

**Question for written answer E-000670/2023**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Commercialisation of disinformation and electoral interference services in the EU

An investigation by a consortium of journalists led by the Forbidden Stories NGO has revealed that a shadowy unit known as 'Team Jorge' sells software to promote disinformation campaigns in countries around the world<sup>1</sup>. The unit offers an Advanced Impact Media Solutions package, consisting of thousands of sophisticated multi-layered bots that weaponise social media. These bots have allegedly been active in several Member States, including France, Germany and Greece. The unit's director claims to have interfered in 33 electoral campaigns. One of these is the consultation on the independence of Catalonia of 9 November 2014, when the Catalan government's digital services were targeted by a massive cyber-attack<sup>2</sup>. The director does not disclose who ordered the attack, but he does say that states are regular clients of the unit. A further report has established that this technology is strictly regulated by Israeli law and can only be offered to States<sup>3</sup>.

1. Does the Commission have any further knowledge of this matter?
2. Will the Commission ask the Spanish government whether they contracted the unit to attack the Catalan government's site?
3. Does the European External Action Service intend to expand the scope of its strategic communications task forces to include countering disinformation originating from geographical regions they do not currently cover?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/15/revealed-disinformation-team-jorge-claim-meddling-elections-tal-hanan>

<sup>2</sup> <https://elpais.com/espana/2023-02-15/un-empresario-israeli-se-atribuye-el-ciberataque-a-la-generalitat-en-la-consulta-del-9-n-de-2014.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rac1.cat/politica/20230216/105377/nomes-govern-podia-contractar-serveis-tal-hanan-ciberatac-contra-catalunya.html>