

**Question for written answer E-003024/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Eugen Tomac (PPE)**

Subject: Countering disinformation surrounding the European Parliament elections

In under 250 days' time, EU citizens will be called upon to vote. The electoral campaigns are set to begin – and along with them massive disinformation campaigns, orchestrated by various actors, including state actors. Fake news, propaganda and manipulation all affect our democracies, undermining trust in institutions, in elections and in people.

Russia poses the most virulent threat. Moscow will undoubtedly try to meddle in the European elections. It will do so with vast sums of money, using manipulation as a weapon.

The Code of Practice on Disinformation is a good tool, but it is voluntary, and social responsibility is not enough when it comes to such a serious issue affecting millions of European citizens.

1. Is the Commission therefore planning to implement a system of severe sanctions for people who promote and spread fake news?
2. In concrete terms, what is the strategy for countering the impact and consequences of this major problem and ensuring fair European elections?

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