commission has allegedly provided the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) with EUR 4 million in funding¹. This 'impartial' fact-checker is headed by Miguel Poiares Maduro, a former social democratic minister from Portugal.

In its February 2023 report, EDMO claimed that 'the Commission has not authorised the addition of insects to food products'². However, the claim is referenced with a link to the Official Journal of the European Union authorising the addition of insects to food products³. Brussels has been open about this decision: 'insect species authorised under the novel food regulation will become an ever-more important source of alternative protein'⁴.

Other examples of disinformation cited on the basis of flawed reasoning include the Commission's requirements relating to France's pension reform⁵ and the efficacy of face masks in preventing the spread of COVID.

1. Given that EDMO is not listed on the Commission's transparency register, exactly how much funding will be allocated to this consortium?
2. What EU funds have been allocated to the non-EU organisations forming part of EDMO?
3. How will the Commission make sure that EDMO treats all political parties fairly?

Submitted: 27.2.2023

¹ <https://edmo.eu/2022/12/15/second-mandate-for-the-european-digital-media-observatory-on-disinformation-in-europe/>

² https://verifica.efe.com/ue-no-autoriza-anadir-insecto-alimentos/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1675697252; <https://edmo.eu/fact-checking-briefs/#1676535624638-04b17761-2fb9>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/naturopathiechrononutrition/posts/pfbid09qqQfywZjLatWASH4LVxF3N9vsj2CLfoC1u89oZEvR1XajdKYkmhVUYjTuMHRg3NI>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/712990/en>

⁵ Complex pension system: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0173&from=EN> (page 38); <https://www.lessurligneurs.eu/la-reforme-de-notre-systeme-de-retraite-serait-une-exigence-de-lunion-europeenne-en-contrepartie-du-plan-de-relance/>; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1658