

**Question for written answer E-003421/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The misleading and divisive use of AI in political communication

Ever since an amnesty was announced in Spain for those sentenced for and charged with misappropriation of funds, terrorism and crimes against the rule of law, thousands of people have been demonstrating to prevent serious damage being done to the rule of law and the judiciary.

Acting against the majority of protestors, a small number of radicals have sparked isolated outbreaks of violence at night.

On 18 November 2023, the Director of Communication of the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party tweeted an AI-generated image that showed fake demonstrators, making them look ruthless and malicious. No mention was made of the fact that it was an AI-generated image.

Not punishing this kind of behaviour could normalise it, making blatant disinformation part and parcel of political game-playing.

1. Does the Commission believe that this stunt is consistent with European mandates set out in the action plan on disinformation, the democracy action plan, the EU regulation on artificial intelligence, the Audiovisual and Media Services Directive and the regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising?
2. The social networking service X did not indicate that this was AI – it was the users who noticed in this case. What responsibility does X have for spreading false information in the context of political manipulation?

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